

**ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION THIRD PLEDGING
CONFERENCE**

STATEMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Mr President

Australia is committed to supporting the implementation of this Convention and other international action towards a world free of landmines and other explosive remnants of war. We are pleased to confirm that we will continue our long-standing support of the effective operation of this Convention, in a range of different ways.

We will continue to make an annual voluntary contribution of \$140,000 (CHF 103,000) to the Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit under our current 2016-2019 funding arrangement.

We will continue to serve as Sponsorship Coordinator for this Convention and we will continue to make an annual contribution of \$35,000 (CHF 26,000) to the Sponsorship Programme, through to 2019.

Mr President

Our contributions to the implementation of this Convention are just one element of our broader contributions to global mine action. Australia spent more than \$11.6 million last financial year (2017-2018) which included:

- \$4 million to United Nations Mine Action Service's project in Syria
- \$3 million to United Nations Mine Action Service's project in Iraq

- an ongoing four year activity in Cambodia which was valued at \$2 million last financial year
- \$550,000 to the Mines Advisory Group project in Sri Lanka
- \$300,000 to United Nations Mine Action Service to implement its monitoring and evaluation project and to update the United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes; and,
- contributions to key partners as part of multi-year agreements, including the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

Mr President

We strongly encourage all States Parties to contribute, as they are able, to the critical work of the ISU, the Sponsorship Programme, and direct mine action through national, bilateral and global programs.

Thank you Mr President.