



**INTERSESSIONAL MEETING
OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

16 - 17 May 2022, Geneva

Statement by Germany during Item 3 *Matters related to the general status and operation of the Convention, (e) International Cooperation and Assistance*

Mr. President,

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Germany remains fully committed to fulfil its obligations under this Convention and reaffirms its determination to put an end to the suffering caused by cluster munitions.

Germany strongly condemns any reported use of cluster munition. Submunitions from cluster weapons are a disproportionate hazard to civilians, both at the time of their use as well as post conflict. We as States parties have therefore committed to the renunciation of the use of these weapons, and we call upon all governments and all actors to refrain from using them. In any case however, every State and not only State parties to this convention, has the obligation to fully respect international humanitarian law, which is to assure the protection of civilians. Reports on the use of cluster munition by Russian troops in Ukraine, particularly the use of these weapons against targets near schools, hospitals and in residential areas of Ukrainian cities, must therefore be of grave concern to the entire international community. Furthermore, Germany unequivocally condemns any targeted use of cluster munition

directed against civilians or civilian objects as a blatant violation of international humanitarian law.

Beyond the violations of *ius in bello*, Germany condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, which grossly violates the prohibition on the use of force under international law and in the UN Charter. We demand that Russia immediately cease its military actions, withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognized borders.

Concerning the full and universal implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munition, Germany takes its responsibility to assist affected States Parties in fulfilling their obligation under the Convention very seriously. In 2021, Germany has allocated 55 Million EUR for the clearance of cluster munition, mines and other explosive remnants of war as well as for victim assistance and risk awareness activities. Priority is in general given to projects and countries that seek to fulfill their obligations under this Convention, as well as the Ottawa Convention and the CCW. Our programmes are conducted by many capable implementing partners and we would like to thank them, especially the colleagues in the field, for their engagement.

In view of this commitment to Cooperation and Assistance, we are honoured to currently serve – together with Montenegro - as coordinator of the Committee for Cooperation and Assistance of the Convention.

A helpful tool to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention as well as to convince other State Parties to join, especially countries that are cluster-contaminated, remains in our view the Country Coalition Concept. We believe that this concept can enhance cooperation and coordination by tailoring assistance to the specific needs and challenges faced by an affected State. Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina have

been forming a country coalition since 2019. We encourage other State Parties to also set-up country coalitions and stand ready for any questions or exchanges on our experiences.

Finally, Mr President, allow me the following comment on the process for recruiting a future ISU Director. We hold this position and particularly the current office holder, Ms Sheila Mweemba, in very high esteem and therefore welcome that emphasis is given to a process to find an equally competent successor. We would like to take already this occasion to thank Ms Mweemba for her outstanding work in the last years – although we look forward to still work together with her in what we consider an trustful cooperation.

Thank you, Mister President.