



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

Geneva, 20 – 24 November 2023

**Statement by Germany under Agenda item 10 f) - *Universalisation***

Mr. President,

Germany fully aligns itself with the statements delivered by the European Union.

In order to fulfil the aspiration of a world without anti-personnel mines, we have to redouble our efforts and coordinate our approach to Universalization towards the Fifth Review Conference to bring additional states into the Convention.

In this context, we appreciate the presence of the observing states who have joined us today. We welcome your engagement with the Ottawa Convention.

The German Presidency aimed at **further universalising the convention** and held various consultations throughout the year as well as during the First Committee in New York. We have listened carefully to the remaining objections some countries voiced and we were able to address many of them. That way we laid the groundwork for several countries to join the convention in the coming years. Furthermore, the

Universalisation Coordination Group has proven to be an invaluable asset to pursue our common goal.

For several consecutive years, no country voted against the **United Nations General Assembly resolution** calling for the universalisation and full implementation of the Anti-personnel Mine ban Treaty. Regrettably, this year the Russian Federation decided to vote against the resolution and, hence, against a mine-free world.

To foster universality and effective implementation of the Convention, Germany has contributed 80.000 Euro to the **Sponsorship Programme in 2023**. Our funding will allow delegations of States Parties and observers to join us today and at the Review Conference in 2024.

Mr. President,

Germany, through its funding for **humanitarian mine action**, supports States Parties to the convention as well as those that take substantial steps towards the Convention and that share its values and commitments. **We hope that our commitment will promote accession of the supported states not yet party to the Ottawa Convention.** Only by renouncing the use, stockpile, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, we can achieve a mine-free world. It is in this spirit, striving for a mine-free world that Germany funds mine action projects in Lebanon and Laos. We are grateful for the opportunity to fund Handicap International's efforts in training the first national capacity specifically for mine clearance in Laos.

Joining the Ottawa Convention is the decision to adhere to an **institutional set-up and set of rules that all State Parties can rely on**. It can be an important step to foster peace and stability where trust is missing. Furthermore, joining the Ottawa Convention opens access to **mechanisms to deal with legacy contamination**. But, most

importantly, for men, women, boys and girls: It **prevents future contamination**. Joining the Anti-Personnel-Mine-Ban-Treaty is an effective and durable way to protect civilians from the dangers emanating from landmines.

The Antipersonnel Mine Ban convention, the CCW and its Protocols, and the Convention on Cluster Munitions are the key instruments to address the devastating humanitarian impact on civilians due the indiscriminate use of explosive weapons. We call on all States that have not yet done so to **join these important instruments without further delay**. Furthermore, Germany welcomes the adoption of the political declaration on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA) which can contribute decisively to a better protection of civilians. The Declaration has so far been endorsed by 83 States, we hope to see many more supporters at the first meeting of States in Oslo next year.

Germany will continue to contribute towards the goal of universalisation after its Presidency and beyond and expresses its gratitude to those High Contracting Parties to the Convention that engage in individual and collective efforts to bring additional states into the Convention.

Thank you, Mr. President.