

## **Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

### **Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance**

#### **PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION**

##### **Statement by Australia**

24 June 2011

Statement delivered by Ms Christine Pahlman, Mine Action Coordinator, Australian Agency for International Development

As this is the first time we speak at this Committee, I would like to start by noting that Australia welcomes this committee and the opportunities it provides for dialogue on this important issue as we remain firmly committed to supporting efforts which enhance the availability and effectiveness of mine action resources, cooperation and assistance.

Whilst such discussions do and should primarily take place at a national level under the leadership of affected states, there are undoubtedly opportunities to enhance the strategic application and effectiveness of mine action resources through discussion and cooperation at the global level.

It is our sincere hope that this new standing committee will result in more effective and efficient application of increasingly scarce mine action resources to priority mine action work by contributing to discourse on the following issues:

- identifying and prioritising mine action resource requirements;
- identifying and promoting mine action resources including from non traditional sources (such as the private sector);
- identifying and promoting mechanisms, approaches and best practice models for coordinated global and national level mine action assistance;
- promoting and supporting national ownership and coordination of mine action programs; and
- and identifying, promoting and sharing knowledge and experience on effective cooperation and assistance.

Thematic discussions along such lines as well as case studies and peer reviews of state parties and donor positions with respect to resourcing, cooperation and assistance may be useful in future sessions. Based on the presentations and discussion so far we are very encouraged.

Turning to the topic of partnerships and coordination, we would like to emphasise that as a donor we look to our affected state partners:

- to provide accurate information on their mine action challenges and resource requirements,
- to demonstrate ownership and the national priority accorded to mine action including through ratifying relevant conventions and providing national contributions to mine action,
- and, to provide effective national leadership and coordination of mine action.

At the global level, we consider there is an opportunity for more strategic partnerships amongst the donor community and that this could better assist states in achieving or advancing their mine action priorities including article 5 obligations.

Australia is currently looking at how our mine action contributions over the next few years can be more effectively applied, including how we can best assist states with the potential to meet their article 5 obligations within the next few years.

But we cannot do this alone. Our individual efforts will be more effective if we work in a strong and closely coordinated partnership with affected states, other donors and implementing agencies.

Australia welcomes any opportunities to explore and discuss how our individual assistance efforts can be collectively applied and coordinated to strategically progressively, and effectively assist states in meeting their Convention obligations including to achieve the important goal of becoming mine free.

We invite and welcome any discussions with our partners in this regard.

Finally, we wish to applaud Mozambique and Cambodia for their presentations and efforts to promote partnership. In the case of Cambodia's Partnership Principles, Australia has already experienced first hand that they are working to ensure better coordination.