

**Mine Ban Convention
Meeting of Standing Committees
Geneva, 21-25 June 2010**

Intervention: inclusive development

Australia recognises that the Millennium Development Goals will not be reached without the consideration and inclusion of persons with disabilities. Therefore Australia is committed to development that specifically reaches, includes and recognises the rights of women, men, girls and boys with disabilities, including victims of landmines and other remnants of war.

In November 2008, Australia launched its strategy *Development for All* demonstrating our commitment to making disability a development priority.

Development for All is not a stand alone initiative or program. The strategy aims to integrate disability into all aspects of Australia's international development assistance, so that, over time, persons with disabilities, including victims of landmines and other remnants of war, share equally in, contribute to and benefit from development policies and programs.

Since the launch of the strategy, AusAID has worked to institutionalize disability inclusive principles and practice into our policies, business processes and programs. Persons with disabilities are increasingly participating in the design, implementation and review of policies and programs.

At the highest level, Australia is being held accountable to our strategy commitments by an external reference group of international experts in disability, majority of whom are men and women with disabilities.

Australia believes that targeted initiatives that empower persons with disabilities and build their skills and confidence are crucial if they are to participate effectively in development. Therefore, we are supporting the development of leadership and capacity of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations through, for example the US based Disability Rights Fund and the Pacific Disability Forum. These mechanisms are working to ensure persons with disabilities develop the skills to be advocates and leaders in their own right.

Australia promotes and supports initiatives that build understanding and capacity of developing partner governments to include persons with disabilities in their development processes, and to meet the specific needs and address barriers to social and economic participation. Under *Development for All*, Australia is initially focusing investments in Cambodia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea and Samoa. As the experience and skills of AusAID, partner countries and other partners grows, we will look to expand our support to other countries.

Investments are also being made

- in major programs in sectors such as education and infrastructure to meet the needs and priorities of women, men, girls and boys with disabilities, and
- in research and analysis that both includes persons with disabilities in the research process and improves our understanding of the lived experience of women, men and children with disabilities.

Australia is committed to international cooperation and calls upon the international community, particularly States to work towards national development that includes and benefits all person with disabilities on an equal basis with others.