Madame President,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I would like to start by congratulating you on your appointment to chair this important meeting. Let me assure all parties of the full cooperation of Germany in the run up to the 5th Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

We align ourselves with the statement of the European Union.

The CCW remains highly relevant for us as an import forum to discuss the effects of technological developments and their possible humanitarian consequences. The discussions on adaptations of the CCW have proven fruitful and dynamic.

That is the reason why Germany is a strong proponent of universalization of the convention and believes that the next review cycle will offer the chance of convincing partners that have not yet joined the convention and its protocols to do so.
As we already took the floor during the meetings on Amended Protocol II and Protocol V I would like to focus on four aspects here:

1. 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 pass the Group of Expert’s recommendations at the Fifth Review Conference. 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 Group of Governmental Experts in 2017.

2. One area where the CCW was able to substantively contribute to the international community’s response to an increasing threat is its work on Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). Especially the exchange of information and best practices could still be strengthened and some more synergies between different international fora could be explored. We support the political declaration on IEDs in order to highlight the importance of this issue for the future work of the CCW.

3. On the issue of Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM) we would encourage further exchange between High Contracting Parties. Two aspects could make a real difference. Those are detectability and lifespan limitations. We are convinced that further progress on this issue is possible and further exchange should be part of High Contracting Parties’ deliberations during the next review cycle.
4. Let me conclude with a technical aspect. Germany was pleased to see that the meetings on Amended Protocol II and Protocol V were streamlined and thus shorter. We feel that there is room for improvement when it comes to the length of the meetings especially regarding Protocol V. We welcome and support the recommendation to integrate workshop elements into our expert meetings in Protocol V. This could be in our opinion a blueprint for Protocol II meetings as well and create additional dynamism.

Thank you Madame President