



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

7. Matters related to the mandate of the President

a. Universalization

Mr. President,

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

This Convention is and remains a ground-breaking disarmament treaty as well as a cornerstone of international humanitarian law. Through the Convention, we express our shared goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines.

Universality of the Convention is key to fulfil the aspiration of a world without anti-personal mines. With 164 State Parties, we certainly have come a long way. But 33 States – including major producers and stockpile holders as well as users of anti-personnel mines - are still outside of the Convention.

For several consecutive years, no country voted against the UNGA resolution calling for the universalization and full implementation. This gives us hope that there is an even higher number of states that support the objectives and values of the Convention without yet being a State Party. In that sense, **we appreciate that Armenia,**

Azerbaijan, India, Israel, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, UAE, USA are here today as observer states. We welcome your engagement with the Ottawa Convention.

On this note, Germany commends the final declaration of the recent **Mine conference held in Baku**, in which the general support for the values and goals of the Ottawa Convention and its importance as an instrument to reach a minefree-world is reflected.

Germany welcomes that under the Colombian Presidency an **Universalisation Coordination Group** has been established. This format helps us to reinvigorate our efforts and better coordinate our common approach to universalisation. Germany engages in the Group not only as current Presidency and encourages further States Parties to join these efforts. It helps to bundle efforts that Germany and many other States Parties undertake in Geneva, in New York and with demarches directly in capitals in order to promote universalisation of the Convention. For example, the **Nepalese foreign minister Saud has received our mission in Kathmandu**, together with Swiss and Japanese colleagues, for a demarche in May. On the **International Mine Awareness Day** on the 4th of April, our Foreign Minister Baerbock reached out to our partners to raise awareness on the direct and indirect consequences of landmine contamination on live and livelihoods of civilians as well as on international food security.

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. This includes capacity building for national authorities through our partner organisation the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. **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.

Joining the Ottawa Convention can be a step into an **institutional set-up and set of rules that all State Parties can rely on.** It can be an important step to bring peace and reliability, where trust is missing. Furthermore, joining the Ottawa Convention would open up **mechanisms to deal with legacy contamination.** But most importantly, for men, women, boys and girls: It would **prevent future contamination.** Joining the Anti-Personnel-Mine-Ban-Treaty is the effective, durable way to protect civilians from the dangers emanating from landmines.

Germany will continue to do its share to work towards the goal of universalisation during 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.