

Germany
Cooperation and assistance

**ELEVENTH 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**

Statement by

Entwurf (Stand: 31.10.2011)

In Afghanistan, Cambodia, Columbia, Laos and Vietnam unexploded or abandoned ordnance and cluster munitions today cause more casualties than landmines. The clearance programmes funded by Germany take this into account. They aim to create a safe environment for the local population by tackling all three threats – landmines, unexploded ordnance and cluster munitions – at once.

In partnership with experienced organizations on the ground, the German government assists countries to clear mines, cluster munitions and unexploded ordnance mainly when such contamination causes social and economic problems for local communities. The aim of the assistance is not just to help reduce poverty and promote development but also and most importantly to ensure people's physical safety and alleviate suffering. The assistance is also intended to help the countries concerned to fulfil their obligations under the Ottawa, Cluster Munitions and UN Conventional Weapons Conventions.

Against the backdrop of decreasing global funds for humanitarian demining and budget constraints, our project funding is geared to the following objectives:

- making clearance operations more efficient and effective;
- creating sustainable local clearance and management capacities.

The German government has for many years made large sums available for humanitarian mine and ordnance clearance. Since 1992 it has provided some 217 million Euro for such projects in 42 different countries. In 2011 alone the Federal Foreign Office has spent 15,96 million Euro on clearance 41° projects in 24 countries.

2011 Germany funds projects for victim assistance with 586.413 Euro in Columbia, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Uganda. In addition for projects in Vietnam, Laos and Columbia aiming at the economic and social reintegration of victims and their families 281.000 Euro have been provided in 2011.

Furthermore, in many developing countries the strengthening of the health sector is a focus in the development cooperation. The Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development assists its partner countries with specific measures to help people with disabilities. Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines and of other kind of munitions benefit from these measures. An age and gender sensitive orientation is part of the main principles of all measures.

On 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.

Germany would like to encourage all States Parties to accept the still existing challenges in the fields of demining and victim assistance

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

All States Parties should accept their obligations to assist affected states in their efforts related to humanitarian demining. Germany welcomes all the efforts to achieve a deeper co-operation and coordination among the affected states and

donor states, and encourages all State Parties to take the opportunity to identify and use the synergies given by the Ottawa-, Oslo-, and CCW-Convention.



Add.

Germany will stay committed to mine action based on the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan and will be a reliable partner to the supported affected states by Germany in the near future.

Support for Cambodia

The German government has supported Mine Action in Cambodia since 1996. Germany has provided 14.3 million Euros so far. We will continue our funding allocated to the national NGO Cambodian Mine Action Centre for carrying out projects on demining activities in 2012 , and we will make 1 Mio Euro available for these purposes.

In 2011, Germany financed also with 1 Mio Euro the Demining Unit 6 (a part of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre), organized in 8 Mobile Platoons, 6 demining groups and 4 EOD Teams (all together 350 deminers). DU 6 cleared in 2011 more than 400 hectares and destroyed more than 3.000 mines and 17.000 unexploded ordnance of war. This remarkable result will be reached in 2012, too. The obligation of DU 6 is to assist, on behalf of the German Federal Government, the Royal Cambodian Government to fulfil the **Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty** in order to attain the status "**Mine Impact Free**".

The motto of DU 6 is:

- Save lives
- Prevent accidents
- Return land into production (poverty reduction)
- Promote the development of the country.