



The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

29 November 2024

Australia's statement on Sponsorship Coordination

President

Thank you for giving me the floor and good afternoon to all colleagues. Allow me to take this opportunity to thank you for your stewardship of our Convention and the excellent arrangements you have put in place for this Review Conference and the kind hospitality you have shown us all.

Australia is pleased to be serving as Sponsorship Program Coordinator for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and to have worked closely with you in this regard.

The Sponsorship Programme assists the efforts of the Convention family by ensuring that States with limited resourcing, particularly those with active mine clearance and destruction obligations, can attend our meetings and engage fully in our conversations on these important matters.

The Sponsorship Program is a critical tool to facilitating the successful ongoing work of the convention by ensuring broad, inclusive participation.

We are glad to see this has been reflected in the deliberations at our meetings this year. The Sponsorship Program has supported 50 delegates from 32 States to join us at our Review Conference here in Cambodia. While the sponsorship letters stress encouragement for delegations to consider gender in putting forth their delegations, we think there is room for improvement in terms of gender participation. This year a quarter of sponsored delegates were women, a modest increase on the previous Review Conference. We encourage those States applying for sponsorship to reflect on this, including in the context of Action 5 of the Siem Reap Action Plan.

President

This year the Sponsorship Program has been more important than ever. Here at this Fifth Review Conference the Sponsorship Program has enabled us to hear positive news on steps towards Universalisation at a time when we need to energise our Convention. We are pleased to say that the Sponsorship Program has allowed for three States not yet party to be present with us to discuss their consideration of, and steps taken towards, accession.

President

I would like to acknowledge the generous contributions of donors to the Sponsorship Program this year: Austria, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and Türkiye. Australia was also pleased to again contribute.

These contributions total just over 273,000 Swiss Francs.

As we look forward to next year, I would encourage all States Parties in a position to do so to consider contributing to the Sponsorship Program.

We will develop a 2025 Sponsorship Strategy focused on the ensuring inclusive participation that will allow us to work together under Japan's leadership on the implementation of the Siem Reap Action Plan.

Continued and new Sponsorship donors will be important.

Given that the average delegate cost to attend our meetings is reasonably low, even modest contributions to the Sponsorship Program will have a significant impact.

The Australian delegation remains at the disposal of all States Parties to provide further information and assistance in considering a contribution.

Let me conclude by thanking donors again and encourage planning for contributions in 2025. We anticipate meeting for the tenth annual Pledging Conference of the Convention early in 2025.

Thank you, President