Germany aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Work over the past year:

in order to prevent terrorism – Ireland, and on national reporting – Netherlands, for their assistance – Bangladesh, on victim assistance – Argentina, and Chile, on genocide

cooperation and coordination, removal of destruction of explosive remnants of war and Article 3 on

outgoing presidency, Bangladesh, as well as the coordination on Article 3 on

outgoing presidency, Bangladesh, as well as the coordination on Article 3 on

cooperation Parties to the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War and assures you

Germany wishes to thank you for chairing the Tenth Conference of the High

Mister President,

Statement by Germany

Geneva, 29 August 2016

INTERDICTION OR HAVE INDIFFERENT EFFECTS

CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY

CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN

TO THE PROTOCOL ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR (PROTOCOL V) OF THE

TENTH CONFERENCE OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES

Federal Republic of Germany
Germany supports the continued efforts towards universalization of Protocol V and would like to welcome Bahrain, Cote d'Ivoire, Lesotho, and Montenegro as High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.

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.

Last 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 Shyrokyne, in the area of Doneczk, through contributions into the Trust Fund managed by the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE.
Germany attaches great importance to preventive measures aimed at reducing the occurrence of explosive remnants of war and at enhancing the effectiveness and immediate measures of clearance, removal, destruction, and precaution with this respect. From the Second World War, Germany has, in its own necessity, a long tradition of supporting programs for explosive remnants of war. These programs are designed in close cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). An example is the "ICRC Project on Humanitarian Mine Action and Disability" supported by Germany's National Committee of the Red Cross.

Germany supports the International Conference of the Red Cross, which is an important forum for discussing the challenges and strategies in programs for explosive remnants of war. Germany is a member of the Conference on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and helps to address the special needs of persons with disabilities, including those of veterans. Through a number of programs specifically designed for veterans, Germany assists in providing support to survivors of explosive remnants of war. This assistance is provided through a comprehensive approach that addresses the needs of veterans in all aspects of life.
Annex of Protocol V. With regard to the production, procurement and use of explosive ordnance, the highest possible standards of reliability, serviceability and safety design requirements are met. While handling and storage of explosive ordnance are regulated 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 conventional ammunition stockpile management.

Physical Security & Stockpile Management Programmes are instrumental to prevent the illegal proliferation of conventional ammunition and unplanned explosions at munition sites. Fortunately, we have the UN Programme of Action to guide us on our way forward. Germany strongly supports its full implementation.

In partnership with France, Germany tabled the resolution Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus during last 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 organise the second technical workshop on the safe and secure management of conventional ammunition, which will be held in Geneva on 8 and 9 December 2016, to deal with concrete measures to
addressing the challenges related to universalization and full implementation of Protocol V. This conference will be a critical platform for international agreements relating to conventional ammunition.

We consider this an important forum to achieve synergies between the various bodies implementing existing standards on conventional ammunition management. We thank you.