AMENDED PROTOCOL II ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS
ON THE USE OF MINES, BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES
GROUP OF EXPERTS

(CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY
INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS)

Geneva, 22.08.2019

Statement by Germany (I)

Mister President-designate,

Germany wishes to thank you for chairing this year’s Amended Protocol II
Group of Experts Meeting and is looking forward to a fruitful exchange on how
to strengthen the protocol.

Germany aligns itself with the statement of the European Union to be held later
during this session.

Notwithstanding that Amended Protocol II has been overtaken by the stricter
norms of the Ottawa-Convention when it comes to Anti Personal Landmines,
Amended Protocol II remains, however, crucial for its rules with regard to the
use of all other types of landmines, booby-traps and other devices. The serious
humanitarian problems caused by such weapons are undisputed and Germany supports the humanitarian objectives set out in this Protocol.

Consequently, universalization of Amended Protocol II remains a priority.

Hence, Germany renews its invitation to all High Contracting Parties to the original Protocol II to adopt the Amended Protocol II. The higher standards of the Amended Protocol II will make a real difference and might create some dynamic towards universalisation.

Germany welcomes any progress within the CCW and accompanying consultations in addressing the humanitarian risks posed by IEDs and Mines other than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM) and looks forward to a constructive exchange on IEDs later in the day. We would encourage and welcome further exchange between High Contracting Parties on the issue of MOTAPM. Germany would therefore like to thank UNODA and GICHD for organising today’s side event “Protecting civilians from MOTAPM”.

Germany is deeply concerned regarding the global threat as a consequence of the illegal and indiscriminate use of IEDs by terrorists and criminals. Counter-IED activities, efforts and measures are of utmost importance. The prevention of the diversion or the illicit use of materials that can be used for IEDs, such as commercial grade explosives and chemical precursors (like ammonium nitrate and hydrogen peroxide), and non-explosive precursors like detonators play a crucial role.

Germany would like to thank France for hosting the helpful UNIDIR workshop on IEDs two weeks ago.

As part of its humanitarian assistance Germany provides substantial financial, technical and material assistance to international organisations and relevant non-governmental organisations for clearance programmes, for the build-up of
national clearance capabilities, and for the development of modern, technologically adequate clearance processes. Knowledge and equipment to detect and to clear IEDs in post-conflict settings has become more and more important and has become a focus of Germany’s assistance in this field.

Thank you, Mister President-designate