



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

AM

**ELEVENTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE AP MINE BAN CONVENTION**

Phnom Penh, 28 November – 2 December 2011

Statement on Clearance by Germany

Mr. President,

Germany would like to update the meeting about an area under its jurisdiction, on which Germany informed partners already on previous occasions. As already communicated, an initial survey on potential future uses of a former military training area, located in the German federal state of Brandenburg, investigated the extent of contamination with, inter alia, unexploded ordnance. Its results were presented at the beginning of 2011. It concluded that the Wittstock former military training area probably still contains, amongst other unexploded ordnance, cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines, dating from the period of its use by Soviet Armed Forces.

In early October, ownership of the area which was previously under military supervision was transferred to the General Authority in charge of real estate property (BIMA). Subsequently, the local authorities issued a directive in order to continuously prevent access of the civilian population. The „off-limits“ rule remains in place under civilian administration, with warning signposts renewed. In addition, a risk education programme was developed, its implementation in adjacent areas has started.

Since the intersessional meeting of the Standing Committees in June, a number of further steps have been taken in accordance with Action 22 of the Cartagena Action Plan. Since the characteristics of the contamination is not restricted to any specific type of unexploded ordnance, those steps concentrated on general danger prevention in order to enable access and ensure safety in the framework of further survey . A strategic action concept was developed in order to create the necessary infrastructure for further targeted survey, including fire prevention and forest protection. The strategic action concept takes the broader contamination with explosive remnants into consideration.

The utmost is being done in order to obtain timely results of the survey. Also, a steering group was established to enhance coordination between federal and local authorities involved.

Germany will stay in close contact with the President of the 11MSP with regard to appropriate future processes and steps and keep States Parties and signatories informed about further developments.

Thank you, Mr. President.