



**Australia: Statement on stockpile destruction (non-retention of mines for training)**

*Scheduled for the morning of Friday 22 May (but given rolling agenda may need to be delivered late in the afternoon of 20 May)*

*Venue: WMO*

- . The Mine Ban Convention permits under Article 3 the retention of anti-personnel landmines for training purposes.
- . However, there is no agreement on what constitutes an appropriate number of anti-personnel landmines to retain for training.
- . When Australia signed the Mine Ban Convention, we considered 10,000 to be an acceptable limit on the number of mines to be retained for training purposes.
- . Australian Defence Force (ADF) doctrine in the 1990s – when the decision was made on the numbers of anti-personnel landmines to be retained for training purposes – was primarily focused on conventional conflicts in which anti-personnel landmines might be deployed in large numbers against the ADF.
- . However, the ADF's focus in the past decade has been on current and continuing non-conventional operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere
  - Anti-personnel landmines have not been used for the purposes initially envisaged by ADF doctrine
  - the use of anti-personnel landmines for training purposes has been less than was anticipated in the late 1990s.
- . A review of anti-personnel landmines training and research stocks was conducted in both 2012 and 2013,
  - resulting in over 90 per cent of the stock being destroyed, including all 100 serviceable detonator assemblies.
- . The remaining bulk of Australia's anti-personnel landmines stocks were destroyed in 2014 and 2015.
- . In our 2015 Mine Ban Convention Annual Report to the UN we stated that Australia had reduced its total number of retained anti-personnel landmines by 454 to just five.
- . The five remaining landmines were removed from training and research stocks, and destroyed in late November 2016.
- . Defence undertook a stocktake at the end of 2016, and verified that no live mines remained.
- . Australia no longer uses land mines for training and research purposes.
- . Training is now adequately supported by the use of replicas and inert mine stimulants.
- . We are pleased to be able to report that Australia no longer holds any anti-personnel landmines.