



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

4TH REVIEW CONFERENCE
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING,
PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR
DESTRUCTION

Oslo, 25 - 29 November 2019

Item 7a: Universalisation

Mr. President,

Please allow me to welcome you to the chair, express our full support to your work and thank the Kingdom of Norway for its hospitality.

Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union under Agenda item 6.

We would also like to commend the Coordinators for their excellent work over the past period and for their efforts to advance the effective implementation of the Convention.

This Convention is both, a ground-breaking disarmament treaty as well as a cornerstone of international humanitarian law. It is an indispensable instrument for our common fight against anti-personnel mines worldwide. This year the *Convention* has been in force for 20 years. Its successes have been remarkable.

Universality of the Convention is key to fulfil the aspiration of a world without anti-personal mines. With 164 states parties we have come a long way towards universality. However, 33 states are still outside of the Convention. They still need to subscribe to our common goal of world free of anti-personal mines.

We also have to note that the rate of accessions to the Convention since the 3rd Review Conference has been somewhat slow with only 3 new states parties since the 3rd Review Conference.

Thus, 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.

We are highly supportive of the draft Oslo Action Plan. We fully support your proposed actions 11 and 12 related to universality.

Mr. President,

Even though not strictly on universalisation, I would briefly like to touch upon two important issues under this agenda item “Operation and status of the Convention”.

Germany is deeply concerned about the increasing number of victims of mines of an improvised nature. It is our joint responsibility to include into our work challenges emanating from mines manufactured and laid by non-state actors. We need to deepen our knowledge about the proliferation pathways of the components used for improvised mines in order to find adequate approaches and effective measures. Germany is therefore funding research on this issue

undertaken by Small Arms Survey and commends further research and sharing of existing information. In addition, we have established a close partnership with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

In closing, I am delighted to note that Germany is looking forward to an enhanced cooperation with Bosnia Herzegovina which whom we have just formed a Country Coalition. We developed this Country Coalition Concept during our presidency of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. It is also workable in the context of the Ottawa-Convention. We encourage other States to look into this concept.

Thank you, Mr. President