

**Statement on the national implementation of Article 3
of the Ottawa-Convention**

Mr. Chairman,

The Nairobi Action Plan notes that “transparency and the open exchange of information” have been essential pillars on which the Convention’s practices, procedures and tradition of partnership have been built. In accordance with Action # 54 of the Nairobi Action Plan aiming at transparency in implementing Article 3 of the Ottawa-Convention on retained mines, and in addition to our annual Article 7 information, I would like to share with you the following information.

Pursuant to Article 3 of the Ottawa Convention, Germany has set itself an upper ceiling of 3,000 antipersonnel mines to the maximum. These stocks of APM, clearly earmarked and stored for non-operational purposes, are regarded as necessary for the effective continuation and improvement of the protection of our deployed soldiers against antipersonnel mines. Considering possible threats in the Federal Armed Forces current and potential theatres of operations, only an adequate amount of different types of antipersonnel mines will ensure the required testing and training capabilities. Actually, there are 2.383 antipersonnel mines in German training and testing stocks.

This antipersonnel mines-pool enables a cost-saving and efficient execution of technical examinations in the area of Force Protection. Due to the “International Test and Evaluation Program for Humanitarian Demining” (ITEP), many efforts have been undertaken to test and evaluate mine action equipments, systems and technologies. Nevertheless, efforts have to be continued in order to develop field equipment and tools based on realistic and future needs for the Federal Armed Forces.

In 2008, German Armed Forces have used 7 antipersonnel mines for testing purposes. 5 mines have been used for vehicle mine protection programs, 2 mines were used for analysis of IED attacks on German Armed Forces.

All together since 1998, Germany has used a total of 690 antipersonnel mines for testing. For training purposes, German Armed Forces use dummies.

Storage is carried out at the Federal Armed Forces Technical Centre 91 (WTD 91). Transfers of antipersonnel mines for training and experimental purposes to other offices, e.g. to “Federal Armed Forces Technical Centre 52 for Explosives and Special Technologies” (WTD 52) or the “Federal Armed Forces School of

Dog Handling” is carried out exclusively with the consent and under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Defence.

In 2008 Germany decided to set up a special testfield for testing multiple sensor mine detection and search systems. The implementation of the project will take place in 2009 at the Federal Armed Forces Technical Centre 52 (WTD 52) in Bavaria. Germany offers available test capabilities for testing procedures on handheld systems - beginning in 2010 - to NATO Member States as well as to Partners in the International Test and Evaluation Programme for Humanitarian Demining (ITEP).

We will keep States Parties informed on the development of the project.

Thank you for your attention.