Mister President,

Germany wishes to thank you for chairing the *Twenty-first Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II* and is looking forward to a fruitful exchange on how to strengthen the protocol.

Germany aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Notwithstanding that Amended Protocol II has been overtaken by the stricter norms of the Ottawa-Convention when it comes to anti-personnel landmines, Amended Protocol II remains crucial 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 strongly supports the humanitarian objectives set out in this protocol.

Consequently, universalisation of Amended Protocol II remains a priority for us.
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.

Germany welcomes any progress within the CCW and accompanying consultations in addressing the humanitarian risks posed by Mines other than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM). We therefore thank you, Mr. Chair, for encouraging High Contracting Parties in your non-paper to discuss this issue. These discussions are relevant for this protocol since some of its provisions apply to Anti-vehicle mines as well. Two technical aspects should be considered: lifespan limitations and detectability. We encourage states to take all necessary steps to limit the operational life span of their MOTAPM and to ensure their detectability. The German Armed Forces have already fulfilled the suggested standards for more than ten years. Measures in this direction would significantly reduce the risk for civilians.

Germany is deeply concerned regarding the illegal and indiscriminate use of IEDs resulting in a lethal threat to civilians on a global scale. Counter-IED activities, efforts and measures are of utmost importance. It is crucial, to prevent the diversion as well as the illicit use of materials that can be used for IEDs and non-explosive precursors like detonators. Germany would like to thank the Group of Experts for its work and is looking forward to the report by France and Colombia and to the presentation by UNIDIR on this issue later this day.

As part of its humanitarian assistance Germany provides substantial financial, technical and material assistance to international organisations and relevant non-governmental organisations for mine action programmes, for building-up national mine clearance capabilities, and for the development of modern, technologically adequate mine clearance processes. In this context, Germany also supports states to
fulfil their obligations under Amended Protocol II. Knowledge and equipment to
detect and to clear IEDs in post-conflict settings has become more and more
important and a focus of Germany’s assistance in this field. So far, in 2019 Germany
has spent more than 36 million EUR for humanitarian mine action and IED removal
in the context of humanitarian assistance and also to contribute to stabilisation. Last
year, 12 countries and territories benefitted from Germany’s bilateral financial and
technical assistance for clearance programmes that helped to eradicate the daily
threat that all types of unexploded and abandoned ordnance pose to populations, to
peacekeepers and to humanitarian aid workers.

We look forward to productive discussions to advance the implementation of
Amended Protocol II.

Thank you, Mister President.