



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

**3RD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE
PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-
PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Maputo, 24 June 2014

Intervention on Cooperation and Assistance by Germany

Mr. President,

I align myself with the Statement of the European Union.

Germany wishes to thank the Co-Coordinator Ecuador and Indonesia for their valuable work in chairing the Standing Committee on Cooperation and Assistance. We welcome the Maputo Action Plan's chapter on cooperation and assistance. Its action points will make a real and measurable contribution towards the States Parties' compliance with the Convention's prohibitions and obligations.

Since the Convention's entry into force in 1999 many contaminated areas have successfully been cleared of anti-personnel mines and many stockpiled anti-personnel mines have been destroyed thanks to considerable and noticeable cooperation and assistance among the States Parties. Mozambique is a good example of how a heavily mine-affected country has effectively tackled its anti-personnel mine contamination and is now on the track to complete the job at the end of 2014.

Clearing mined areas will remain a noticeable challenge. The number of article 5 extension requests have shown this. It is time-consuming to determine the extent of contamination, to choose appropriate clearing methods and to clear areas often contaminated with a mix of unexploded ordnance or with difficult geographical features. Natural disasters can have a negative effect on clearing efforts, too. The record flooding that hit Bosnia-Herzegovina last month has exposed a number of anti-personnel mines and washed them away to non-contaminated areas. Germany has pledged 600.000 EUR to help Bosnia-Herzegovina to locate and clear those mines.

Cooperation and assistance is indispensable in order to support affected States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. In this regard the Convention's unique spirit of cooperation and assistance rather than critique and finger-pointing shall be enhanced.

Anti-personnel mines were widely used in international and internal armed conflicts alike and continue to be a threat to the civilian population long after hostilities have ceased. Germany is privileged to provide substantial humanitarian assistance for mine clearance, focusing on anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other types of unexploded ordnance. In 2013 14,822,000 EUR were spent in 22 countries for this purpose. Germany supported extensive mine clearance in Mozambique's provinces of Manica, Sofala, Maputo and Tete last year. The work was done by deminers from the NGO *APOPO* using manual, mechanical and animal detection methods. As a result a total of 2.2 square kilometers of land was released to the people of Mozambique.

The financial assistance provided by Germany included institutional support to the *Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining*, support of the publication of ICBL's *Landmine Monitor*, risk awareness raising trainings for local communities in the vicinities of contaminated areas and, last but not least, substantial victim

assistance. As a member of the Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities, Germany addresses the special needs of all persons with disabilities in an indiscriminate way regardless of the cause of their disabilities.

A gender based approach is part of our mine action activities, thus fostering the implementation of Resolution 1325 of the Security Council of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

In 2013 Germany provided 200,000 EUR through the *NATO Trust Fund project for the destruction of conventional ammunition, small arms and light weapons and anti-personnel landmines of PFM-1 type in Ukraine*. This project is being implemented by the *NATO Support Agency*. Germany is prepared to continue its support by contributing 300.000 EUR to this *Trust Fund* this year.

For the last couple of years Germany has been providing funds for a yearly seminar on the Mine Ban Convention's provisions at the Centre for Security Cooperation, called 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 our common goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines. In April Germany sponsored a RACVIAC symposium on ways of dealing with cluster munitions and mine contamination. This symposium was part of a series of events under the umbrella of the International Symposium and Equipment Exhibition Mine Action 2014 in Croatia.

Germany has financed an exhibition about the serious post-conflict humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel mines. Following the exhibition's display in Berlin, New York and Geneva in 2012 and 2013, the exhibition was shown at a universi-

ty in the United States of America – thus raising even more awareness of the suffering caused by the use of anti-personnel mines among the public of a Non-State Party.

Mr. President,

we are very much looking forward to this Review Conference and will engage constructively in the discussions of States Parties, observers, international organizations and NGOs on the progress made to date and the work ahead.