

**Statement on the national implementation of
Article 3 "Exceptions" of the Ottawa-Convention
at the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free-World
29 November – 4 December 2009**

Mme President, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

Germany regards transparency and the continuous open exchange of information as essential pillars on which the Convention's practices, procedures and tradition have long been built. Having said this, Germany provides the following informations on implementing Article 3 of the Ottawa-Convention on the topic of "the retention of a number of anti-personnel mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques".

Germany regards the retention of anti-personnel mines as necessary for the effective continuation and improvement of the protection of our deployed soldiers against the effects of anti-personnel mines and against the effects of improvised explosive Devices, so called IEDs. Considering possible threats to the Federal Armed Forces in their current and potential theatres of operations, the necessary testing and training capabilities can only be ensured by the retention of an appropriate amount of different types of anti-personnel mines.

All such retained anti-personnel mines are stored at the Federal Armed Forces Technical Centre 91 (WTD 91). Transfers of anti-personnel mines for training and experimental purposes to other specialist facilities, e.g. to the "Federal Armed Forces Technical Centre 52 for Explosives and Special Technologies" (WTD 52) or to the "Federal Armed Forces School of Dog Handling" are carried out exclusively with the consent and under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Defence.

The stocks of anti-personnel mines are earmarked and stored for non-operational purposes. It enables a cost-effective and efficient execution of technical examinations in the area of force protection. Due to the "International Test and Evaluation Program for Humanitarian Demining" (ITEP), significant efforts have been undertaken to test and evaluate mine action equipments, mine action systems and mine action technologies. Nevertheless, efforts have to be continued in order to develop field equipments and tools based on realistic and future needs for the Federal Armed Forces.

Regarding Paragraph 1 of article 3 of the Ottawa Convention, which says that "the amount of such anti-personnel mines shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary", Germany informs that currently there are about 2,300 anti-personnel mines in training and testing stocks. Ten years ago, the number exceeded 3.000 anti-personnel mines.

Within the last five years the annual use of antipersonnel mines differed from year to year. For example in the year 2005 the use covered four anti-personnel mines, in 2006 it was 19, in 2007 it was 90 and only 7 anti-personnel mines in 2008. The numbers of this year are as follows:

- 4 anti-personnel mines for vehicle mine protection programs, and
- 150 anti-personnel mines were used for a mine searching campaign,

which means all together 154 anti-personnel mines.

The introduced numbers of the last five years illustrate that it hardly impossible to foresee future needs for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques.

All together since 1998, Germany has expended a total of 844 anti-personnel mines for demining research, testing purposes, vehicle mine protection programmes, accident researches as well as dog training purposes. German Armed Forces also use dummy mines.

Germany reviews its numbers of anti-personnel mines retained annually in order to ensure that it constitutes the minimum number absolutely necessary for that purpose. Having said this, I may state that Germany decided not to exceed again the number of 3,000 anti-personnel mines.

This, Mme President, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, concludes Germanys transparent and continuous open exchange of informations on implementing Article 3 of the Ottawa-Convention on "the retention of a number of anti-personnel mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques".

Thank you very much.