



**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 f) Universalizing the Convention**

Mr President,

Universality of the Convention is key to fulfil the aspiration of a world without anti-personal mines. We have come a long way towards universality. However, major producer and/or stockpile holders as well as users of anti-personnel mines are still outside of the Convention. They still need to subscribe to our common goal of a world free of anti-personal mines.

Moreover, universalization has slowed down in recent years. Thus, we have to redouble our efforts, collectively and individually, to bring additional states into the Convention. Germany will continue to do its share to reach this goal.

We welcome that the United States has announced a re-examination of its previous decision to re-authorize the use of anti-personnel mines by US military forces outside of the Korean Peninsula – especially in light of the US role as a major donor in the area of mine action.

Furthermore, after the end of hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia, a lot of attention has been paid to the issue of mine clearance. With this huge challenge in

view, Germany calls on Armenia and Azerbaijan to seize this opportunity and take necessary steps to prepare their accession to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention as well as the Convention on Cluster Munition. Calls for international assistance for humanitarian mine action will be much more convincing if complemented by a vow never to use anti-personnel mines or cluster munitions again. In that sense, we welcome Azerbaijan and Armenia's participation as observers to this conference.

Thank you, Mr President.