

Twenty-seventh Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II 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

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Item 7 of the Provisional agenda

General exchanges of views

Working paper

Submitted by Germany *

1. The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices remain an important instrument of humanitarian arms control. The provisions of Protocol II set clear limits on the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices, including requirements for detectability, self-destruction or self-deactivation, and for the protection of civilians. Germany fully supports the universalisation and strict implementation of this Protocol.

2. The Russian use of anti-personnel mines, booby-traps and other explosive devices in its unprovoked, unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine causes civilian casualties and suffering. The widespread contamination of Ukrainian civilian areas, agricultural land, and critical infrastructure with anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance has caused immense human suffering and will continue to endanger civilians for years to come. Germany calls on Russia to immediately end its war of aggression against Ukraine. Germany condemns all violations of international humanitarian law, including Amended Protocol II, emphasizing the obligations to respect strictly the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law.

3. Germany remains deeply concerned by the increasing threat that the illegal and indiscriminate use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are causing worldwide. The use of Improvised Explosive Devices is rising globally, and improvised Explosive Devices cause deaths and injuries of civilians in many countries. They negatively impact affected communities, pose significant humanitarian challenges and have detrimental socioeconomic impacts.

4. 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 2024, Germany has spent more than 70 million EUR for the clearance of mines, cluster munition, and other explosive remnants of war, keeping support at the same level as in 2023. Germany funds survey and clearance, risk education and victim assistance as well as capacity building in support of national ownership, and thanks its humanitarian partners for their invaluable and often dangerous work.

5. In the rapidly evolving landscape of armed conflict, the employment of innovative technologies is of ever-greater importance. Therefore, Germany supports testing and scaling up the use of field-tested innovative techniques, for example for more efficient survey and land release. Germany also strongly believes that integrating women's knowledge and leadership across all dimensions of mine action enhances both the quality and the impact of

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



our collective efforts. Their contribution is vital to achieving lasting results and building safer communities.

6. Observations indicate that Mines other than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM) are increasingly being used as a component base for building improvised explosive devices (IEDs). This creates serious security and clearance challenges and undermines the protective intent of Amended Protocol II. Germany would therefore like to encourage further consultations within the framework of the CCW to address the challenges posed by Mines other than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM).
