

**TENTH MEETING OF THE STATES 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 of the Delegation of Germany
under Agenda Item 11(c):
“Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines”

Mr. President,

Transparency and continuous exchange of information are essential pillars which the Convention's practices and procedures have long been built upon. In the spirit of this tradition Germany would like to provide the following information on the implementation of Article 3 of the Convention with regard to “the retention of a number of anti-personnel mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques”.

The destruction of anti-personnel mines from the stockpiles of the Bundeswehr (Federal Armed Forces) and the former National People's Army of the GDR was completed in 1997. Within a period of about five years more than 2 million anti-personnel mines were destroyed. In accordance with paragraph 1 of article 3 of the Convention, Germany retained a number of anti-personnel mines for training and testing purposes. By the end of 2009, the total number of retained stocks amounted to 2.261 anti-personnel mines, compared to 2.437 at the end of 2008. In 2010, the number of retained mines has been further reduced. No mines were transferred to or from entities outside Germany.

Mr. President,

Germany considers the retention of anti-personnel mines a necessary prerequisite for an improved protection of soldiers deployed in current and possible future military operations against the effects of anti-personnel mines and of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). Different types of anti-personnel mines are required to ensure testing and training capabilities. Whenever sufficient, the German Armed Forces do make use of dummy mines for training purposes. In the fields of testing and the evaluation of mine action equipments, systems and technologies, significant efforts have already been undertaken. However, as it is hardly possible to foresee future needs for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques, efforts to improve field equipment and tools will have to be continued.

All stocks of anti-personnel mines retained by Germany are clearly earmarked and stored for non-

operational purposes. Retained anti-personnel mines are stored at the Federal Armed Forces Technical Centre 91 (WTD 91). Transfers for training and experimental purposes to other specialist facilities inside Germany are carried out exclusively with the consent and under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Defence.

Mr. President,

The retention of a number of anti-personnel mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques will remain a necessity. In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 3 of the Convention, which also states that "the amount of such mines shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary", Germany has decided not to exceed the number of 3.000 retained anti-personnel mines.

Thank you, Mr. President.