



Fourth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Oslo, 25-29 October 2019

Australian Comments on Renewing Political Commitment to the Convention

Mr President,

As a strong supporter of mine action, Australia reaffirms our commitment to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. We continue to work with others towards reducing the number of deaths and injuries from landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war and to improve the quality of life for survivors of these weapons, and their families.

Mr President,

Australia considers clearing of mines and IEDs to be a humanitarian imperative for the successful distribution of aid and safe return home of thousands of displaced residents. We also support efforts by states parties to pursue work on stockpile management and encourage cooperation in capacity building and establishing best practice.

Australia will continue to take a comprehensive approach, particularly in the Indo Pacific region, to reduce the suffering caused by indiscriminate use of explosive weapons and support the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and all protocols of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

The harms posed by these weapons and their remnants rarely occur in isolation. By addressing these hazards in a complementary manner across conventions and protocols, we believe the international community can reduce the impact of these indiscriminate weapons in an efficient and effective manner. Therefore we urge states that have not acceded to these conventions to take concrete steps towards doing so and fulfil the obligations therein

Mr President,

Australia encourages all parties to armed conflict – including non-State actors - to comply with international humanitarian law, including with regard to the

use of mines and to share, wherever possible, information that will assist with their removal. Compliance with international humanitarian law will go a long way to address concerns raised by the international community about the use of, and effects of explosive weapons including anti-personnel mines. It is for this reason that we encourage states not yet party to the convention to accede to and abide by the key provisions of the Ottawa Convention.

Thank you Mr President.