



**INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING,
PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR
DESTRUCTION**

Geneva, 18 – 20 June 2024

Agenda item 2 – Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Victim Assistance

Mr. President,

[Germany fully aligns itself with the statements delivered by the European Union. We would like to add a few aspects in our national capacity.]

Mine victim assistance is among the aspects of mine action that have to be addressed more urgently. We thank the committee members for their dedicated efforts on this very important aspect of humanitarian mine action.

As laid down in the International Mine Action Standards: “*Victim assistance is a national responsibility towards all people who have been injured, and to those living with a disability or who are especially vulnerable for other reasons.*” (IMAS 13.10).

The ultimate goal of all victim assistance efforts has to be the **full, equal, inclusive and genuine participation in society of victims of mines and explosive remnants of war.**

Germany has **reflected this in its new humanitarian mine action strategy**, published in April of this year (on International Mine Awareness Day – April 4). We laid out our focus on 11 priority countries such as Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Iraq. At the same time, we highlight that external assistance for mine victims can only be a short-term solution and **should be implemented only until victim assistance is effectively integrated into government healthcare systems, social protection systems and frameworks of affected countries**. We hold that this way, the support needed by victims is secured over the long term.

Thus, Germany is committed to **supporting capacity-strengthening and technical support for national agencies** with regard to standard setting and stakeholder coordination for victim assistance.

Germany will tackle victim assistance together with our implementation partners. As an example, we have **secured that also in 2025 and 2026 at least 10% of our 20 Mio. EUR support to mine action in Ukraine will go into victim assistance**. Together with our partners Handicap International / Humanity & Inclusion and the Danish Refugee Council we aim at going beyond existing cash assistance to victims. This means **providing services to mine victims from trauma care to physical rehabilitation and psychosocial support and strengthening the capacity of local and community-based structures**.

Mr. President, colleagues: Victim assistance needs to play a major role in humanitarian mine action, enabling larger numbers of people to return to leading self-determined lives. Germany stands ready to support.

Thank you, Mr. President.