



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

**14TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF
THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Geneva, 30 November – 4 December 2015

Statement by Germany

Mr President,

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union.

I wish to congratulate you, Ambassador de Crombrugghe, on your election as President of this Meeting, and assure you of our full cooperation and support in your work. We would also like to commend the Coordinators for their excellent work and for their efforts to advance the effective implementation of the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan. This applies also to the members of the ISU.

Clearance, removal and destruction of anti-personnel mines remain core issues of the Convention. Thus Cooperation and assistance are indispensable in order to support affected States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. In this regard it is important to further explore appropriate practical methods to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in mine clearance programmes, as well as the coordination between different actors working in the field and the development of synergies as applicable. This year Germany provided around 13 million euros in

assistance for mine clearance, victim assistance, risk awareness activities and stockpile destruction in affected states. In Ukraine, for example, we provided 465,000 euros through the NATO Support and Procurement Agency for the destruction of stockpiles of anti-personnel mines.

During the last couple of years Germany has been providing funds for seminars on the Mine Ban Treaty's provisions at the Centre for Security Cooperation *RACVIAC* in Croatia with participants from Southeast Europe and Turkey, thus sharing expertise, opinions and best practices as well as exploring the way ahead towards a world free of anti-personnel mines. In April Germany once again supported the International Symposium and Equipment Exhibition "Mine Action 2015" in the town of Biograd in Croatia.

In this context, we wish to underline the strong linkage with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which provides a wider framework to comprehensively address the needs of survivors, the realisation of their political, social and economic rights, and to ensure respect for their inherent dignity. More efforts are needed in order to ensure adequate assistance to victims in accordance with their needs.

Mr President,

we will not give up the goal of a mine-free world.

Thank you.