



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

**16TH 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**

Vienna, 18 to 21 December 2017

General Exchange of Views

Mr. President,

Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and Its member states and would like to make a few comments in a national capacity.

We are grateful to Austria to take on the task as president of this Meeting of States Parties and for steering our deliberations to strengthen the Convention. We would also like to commend the Coordinators for their excellent work over the past year and for their efforts to advance the effective implementation of the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan.

This Convention is a cornerstone of the international humanitarian law and it is an indispensable instrument for our common fight against anti-personnel mines worldwide. This year we celebrate 20 years of the *Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention* which succeeded in establishing a complete ban of the use of APMs. The progress achieved is remarkable:

- 53 Million anti-personnel mines (APM) destroyed.
- Global stocks are under 50 Million and the trade in industrially manufactured APM is practically stopped.
- Forty-one states have ceased the production of APM, including four that are not party of the convention.
- The convention mobilized substantial funds to implement its obligations:
 - My own country that had already destroyed its stockpiles of about 1,7 Mio APM before the conventions entry into force, as one of the major donors contributed some 32 Mio EUR in 2016.
 - We also managed to universalize the norms of the convention: starting with 122 States Parties that number increased to 163 with some additional states adhering to most of the key provisions without accession. In this context we would like to welcome Sri Lanka as the latest States Party to the convention.

We call upon all states to stop producing, stockpiling or using APMs.

In spite of this success, this does not mean we have no tasks left as far as landmines are concerned. With the Maputo Action Plan we set ourselves the ambitious goal of fulfilling our obligations under the Convention by 2025 and especially in the field of clearance and destruction there is substantial work ahead of us.

In this context, Germany has further increased its financial support for mine clearance projects. In fact, Germany has more than doubled its financial contribution for the second year in a row. In 2017, on the twentieth anniversary of the *Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention*, Germany has provided a record 75 million Euros. German-funded activities focused on the whole spectrum of mine action: clearance of landmines, including improvised landmines, and ERW; mine risk education; mine victim assistance; and advocacy.

Another challenge is the growing prevalence of IED's. For Germany it is important to highlight that a major part of IED's – those that are victim activated – fall under the purview of this convention. Yet other types might fall under other international instruments such as the Convention of Certain Conventional Weapons. In order to avoid duplication of efforts coordination is essential.

Germany recognizes the special situation that Ukraine faces especially in its territory not under its control. However, we strongly call on Ukraine to hand in an extension request under Article 5 of the convention.

Another important aspect of the Convention's work is to create transparency. We encourage all States Parties to provide their national reports to the ISU in order to be able to assess the progress of the implementation.

Germany would like to thank the ISU for their support to States Parties and would like to underline the need for every State Party to pay their contributions so that we can work towards a world free of APMs.

Thank you Mr. President.