

MINE BAN CONVENTION
GENEVA INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS

21-25 JUNE 2010

Intervention on Mine Clearance, Risk Education, and Mine Action Technologies

Key issues

- Thank you Mr Co-Chair.
- We appreciate the presentations from affected States and welcome progress made by countries on clearance.
- The Australian Government continues to support activities to reduce the risk of death or injury to people living in areas affected by landmines and other explosive remnants of war.
- We note that, while there have been positive developments, some affected States are not completing mine clearance within the original timeframes established under the Convention.
- Primary responsibility for achieving obligations under Article 5 rests with national governments
 - Consistent with the Cartagena Action Plan, we encourage increased emphasis at a national level on assessing the scope of mine clearance required, developing long-term national plans and devoting national resources to progress with clearance systematically and within the Convention timeframes.
- Australia is dedicated to fulfilling our obligations under the Convention with respect to international cooperation and assistance
 - Our mine clearance assistance activities have continued to focus on the heavily mine-affected countries in the Asia-Pacific region and are largely integrated within the broader development context, therefore contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- Australia's five-year Mine Action Strategy 2010-14, prioritises the furtherance of mine clearance and risk education in order to reduce casualties, reduce poverty, promote peace and security and allow refugees and displaced people to regain safe access to their land
 - In accordance with our Mine Action Strategy, Australia will support and promote the use of additional approaches to mine clearance such as land release surveys to identify, mark and fence off contaminated land and allow non-contaminated land to be restored to productive use and the incorporation of mine action into broader land use planning.
- Australia works with relevant partners to provide mine risk education and support other risk reduction activities

- Our Government provides assistance in the development of national and local mine risk education programs, including their integration into school curricula in highly affected countries
 - Australia also assists partner governments to identify and provide alternative income sources for those dependent on high-risk sources of income such as converting unexploded ordnance into scrap metal.
- In accordance with the Cartagena Action Plan, we call on States Parties to meet their mine clearance deadlines as soon as possible, especially those who have been granted extension requests.
- Thank you.