



Meetings of the Standing Committees of the APLC
21 - 25 June 2010, Geneva
**Statement on the national implementation of
Article 3 “Exceptions” of the APLC**

Co-Chairs, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

Germany regards transparency and the continuous open exchange of information as essential pillars on which the Convention's practices, procedures and tradition have long been built. Having said this, Germany would like to provide the following information on the implementation of Article 3 of the Convention with regard to “the retention of a number of anti-personnel mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques”.

Within the period from 1992 until the end of 1997 a total of 2.17 million AP mines from the stockpiles of the Bundeswehr (Federal Armed Forces) and the former National People's Army of the GDR were destroyed by means of industrial disposal, as tasked by the German Federal Ministry of Defense Technology and Procurement Branch. For demilitarization and disposal of all components, including packaging, an amount of approx. 4 million EUROS was provided. Depending on the respective technical efforts and the quantities to be disposed of, the disposal industry estimates a price between 2 and 8 € per AP mine for an environmentally sound disposal.

Regarding Paragraph 1 of article 3 of the Ottawa Convention, which states that “the amount of such anti-personnel mines shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary”, Germany, by the end of 2009, held a total of 2261 anti-personnel mines in stocks for in training and testing purposes. By the end of 2008 the corresponding figure was 2437 APMs. Ten years ago, the number exceeded 3.000 anti-personnel mines. No Mines were transferred to or from entities outside Germany.

All retained anti-personnel mines are stored at the Federal Armed Forces Technical Centre 91 (WTD 91). Transfers of anti-personnel mines for training and experimental purposes to other specialist facilities inside Germany, e.g. to the “Federal Armed Forces Technical Centre 52 for Explosives and Special

Technologies" (WTD 52) or to the "Federal Armed Forces School of Dog Handling" are carried out exclusively with the consent and under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Defence.

Germany regards the retention of anti-personnel mines as necessary for the effective continuation and improvement of the protection of our deployed soldiers against the effects of anti-personnel mines and against the effects of Improvised Explosive Devices, so called IEDs. Considering possible threats to the Federal Armed Forces in their current and potential theatres of operations, the necessary testing and training capabilities can only be ensured by the retention of an appropriate amount of different types of anti-personnel mines.

The stocks of anti-personnel mines are clearly earmarked and stored for non-operational purposes. It enables a cost-effective and efficient execution of technical examinations in the area of force protection. In line with to the "International Test and Evaluation Program for Humanitarian Demining" (ITEP), significant efforts have been undertaken to test and evaluate mine action equipments, mine action systems and mine action technologies. Nevertheless, efforts have to be continued in order to improve and develop field equipment and tools based on realistic and future needs for the Federal Armed Forces.

Germany set up a special military testfield for testing multiple sensor mine detection and search technology. This is being used to train our experts before their ISAF engagement. There we test new technology and military equipment before fielding, evaluate procedures and standards and qualify passive protection systems. Our training of personnel and dogs is efficient and realistic.

Efforts have to be continued in order to develop field equipments and tools based on realistic and future needs for the Federal Armed Forces. There is a need to keep different APM for demining research, testing purposes, vehicle mine protection programmes, accident researches as well as dog training purposes. German Armed Forces also use dummy mines. However, today it is hardly possible to foresee future needs for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques. But I can state that Germany decided not to exceed the number of 3,000 anti-personnel mines.

This concludes Germany's transparent and continuous open exchange of informations on implementing Article 3 of the Ottawa-Convention on "the retention of a number of anti-personnel mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques".