



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

**FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND
TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Siem Reap, 25.-29.11.2024

Statement by Germany

Universalisation

Mr. President,

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

In order to fulfil our common aspiration of a world without anti-personnel mines, we have to redouble our efforts and coordinate our approach to universalization towards the new Review Cycle following this conference in order to encourage additional states to join 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 and hope for those states that have not yet done so, to join the Convention in due time.

My government appreciates the presidency's efforts aimed at **further universalising the convention**. We commend the presidency for holding various consultations throughout the year as well as during the First Committee in New York, some of

which I, as former president of the Convention in 2023, was invited to participate at and contribute to. Contributing to these efforts, we bilaterally held a number of consultations with delegations from all regions in the world who, as we hope, will join the convention in the near future. In this context let me underline that the Universalisation Coordination Group has proven to be an invaluable asset to pursue our common goal.

For several 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. However, regrettably, the Russian Federation decided to vote against the resolution again and, hence, against a mine-free world, in two consecutive years.

To foster universality and effective implementation of the Convention, Germany has contributed 76000 Euro to the **Sponsorship Programme in 2024**. This valuable programme has allowed delegations of States Parties and observers to join us today here in Cambodia.

Mr. President,

Germany, through funding **humanitarian mine action as well as the establishment of national mine action structures**, 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 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban 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 is the decision to adhere to an **institutional set-up and set of rules that all States 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 every person in potentially affected areas: It **prevents future contamination, future victims, future suffering**. Joining the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is an effective and durable way to protect civilians from the dangers of landmines.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention alongside other conventions is a key instrument to address the devastating humanitarian impact on civilians due to 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. 87 states have by now endorsed the political declaration and we hope that more will join in order to universalize our joint endeavour to strengthen the protection of civilians from the humanitarian consequences arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The first meeting of states in Oslo, Norway, in April 2024 was a great success and we look forward to the second meeting of states in San José, Costa Rica, in July 2025.

Germany will continue to contribute to the goal of universalisation of the Convention and expresses its gratitude to those High Contracting Parties to the Convention that engage in individual and collective efforts to encourage additional states to join the Convention.

Thank you, Mr. President.

