

Nineteenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War 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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English only

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Agenda item 8

General exchanges of views

Working Paper

Submitted by Germany*

1. Explosive remnants of war continue to pose a serious threat to civilian populations in many parts of the world. Unexploded ordnance injures and kills civilians, obstructs humanitarian access, impedes development and delays the safe return of displaced persons. It is because of this enduring threat that Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons remains a vital instrument in the field of conventional arms control.
2. In recognition of this continued humanitarian importance of Protocol V, Germany is honoured to having assumed this year's Presidency. We are committed to facilitating constructive dialogue, to strengthen implementation and to promote cooperation among States Parties.
3. Germany is still 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, 8.325 square kilometres have been cleared. By the end of 2024 we spent over 143 million euros for clearance activities.
4. 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. In 2024, Germany provided about 70 million euros in support of humanitarian mine action – matching its contribution from the previous year. German funding has been used for example to provide prostheses to accident survivors, educate school children and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) about the risks of unexploded ordnance (UXO). We implement projects inter alia in Iraq, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, empowering national actors and eliminating immediate threats. These projects have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of people in affected areas, restoring safety, enabling access to land and infrastructure, sustainable development, and the return of Internally Displaced People.
5. We welcome the in-depth discussions and agreements reached at this year's preparation conferences for the 2027 meeting of states on the implementation of the Global Framework for safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management. We are convinced that by enhancing ammunition safety and security the GFA can contribute to achieving goals and objectives of Protocol V on explosive remnants of war.
6. Explosive remnants of war remain a legacy threat from armed conflict, endangering civilians long after hostilities cease. The high number of casualties in more than 30 countries is a matter of deep concern. The conflict in the Middle East that unfolded in the aftermath of

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



the terrorist attacks by Hamas across Israel on 7 October has been leading to further contamination with unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war. Russia's unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine is contaminating territories with unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war. Germany continues to firmly stand with Ukraine and calls on Russia to respect its obligations of International Humanitarian Law, including Protocol V.
