

18. MSP Ottawa Convention (APMBC)**19. November 2020****Committee on International Cooperation and Assistance**

Chair,

- As the new Head of Division for Humanitarian Assistance, including humanitarian mine action, it is my pleasure to provide an overview about Germany's efforts for enhancing international cooperation and assistance for mine action.

[MASG]

- **First**, let me start with the German presidency of the Mine Action Support Group – MASG 2020-2021.
- In 2020's meetings, we had briefings from the following affected countries: Afghanistan, Colombia, Libya, Nigeria, and Ukraine.
- This year, one additional meeting took place in May due to the Corona pandemic where the MASG provided a useful forum for donors, international organizations and NGOs to brief each other on the most pressing issues.
- In October, donor maps have been published online on the MASG website. They are a development of the coordination efforts started by our US friends in their former capacity as Chair. The maps visualize the different commitments of each donor.

[Country Coalition Conference]

- **Second**, let me mention the country coalition kick-off conference we held together with Bosnia and Herzegovina October 13th to discuss with a diverse group of stakeholders the status quo of mine action in BH.

- Important steps forward – like reconvening donor board meetings – could be identified. We will continue with this format next year.

[Financial support for mine action]

- Germany has maintained a high level of financial support for mine action projects around the world. In 2020, Germany will spend more than 47 million EUR on humanitarian mine action in 13 countries and regions.
- German-funded activities focus on the full spectrum of mine action: survey and clearance of landmines and explosive remnants of war; mine risk education; mine victim assistance; and advocacy.
- Germany works with specialized NGOs, the ICRC and International Organizations, such as UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF. We will continue our efforts in the area of mine action, including assisting affected partners in reaching the goal of declaring becoming free of anti-personnel landmines.

[Outlook]

- Germany emphasizes the need for States to sustain funding for mine action. In particular with regard to the COVID-pandemic, competition for funding for other sectors got more intensive.
- Last, Germany will host the National Directors' and United Nations Advisors' Meeting next year in Bonn which we foresee to take place in May next year. With regard to the Corona-pandemic, information on the modalities will follow in due time.
- Thank you, Mr. Chair.