Mister President,

Germany wishes to thank you for chairing the Ninth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War and assures you of our full cooperation in your work. Germany would also like to thank the outgoing Presidency, the Czech Republic, as well as the Coordinators on Article 3 on clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war and Article 4 on recording, retaining and transmission of information – Latvia –, on cooperation and assistance – Bangladesh –, on victim assistance – Argentina –, on generic preventive measures – Ireland –, and on national reporting – Belgium – for their work over the past year.

Germany aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Having been a High Contracting Party to Protocol V from the beginning since the Protocol’s entry into force on 12 November 2006, Germany recognises the serious
post-conflict humanitarian problems caused by explosive remnants of war and supports the humanitarian objectives set out in this Protocol. Germany supports the continued efforts towards universalization of Protocol V and regrets that no state has acceded to the Protocol this year.

On a voluntary basis, Germany provides substantial bilateral assistance to affected states, both High Contracting Parties and non-High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, for the clearance of explosive remnants of war – regardless of their type and their origin –, for risk education programmes for the civilian population and for the care and rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of victims of explosive remnants of war. In 2015 Germany spent around 13 million EUR for this purpose. In addition to Germany’s bilateral assistance, financial contributions are made through the United Nations, the European Union, the OSCE and other relevant international organisations.

This year 14 countries and territories benefitted from Germany’s bilateral financial and technical assistance for clearance programmes that helped to eradicate the daily threat that unexploded and abandoned ordnance pose to populations in need for development and to humanitarian aid workers, operating in the field to help them, as well as for victim assistance. Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine, Cambodia and Iraq – to name just a few – were among the main beneficiaries of Germany’s bilateral aid.

In addition to supporting the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in mine clearance through trainings and the provision of vehicles, clearance equipment and protective gear, through contributions into the OSCE Trust Fund for Ukraine, Germany will also support the clearance of explosive remnants of war in the locality of Shyrokyné,
in the area of Donezk, through contributions into the Trust Fund managed by the
Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE.

As a member of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Germany
helps to address the special needs of all persons with disabilities, including those of
survivors of explosive remnants of war. Victim assistance is provided through a
number of programmes specifically designed for victims of explosive remnants of
war but also through Germany’s comprehensive development aid programmes focus-
ing on health sector reform, educational sector reform and the creation of livelihood
opportunities to improve the living conditions of victims of explosive remnants of
war in the long term. A gender based approach in line with Resolution 1325 of the
Security Council of the United Nations is part of Germany’s development aid strat-
egy and various assistance programmes.

Germany supports the International Committee of the Red Cross’ special appeal
“Mine Action and Disability” with up to four million EUR. In Afghanistan, for
example, the ICRC provides – with German funds – prosthetic and physiotherapy
services to some 95,000 wounded people in seven ICRC-run rehabilitation centres,
delivers home care and house adaptation services as well as specialised medical
equipment and professional staff training to encourage authorities to integrate physi-
cal rehabilitation into national health services. Further victim assistance programmes
are conducted in Iraq, Western Sahara, South Sudan, Myanmar and Colombia.

On her land territory including internal waters, Germany is affected by existing ex-
plosive remnants of war as defined in Article 2 clause 5 of this Protocol. In dealing
with this legacy from the Second World War, Germany takes necessary, effective and
immediate measures of clearance, removal, destruction and precaution.
Germany attaches great importance to generic preventive measures aimed at mini-
mising the occurrence of explosive remnants of war as set out in the Technical An-
nex of Protocol V. With regard to the production, procurement and use of explosive 
ordnance, the highest possible standards of reliability, serviceability and safety de-
sign requirements are met. While handling and storage of explosive ordnance are re-
gulated by national policies and procedures, Germany recognises the utility of the 
UN Safeguard guide to International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) and 
commends the work of the IATG Technical Review Board in regularly developing 
this excellent frame of reference based on a common language, and sound explosive 
science for national authorities to improve safety, security and efficiency in conve-
tional ammunition stockpile management. We look forward to the forthcoming IATG 
update, and continuing to support the development of IATG through the Technical 
Review Board. Further information on national measures can be found in Germany’s 
annual report, covering the reporting period for the year 2014, and in Germany’s 

Germany recognises the key preventative role of Physical Security & Stockpile Ma-
nagement Programmes in addressing the illegal proliferation of conventional ammu-
nition and unplanned explosions at munition sites, and strongly supports the drive 
from the UN Programme of Action to increase international assistance to support 
states to build capacity, improve coordination and support regional ownership of 
PSSM capabilities. In partnership with France, Germany tabled the resolution Proble-
ms arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus 
during this year’s First Committee of the UN General Assembly and continues to 
provide considerable financial and staff support to PSSM programmes. As part of our 
continued commitment in this area, and under the auspices of the G7, Germany is 
leading an ambitious programme in conjunction with the African Union to enhance 
coordination of PSSM activities across the Sahel region. In addition, we support a
number of discrete programmes that enhance the safety of ammunitions storage facilities across Northern Africa and the Balkans.

In this context, we appreciate the Swiss initiative to host an international consultative meeting on the safe and secure management of conventional ammunition here in Geneva next week, and consider this an important step in achieving synergy between the various international agreements relating to conventional ammunition as an essential enabler of improved coordination at the implementation level.

Mister President, we look forward to a productive conference in support of effective implementation of Protocol V. This conference will be a critical platform for addressing the challenges related to universalization and full implementation.

Thank you.