



**FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Oslo, 25 to 29 November 2019

Agenda Item 6 – Renewing the political commitment to the Convention

Mr President,

Let me express our appreciation for your professional conduct of business and congratulate you on your role in making this conference a success.

Germany has always been a staunch supporter of the Ottawa-Convention. This Review Conference has been an occasion to celebrate the 20th anniversary of this important instrument, and remind ourselves of the tremendous progress achieved.

At the same time, however, hard work still lays ahead, in particular with regard to clearance operations, in order to meet our common goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines by 2025. In that regard, we have to note the slow pace of mine clearance in some instances and consecutive extension requests; but we also understand the challenges these states parties face.

Still, the level of ambition with regards to concrete implementation steps needs to be increased. This needs to be done in a comprehensive manner, including all respective tools within and outside the convention.

Germany has been providing very substantial assistance within the Convention, and will continue to do so. Furthermore: Germany has assumed the chair of the mine action support group. This is part of our comprehensive approach, which is also reflected in our new role as coordinator on cooperation and assistance.

Germany very much commends the fact that the Oslo Action plans explicitly includes in all its actions mines of an improvised nature. We also welcome the now shared understanding that the Ottawa convention applies to all mines regardless of how and by whom they have been manufactured. We are pleased that a significant number of States Parties, NGOs and International Organizations have expressed their understanding that mines of an improvised nature also need to be considered when it comes to the aspects of clearing and victim assistance.

Concerning the prevention of the laying of mines of an improvised nature, we welcome the discussions in the regard of Improvised Explosive Devices within Amended Protocol II of the CCW. We believe that within the Ottawa-Convention, we should also start looking for ways to impede those actors who manufacture, use and transfer mines of an improvised nature from doing so. In order to find adequate approaches and effective measures, as a first step of devoting more attention to improvised mines, we should deepen our

knowledge about the proliferation pathways of the components used for improvised mines. Germany is therefore funding research on this issue by Small Arms Survey and would commend further research and sharing of existing information.

Germany proposes an exchange on this issue to be established within the framework of the Ottawa-Convention. Given the strength of this convention and its members, this is a chance that we really shouldn't miss.

Thank you, Mr. President