



Federal Republic of Germany  
Foreign Office

**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 8 - *General exchange of views (continued)***

Mr. President,

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add some additional remarks in my national capacity.

We are looking back on 25 years of the Ottawa-Convention. This Convention is both a ground-breaking disarmament treaty as well as a cornerstone of international humanitarian law. It is an indispensable instrument for our common fight against anti-personnel mines worldwide.

We owe **deep gratitude to our partners who have helped us throughout this year** in working on the challenges both the convention and its States Parties are facing. Together with our partners, we tried to contribute not only to addressing the challenges ahead but to support the further implementation and universalisation of the Ottawa Convention, particularly in light of next year's Review Conference.

Germany remains a staunch supporter of the Ottawa-Convention and continues to fulfill its obligations under the convention. **Over the past four years, Germany has successfully reduced the number of APMs by one third.** Germany currently possesses 271 anti-personnel mines for training and research purposes permitted by the Convention and is committed to further reduce where feasible. To do so, we are developing alternative methods, wherever possible, to conduct research and testing of mine clearance procedures.

Germany also expresses its strong support towards all States Parties that are actively fulfilling their clearance obligations under this Convention. We have been **providing substantial financial, technical and material assistance** within the framework of this Convention, as well as related conventions, and will continue to do so.

We appreciate the efforts of the Chair of the **Article 5 Committee** by submitting a working paper, which provides valuable insights. Ownership of the affected states parties and detailed, ambitious but at the same time realistic work plans are essential from our point of view.

Mr. President,

Explosive remnants of war (ERW) remain a legacy threat from armed conflict, posing a lasting hazard to civilians long after hostilities cease. The **high number of casualties** reported in more than 30 countries is a matter of deep concern. Ongoing armed conflict in the Middle East since the **terrorist attacks by Hamas** across Israel on 7 October, and **Russia's unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine** will inevitably lead to the further contamination of territories with explosive remnants of war. Germany reiterates the importance to ensure the protection of all civilians in line with International Humanitarian Law. The provisions of IHL must be fully respected by all parties to an armed conflict.

Furthermore, Germany remains committed to support where needed: Since February 2022 Germany has dedicated around 26,3 Million EUR to humanitarian mine action in Ukraine alone, encompassing risk education, survey as well as the clearing of mines and explosive remnants of war - also operating in recently liberated areas. Germany will continue to support humanitarian mine action in Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. President.