



Federal Republic of Germany  
Foreign Office

**17<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES  
TO THE PROTOCOL ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR (PROTOCOL V) 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 (CCW)**

Geneva, 13 November 2023

**Statement by Germany during Agenda item 8 *General exchange of views***

Mister President,

Let me join others in congratulating you on the assumption of the Presidency of this Annual Conference. I would like to assure you of the full cooperation and support of my delegation.

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

On its land territory including internal waters, **Germany still is affected by existing explosive remnants of war** as defined by this Protocol. Germany is working on the clearance of a former military training site, close to **Wittstock/Brandenburg**, that has been used from 1953 to 1993 by forces of the former Warsaw Pact. In dealing with this legacy from the past, Germany takes its own measures of clearance, removal, destruction and precaution. From 2017 to June this year, out of a total of 11 square kilometres, **6,14 square kilometres have been cleared**. Around 110 Million EUR have been spent for clearance as of June 2023.

Germany remains fully **committed to the objectives and principles of Protocol V and reaffirms its continuous support to other State Parties** affected by explosive remnants of war.

Therefore, Germany has once again increased its support to states affected by explosive remnants of war, including antipersonnel mines. This means for **2023 around 70 million Euro for humanitarian mine action projects** including clearance and survey, risk education, victim assistance and advocacy. Support goes out with the aim not only to counter the immediate threat for the life and health of concerned communities but to also enable reconstruction and return of IDPs, sustainable development and peace building – in short: a life in safety, peace and dignity.

Explosive remnants of war (ERW) remain a legacy threat from armed conflict, posing a lasting hazard to civilians long after hostilities cease. The **high number of casualties** reported in more than 30 countries is a matter of deep concern. Ongoing conflict in the Middle East since the **terrorist attacks by Hamas** across Israel on 7 October, and **Russia's unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine**, will inevitably lead to the further contamination of territories with unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war. Germany reiterates the importance to ensure the protection of all civilians in line with International Humanitarian Law, including Protocol V.

Since February 2022 Germany has dedicated over **26 Million EUR to humanitarian mine action in Ukraine** alone, including for survey and clearance, risk education, victim assistance and support to national actors. We welcome the current Ukrainian mine action strategy process and stand firm in our continued commitment to support the Ukrainian humanitarian mine action programme.

Thank you, Mister President.