

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-economic Reintegration

UPDATES BY OTHER STATES PARTIES

Statement by Australia

23 June 2011

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

Improving the quality of life for victims of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war continues to be a major focus of Australia's mine action assistance.

In addition to supporting victim assistance work, Australia is also increasingly focusing on supporting people with a disability. Since launching its *Development for All Strategy, Towards a Disability Inclusive Aid Program*, Australia has committed over \$109.3 million in funding for disability programs.

Australia's mine action program and disability inclusive development program work closely together to ensure both programs are of benefit to people with a disability and mine victims.

- The Cambodian Initiative for Disability Inclusion is an example of an Australian supported program which has increasingly embraced a more integrated approach to disability inclusive development.
 - The program was formerly known as the Cambodia Landmine Survivors Assistance Program (LSAP) has been receiving Australian support for many years.
 - Following a mid-term review, launch of Australia's Development for All Strategy and Australia's selection of Cambodia as a focus country for implementing our Development for All strategy, the Landmine survivor assistance program has been reorientated and redesigned to a more disability-inclusive development approach.
 - This has meant for example, that the Fund – now called the Disability Inclusion Assistance Fund – is now open to applications for

all persons with disabilities, as opposed to previously being limited to landmine/UXO survivors.

I would also like to take this opportunity to briefly advise that Australia has committed funding to a number of victim assistance initiatives since 10MSP. This includes:

- In Vietnam and other mine affected countries, \$4 million over four years through the International Committee of the Red Cross Special Fund for the Disabled to support rehabilitation services for persons with a disability, including mine victims.
- In Afghanistan, \$20 million over four years through the UNMAS Voluntary Trust Fund and the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan to support victims, provide mine risk education and support community based demining activities.
- In Uganda and the DRC, \$2.28 million through Handicap International for Cross-border victim assistance and mine risk education.
- In DRC, \$1 million through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for landmine clearance and victim assistance.
- In Southern Sudan, \$1 million through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund to support mine clearance, mine risk education and victim assistance,
- And from our global mine action program, a contribution of \$2.5 million to the 2011 ICRC Special Mine Action Appeal for the preventative mine action program and the physical rehabilitation program for mine victims.

Finally, Australia is pleased to be supporting the 2011 Victim Assistance Parallel Programme. We are also pleased to have supported the production of the Victim Assistance guide and hope that you will find this publication of benefit to your work.