

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

22nd Meeting of States Parties

Geneva, 1-5 December 2025

Australia – General Debate Statement – final for delivery

Agenda Item 7: General Exchange of Views (3 mins)

Checked against delivery

President,

At the outset, we thank you for your tireless efforts in the last year, in what has been a pivotal moment for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Australia is deeply grateful for your leadership.

The Convention was borne out of a collective determination to address the humanitarian consequences and unacceptable harm to civilians caused by use of these weapons.

We cannot take for granted the rules and norms the Convention has established.

We are witnessing the continued use of anti-personnel mines, withdrawals, and the purported suspension of the Convention.

All of these developments threaten to weaken the norms the Convention enshrines.

We as States must rise to meet these challenges. Australia reaffirms our commitment to the Convention's full application, particularly in conflict.

We urge all States to do the same, as well as refrain from actions that might harm the norms underpinning the Convention.

Australia is heartened that support for the Convention remains high.

At UNGA First Committee last month, only one Member State voted against the resolution on the Convention.

Universalisation and implementation of the Convention are critical, in both times of peace and times of conflict.

The deteriorating international security environment is of grave concern, which gives us cause to recommit to the Convention and International Humanitarian Law more broadly.

Transparency and universalisation remain key priorities for Australia.

We welcome the recent accessions of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tonga.

Australia is working to identify synergies in transparency reporting across the conventional arms control treaties, to

make it simpler for States to meet their important obligations.

We are proud of Australia's continued support for mine action, which makes people safer in our region and beyond.

Together, we must reduce the suffering caused by explosive remnants of war.

With a focus on the Indo-Pacific region, we are working to progress mine action from Palau to Sri Lanka and beyond.

Australia commends the efforts of deminers and the mine action sector, in the face of complex challenges that risk lives on a daily basis.

Thank you for everything you do to make our world safer.

Finally, President,

Australia reaffirms our commitment to the Siem Reap-Angkor Declaration and to the Convention's Action Plans.

We urge States to take this opportunity to make the Convention even stronger than before.

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