



**First International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of  
The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention:**

**A Mine Free world by 2015: “The last stretch”**

**Statement on Pledges and Commitment**

**by**

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Madam President,

Germany wishes to congratulate you, Ambassador Maurás, on your election as President of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and assures you of our full cooperation and support in your work. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your team for the outstanding preparation of this first international pledging conference.

Germany welcomes the work done by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in supporting States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. Germany has supported the ISU on a regular basis. We attach great importance to securing stable and sustainable funding for the activities of the ISU so that it can carry out its core support functions efficiently and in a cost-effective manner. The new four-year work plan and budget allows for increased transparency, predictability and accountability. As it has been the case in the past Germany is prepared to support these important functions of the ISU also in the future.

Germany is able to make pledges on an annual basis only, so I can announce that **this year we will provide 40,000 EUR for core support functions of the ISU.**

In addition, **Germany will support Ukraine with 500,000 EUR** through the NATO Support and Procurement Agency **in the destruction of stockpiles of antipersonnel mines this year.**

Clearance, removal and destruction of anti-personnel mines remain core issues of the Convention. These tasks are time-consuming, expensive and dangerous. Thus Cooperation and assistance are indispensable in order to support affected States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. In this regard it is important to further explore appropriate practical methods to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in mine clearance programmes, as well as the coordination between different actors working in the field and the development of synergies as applicable.

Given the growing number and extent of conflict induced crisis with heavy humanitarian impact, Germany strongly supports the approach by the UN, specifically UNMAS to understand mine action as humanitarian action and act accordingly. Within the budget of humanitarian assistance, **Germany will provide around 15 million EUR in assistance for mine clearance, victim assistance and risk awareness activities in 2016.** Priority will be given to conflicts and crisis that are closely related to humanitarian needs and challenges. Currently there are projects in preparation or ongoing in Ukraine, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Somalia or Colombia – to name just a few. Germany regularly reviews these priorities in the light of actual developments in other conflict areas where clearance, removal and destruction of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war will become a major task to fight against human suffering in post-war environments.

Germany not only supports the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) financially but has **seconded a landmine expert from the German Federal Armed Forces to the GICHD on a permanent basis.**

We wish to underline once again the strong linkage with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which provides a wider framework to comprehensively address the needs of survivors, the realisation of their political, social and economic rights, and to ensure respect for their inherent dignity. More efforts are needed in order to ensure adequate assistance to victims in accordance with their needs.

Thank you, Mr President. We wish you a successful chairmanship of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

