



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

**TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE HIGH CONTRACTION
PARTIES**

**TO AMENDED PROTOCOL II ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE
OF MINES, BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES TO THE 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, 15 November 2022

Statement by Germany under Agenda item 7 *General exchange of views*

Mister President,

Germany wishes to congratulate you, Ambassador Sterk, for your election as chair of this Conference of State Parties. We would also like to thank the Coordinators and the ISU for their excellent work and support, as well as France and Colombia for their commitment to advance on matters relating to Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add some comments in my national capacity.

The serious humanitarian problems caused by mines, booby-traps and other explosive devices are undisputed and Germany supports the humanitarian objectives set out in this Protocol. Consequently, universalisation of Amended Protocol II remains a priority. On this note, Germany wishes to congratulate the

Republic of Malawi on joining the CCW and adopting the CCW Protocols I, Protocol II. Despite these positive signs, we have to redouble our efforts, collectively and individually, to bring additional states into the Convention. Germany will continue to do its share to reach this goal.

Germany expresses its strong support towards all States Parties that are actively fulfilling their clearance obligations under this Convention, as well as the Ottawa and Oslo Convention. In their support, and as part of its humanitarian assistance, Germany provides substantial financial, technical and material assistance. In 2022, Germany has provided around 50 Million EUR in assistance for clearance of mines and ERW, risk awareness activities, victim assistance, and advocacy in 13 countries.

Germany would like to reiterate a concern expressed by our project partners on the ground: Legacy fields of Mines other than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM) are increasingly harvested to use components to build IEDs. Therefore, we would encourage further consultations and progress within the framework of the CCW in addressing MOTAPM.

Regarding the topic of IEDs, we will take the floor later during this Conference.

Mr. President,

Russia has violated the UN Charter and other fundamental principles of international law by waging its unprovoked, unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. We call on Russia to immediately put an end to the war it started, to end the tragic suffering and loss of life it continues to cause. We condemn all violations of IHL, including Amended Protocol II, emphasizing the obligations to respect strictly the relevant provisions of IHL.

The Russian use of anti-personnel mines, booby-traps and other explosive devices as well as cluster munition in its war of aggression causes civilian casualties and suffering and represent a clear step backwards. Anti-personnel landmines and other unexploded or abandoned ammunition left behind pose a long-lasting threat to civilians and hinder humanitarian access. We therefore call on Russia to refrain from using these weapons immediately.

Germany welcomes the idea of a joint approach to support Ukraine in its post-conflict mine clearance efforts. Therefore, Germany is actively involved in donor coordination efforts, for example in the G7 context. Since February 2022, Germany has allocated around 9.4 million EUR to mine action in Ukraine. Projects include risk education, survey and clearance activities by humanitarian NGOs as well as capacity building and support to the mine clearance teams of the Ukrainian state emergency service. With this funding, organisations are also operating in recently liberated areas.

Thank you, Mister President.