

GERMANY

WELLINGTON CONFERENCE ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Wellington, 18 – 22 February 2008

Statement by Mr. Heinrich Haupt

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Mr. Chairman,

on behalf of the German Government, I would like to thank the Government of New Zealand for hosting this important conference.

We fully subscribe to the Statement made by Slovenia on behalf of the European Union and wish to contribute the following additional comments:

Germany welcomes the fact that the Oslo Process has intensified the global momentum for protecting the civilian population from the dangers of cluster munitions.

The conclusion of a legally-binding instrument on cluster munitions is our common goal. The presentation of a first "*Draft Convention on Cluster Munitions*" is a step forward, although some issues of importance to my government, on which we have offered concrete proposals, are not reflected in this text.

We understand the Wellington Draft Convention as being the starting point for an open and transparent negotiation process. The time for discussions has passed. The urgency of the humanitarian concerns at stake is compelling us to concretely work on the draft text and to devote serious attention to the contributions of all delegations present. We should strive to produce tangible results that find the widest possible acceptance and that will be included in a revised consolidated draft resulting from this Conference.

In this spirit, the German delegation will once more present some concrete proposals, in particular on definitions, a transition period including the protection of civilians, and retentions. We also attach particular importance to some other issues raised by various delegations at previous meetings, such as interoperability, retroactive provisions as well as compatibility with Protocol V of the CCW.

We join many others in the conviction that open and transparent negotiations with the aim of reaching the broadest possible agreement will produce best results with a view of effectively and urgently addressing the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.