

Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention

Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention

Universalisation of the Convention

Statement by Australia

Christine Pahlman, Mine Action Coordinator, AusAID
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Australia would like to express its gratitude to Canada for its efforts and work as coordinator of the Universalisation Contact Group.

We would also acknowledge the excellent work of HRH Prince Mired in his role as the Presidents Special Envoy and thank him for the update on his work.

Australia continues to advocate strongly for universal adherence to the Mine Ban Convention, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

Australia is dedicated to making the humanitarian goals of the Convention a reality through our five-year Mine Action Strategy for the Australian aid program covering the period 2010 to 2014 launched internationally in Cartagena.

The Mine Action Strategy specifically states Australia's commitment to exercise leadership and advocacy to promote universal participation in the Mine Ban Convention and other international instruments that seek to minimize the risks and effects of explosive remnants of war.

The Australian Government strongly supports the Cartagena Declaration and its aim of universal adherence to the Convention.

Australia has contributed to international efforts to promote universalisation of the Mine Ban Convention and adherence to it.

The Australian Government has coordinated a range of targeted activities focused particularly on Australia's immediate region, the South Pacific and Southeast Asia.

We have conducted outreach, organized and supported seminars, and offered assistance with the drafting of legislation and implementation.

It is encouraging that the Mine Ban Convention is close to universalisation in the South Pacific.

Australia played an active and constructive role in negotiations of the convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and we will continue to strongly support their universalisation.

We thank ICBL for its ongoing efforts to promote universalisation.