



**INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS  
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING,  
PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR  
DESTRUCTION**

Geneva, 19 - 21 June 2023

**Agenda item 5 - Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement of  
Cooperation and Assistance**

Mr. President,

Germany wishes to thank the ISU for the tireless work done in supporting States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention as well as their indispensable support to the Presidency. Equally, we owe our gratitude to the members of the four Committees for their excellent work over the past period and for their efforts to advance the effective implementation of the Convention.

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

Germany is deeply concerned about the **growing use of landmines** and the worrying **increase in the numbers of casualties**.

Once again, we are witnessing the **severe consequences of the Russian use of anti-personnel mines** in its unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. Due to the **destruction of the dam in Kakhovka** land mines, IEDs

and UXO have been uprooted and dispersed by the floodwaters. A high risk for civilians and an immense challenge for future mine clearance operations.

The **wide-spread use of landmines**, especially **in agricultural land** in Ukraine, poses not only an imminent risk for the lives and the well-being of Ukrainians. If farmers cannot return to their fields, to till, tend and harvest crops, food shortages in the global marketplace are the consequence, which **exacerbate hunger in the world**.

**Germany's long standing support for humanitarian mine action in Ukraine** has been significantly upscaled with a pledge of 20 Mio € at the beginning of 2023. Germany has taken a proactive role in coordinating donor efforts through organising regular working level meetings in the context of the German G7 presidency and beyond. In November 2022, Germany supported a successful, forward-looking 2 days coordination workshop with donors, implementing partners and the Ukrainian delegation in Geneva, organised by GICHD.

Germany is also concerned about the challenges posed by the contamination by mines of an improvised nature. **IEDs** constitute specific challenges that **require an urgent, three-fold response** from the international community: Firstly, we need to increase our capacities on the particularities in **IED clearance**. Secondly, we encourage all State Parties to include contamination by **IEDs in their annual reporting**. By doing so, we bridge the gap between a topic that is usually dealt with in a security environment to the humanitarian world of the Ottawa Convention. This will allow improved international cooperation and assistance. And thirdly, we 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, effective and preventative measures**.

In recognition of its responsibility under the Ottawa Convention and guided by a strong humanitarian impetus **Germany has increased its humanitarian mine action funding again in 2023, reaching now its highest amount so far with 70 Mio. €, choosing both regional approaches and bilateral settings.** Projects are currently being carried out or planned **in 12 countries**, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Colombia, South Sudan and Somalia. The provided assistance covers all mine action areas from survey, to clearance, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), victim assistance, advocacy and capacity building for national authorities. Special attention lies on conflict-sensitive, sustainable and inclusive approaches. Similarly, innovation, such as using drones for survey or using innovative mine detectors, is strongly supported.

Germany is proud to be a long-standing **supporter of humanitarian mine action in Cambodia and Sri Lanka** and aims to accompany both countries **on their way to becoming mine free** in the foreseeable future. With mine-freeness in sight, humanitarian mine action projects in these countries now also include support to the preparation for staff transition into new areas of work.

Impressive progress has been made in several countries and contexts. At the same time, however, we have to note the **slow pace of mine clearances in some instances and consecutive extension requests.** The level of ambition needs to remain high and concrete implementation steps must be taken. Therefore, national ownership and high-level political engagement is crucial.

On the note of political engagement, Germany regrets that there has been no official reaction by Eritrea to the discussion during the last MSP so far. **Germany strongly urges Eritrea to reengage with the Convention.** It is never too late for taking up cooperative dialogue again.

Last but not least, we would like to **thank Cambodia for offering to take over the presidency of the 22nd MSP** next year and for hosting this year's Victims Assistance conference.

Thank you, Mr. President.