

**TENTH MEETING OF THE STATE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, THE STOCKPILING,
PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Geneva 29 November – 3 December 2010

Statement by the
Delegation of Germany

International Cooperation and Assistance, 30 November 2010

Mr. President,

By any standards, the Ottawa Convention is a remarkable and unique achievement, not only in terms of international disarmament but also in terms of further enhancement of international humanitarian law and humanitarian and development cooperation.

The German Federal Government has been actively involved in the anti-personnel mine ban movement since the mid-nineties, and we will stay committed to meeting our obligations in support of the implementation and universalization of the Convention as specified in Article 6.

In the fields of universalization, mine clearance, stockpile destruction, mine risk education and victim assistance, a great deal has been achieved. We are happy to see that we are on the right track. Challenges remain, in particular with regard to demining and victim assistance. We call on all States Parties to work closely together in order to meet those challenges.

States affected by mines and explosive remnants of war should live up to their responsibilities based on the obligations of the Convention. Building efficient and sustainable local capacities is of utmost importance, since responsibility for mine action lies in the hands of the affected countries. In the long term, national ownership is the key to the success of the Convention.

At the same time, all States Parties should accept their obligations to assist affected states in their efforts related to humanitarian demining. Germany welcomes all efforts aiming at strengthening cooperation and coordination between affected states and donor states. We therefore support the proposal made by Zambia to establish a new Standing Committee on Resources in order to exchange information and develop plans and strategies to ensure an effective and efficient use of resources. Such a committee could contribute to strengthen transparency, to ensure a balanced distribution of resources and to identify synergies in our cooperation and assistance. Simultaneously, this new Standing Committee, if established, should also strive to ensure that mine action remains a shared responsibility of *all* States Parties, affected countries and donor countries alike.

Germany's commitment towards mine action finds expression in our financial engagements. Thus far Germany has granted some 268 million USD to 42 mine affected countries on a bilateral basis. This does not include our share of the EU funding for mine action. In 2010 alone, some 23,2 million USD have been granted to mine action in 21 countries worldwide. Let me assure you that Germany will continue its strong commitment.

Germany considers all affected regions of equal importance. Our support is based on humanitarian needs. However, there is a preference in our mine action funding for close cooperation with States

Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty. Up to now, Asia has received the strongest support, with a focus on mine action projects in Afghanistan, followed by mine action measures in Africa and in the Balkan region.

Mr. President,

There is a clear link between mine action and development. We therefore need to follow a holistic and integrated approach, based on strong development policies, in order to fulfil our shared obligation to assist victims.

Mr. President,

Germany will stay committed to mine action based on the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan and will remain a reliable partner for affected states.

Thank you, Mr President.