



NINETEENTH MEETING
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING,
PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR
DESTRUCTION

The Hague, 15 – 19 November 2021

Agenda item 10 b) Clearing mined areas and mine risk education and reduction: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time, that I take the floor, let me start by thanking you, Ambassador Gabriëse as well as your entire team for your commitment and professional organisation of this conference in difficult circumstances. I would also like to assure you of the full cooperation and support of my delegation in this conference.

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the European Union and also refers to its written statement on agenda item 8 (general exchange of views).

Germany expresses its strong support towards all States Parties that are actively fulfilling their mine clearance obligations. Together we are working towards our shared goal for a world free of anti-personnel mines. Germany provided around 49 million EUR in assistance for mine clearance, victim assistance and risk awareness activities in 2020 in 12 countries. Priority is given to projects and countries that seek to fulfill their obligations under the Convention.

Germany regrets that Eritrea has failed to either submit a report on the fulfilment on its mine clearance obligations under Article 5 of the Convention or submit an extension request in accordance with the Convention. Germany strongly urges Eritrea to reengage with the Convention.

Germany strongly condemns the use of anti-personnel-mines and calls on all States worldwide to refrain from their use. We are particularly concerned about the increasing number of victims of mines of an improvised nature. To fight this scourge, we need not only to clear them where they exist, but we also need to deepen our understanding about the proliferation sources and pathways of the components used for improvised mines in order to collectively find adequate approaches and effective measures. Germany is therefore funding research and analysis on this issue undertaken by Small Arms Survey, UNIDIR and Conflict Armament Research and commends further research and sharing of information on this topic. Additionally, we encourage all State Parties to include contamination by Improvised Explosive Devices in their annual reporting.

Germany has been providing substantial assistance within the Convention on a national level as well as through EU funding and will continue to do so. We encourage all State Parties to do their utmost in order to support other State Parties in fulfilling their obligations under this Convention. Cooperation and assistance extends in our view beyond financial support. Sharing of experience as well as cooperation and mentoring in the context of country coalitions can be equally significant. Germany has concluded such a Country Coalition with Bosnia-Herzegovina which covers landmine as well as cluster munition contamination.

Furthermore, Germany assumed the chair of the mine action support group in the past two years during which the cooperation between donor countries and the system of the UN could be intensified. The challenges of humanitarian demining increased due

to an escalation of existing or new conflicts which showed the necessity of protection of civilians living in or close by these areas.

To build on this engagement and to support the further implementation of the Ottawa Convention, we are currently very actively considering our candidacy for the presidency of the 21th Meeting of States Parties to this Convention in 2023. Due to federal elections at the end of September and the fact that we cannot pre-empt the new government that has not yet been constituted, we are not yet in a position to officially express our interest. We hope for your understanding of these circumstances as well as your support for our candidacy as soon as it can be officially declared.

Thank you, Mr. President