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**OTTAWA CONVENTION ON APM
12 MSP**

Geneva, 3 – 7 December 2012

Statement by Germany on suspected mined areas

Mr President,

Germany has on several occasions informed its partners about suspicions that the former military training area of Wittstock, located in the German federal state of Brandenburg, is contaminated with unexploded ordnance, dating from the period when it was used by Soviet and Russian armed forces. In early October 2011, ownership of the area, which had hitherto been under military supervision, was transferred to the governmental authority in charge of real estate (Bundesanstalt für Immobilien-Aufgaben, BImA).

Since the last Intersessional Meeting in Geneva (May 2012), the following progress has been made:

a) Area of suspected contamination with APM

- It has been possible to reduce the area suspected to be contaminated with APM to approx. 10,000 square metres in the north-east of the property. The site in question is an exercise ground (network of positions) used by the infantry of the former Soviet armed forces. The last decade has resulted in a dense growth of ground vegetation, shrubs and trees.

b) Access

- The tendering procedure for the geomagnetic survey of paths, firebreaks (areas accessible to vehicles and earmarked for tilling) and the environs of nearby villages is now over.
- Completion of the survey is expected in spring 2013. The next stage after that will be to establish how much clearance is required for the infrastructure and to order it to be undertaken.

c) Clearance of APM

- Non-technical surveys have established a rather limited likelihood of APM contamination. If, however, the survey were to confirm APM contamination, clearance will be started once the required infrastructure has been established in the immediate vicinity.

The utmost is being done in order to obtain timely results from the survey. Germany will keep the States Parties and signatories informed about further developments.

Thank you, Mr President.