



Federal Republic of Germany  
Foreign Office

**16<sup>TH</sup> 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 – 21 December 2017

**Statement under Item 11c) Cooperation and Assistance**

Thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor,

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.

Germany would like to commend the work of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for their valuable work and their recommendations that are geared towards further increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of States Parties' work.

In this context Germany would like to renew its commitment to international cooperation as one essential tool to realize our shared ambition of a world free of landmines by 2025.

The other side of the medallion is national ownership and the primary responsibility of every States Party to address their national challenges. For that a national action plan that takes into account the newest techniques in land release methodology is essential.

In this context, Germany has further increased its financial support for mine action. 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 focus on the full spectrum of mine action: clearance of landmines and ERW; mine risk education; mine victim assistance; and advocacy. Germany works with specialized NGOs, the ICRC and international organisations, such as UNMAS. Overall, Germany has supported projects in 14 countries in 2017, including in Afghanistan, Colombia, Ukraine, Syria and Yemen.

However, a particular focus of German assistance in 2017 was on Iraq. Areas that were liberated from ISIS are massively contaminated, mostly with improvised landmines and ERW, constituting a major threat for local populations and returning IDPs. Almost two thirds of German funding was aimed at meeting these enormous needs.

Germany will continue its efforts in the area of mine action and will continue to assist affected partners in the run up to 2025.

Thank you Mr. President

