



## **Statement on Conventional Arms**

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**Ambassador**

**Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament**

Mr. Chairman,

Germany aligns itself to the statement of the EU, but would like to highlight a few issues in its national capacity.

With a view to ongoing conflicts that continue to hurt civilian populations across the globe a more robust effort to curb the unlawful use and destabilizing and excessive accumulations of conventional weapons is sorely needed. Germany takes the mandate of the First Committee in this respect very seriously and is actively engaged in its regional and global implementation. It also presents this year's draft resolution "Consolidation of Peace through Practical Disarmament Measures" and asks for your support. Our commitment to promoting peace should be measured by our actions, i.e. practical disarmament measures. We also welcome progress on the only global transparency instrument, the UN Register for Conventional Arms, during this year's GGE. We believe that a future inclusion of SALW into the register as a full category will make it a more valuable tool. Its future success depends on our participation and we stand ready to provide support for nations willing to contribute.

### SALW

Motivated by the Strategic Development Goals, especially target 16.4, Germany is actively promoting a Global Alliance against SALW proliferation. We feel that better coordination is crucial for a more effective implementation of the Programme of Action, so we try to partner with other interested states, the UN, regional bodies, non-governmental organisations and research institutions. A digital platform has been introduced this summer by our partner the Small Arms Survey. The meetings of the "Group of Interested States", as stipulated in our

above-mentioned resolution, serve as an open venue for dialogue, trying to analyse and match needs and resources. For the next year we plan increased attention towards empowering states to measure and implement SDG 16.4. We are also proud to see our partnership with the African Union on SALW-control prosper, with a special focus on the Sahel, both on a technical as well as on a policy level. It proves our conviction that the responsibility for a successful implementation rests with the affected nations and regions. We stand ready to support these actions, to which we have dedicated approximately 7 Mio. Euros in 2016. Furthermore, Germany remains committed to promoting the universalization and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. It is a key cornerstone for regulating the global arms trade and hence, an indispensable means for preventing the illicit transfer of arms. We therefore particularly welcome the establishment of the ATT-Voluntary Trust Fund which aims at supporting states in their efforts to implement the Treaty. Germany will contribute to the Trust Fund and continue its bi- and multilateral implementation support measures.

## CCM

Germany took over the presidency of the Convention of Cluster Munition beginning of September. We would like to thank the Netherlands for their work as president over the last year.

The use of cluster munition in Syria and Yemen show the devastating effect and unacceptable humanitarian cost of cluster munition. Thus, the convention is needed more than ever to achieve our shared vision of a world free of cluster munition.

Within just a few years we reached 100 states parties to the convention and we set ourselves the goal to reach 130 states parties by 2020. As president of the convention we will lead the efforts to universalize the convention. We call upon all states to ratify or accede to the convention and will reach out to states that have not yet done so.

Another important aspect of our presidency will be the streamlining of reporting, needs assessment and international cooperation which will aim to increase reporting and help states parties fulfil their duties under the convention.

## LAWS

The CCW's work on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) has been extremely useful over the past three years. We would like to see a continuation of our common effort in this area. The next step will be to endorse the informal Group of Experts' recommendations at the Fifth Review Conference.

The proposed mandate by the experts captures the complex nature of the problem in its legal, technical and ethical dimension. We think it is possible to arrive at a common understanding and chart a way forward in this ambitious undertaking.

We hope that the recommendations will be formally endorsed by the High Contracting Parties at the Review Conference and that this will lead to the establishment of a formal Group of Governmental Experts in 2017.

## DPRK

Before concluding, please allow me to make an additional remark on an urgent matter concerning international peace and security. Germany fully endorses the press statement of the UNSC and condemns the latest failed ballistic missile launch conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which took place on 14 October. The launch attempt is another violation of UN Security Council resolutions, which explicitly prohibit North Korea's use of ballistic missile technology. Germany strongly opposes these unacceptable provocations and supports all efforts of the international community to implement further significant measures. Germany also repeats its call to North Korea to immediately abandon its nuclear capabilities, ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction programmes in a verifiable manner that complies with international law and that comes without delay.