



Intersessional Meeting of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

19 June 2025

Australia's Statement on International Cooperation

Chair,

As this is the first time I am taking the floor, allow me to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership of the Convention. You have my delegation's full support.

Australia reaffirms its steadfast commitment to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and to the principle of international cooperation and assistance, which is at the heart of this Convention.

We are proud of our long-standing support for mine action efforts, both globally and within our region.

As we have heard, the global need for mine action remains significant. Recognising this, Australia entered into a multi-million dollar four-year partnership with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining – the GICHD. This agreement supports the GICHD's vital work worldwide, including in Africa and the Middle-East.

At the same time, Australia maintains a strong focus on supporting mine action in our region.

In 2024, Australia contributed over 8 million Australian dollars to mine action. This funding supported programs in Sri Lanka and the Philippines, and significantly, in Cambodia—host of the successful 2024

APMBC Review Conference. We take this opportunity to once again congratulate Cambodia on its outstanding leadership and organization of the Review Conference. Australia's significant support to Cambodia assisted its clearance, risk education and victim assistance efforts.

Returning to our partnership with the GICHD, this also includes a dedicated focus on the Pacific.

In September 2024, a regional workshop was held in Brisbane, Australia, bringing together participants from the region. The workshop was a valuable exchange of information about the history and current challenges of World War Two-era explosive ordnance contamination in the Pacific. Participants called for more capacity development support and greater regional coordination on mine action work in the Pacific.

This was followed by further training on explosive remnants of war (ERW) clearance in April and May 2025.

Later, under the Universalisation agenda item of this meeting, we look forward to delivering a dedicated joint statement with the Pacific, highlighting the support of the region for the Convention.

Chair,

Australia's commitment is further demonstrated through the contributions of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to mine action.

In 2024, ADF personnel provided expert advice to the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Command to ensure demining activities in the De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) align with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the inter-Korean Armistice Agreement.

Additionally, Operation Render Safe - led by the Australian Defence Force - continues to play a critical role in the Pacific. This enduring commitment supports regional partners through conducting threat assessments, training, and safely disposing of explosive remnants of war in Pacific Island nations.

Further details of Australia's international cooperation and assistance are available in our annual report submitted to the Convention.

Australia has been and remains a longstanding and dedicated advocate of the Convention, and a proud partner in global and regional mine action. We look forward to continuing to work together towards achieving a world free of anti-personnel mines.

I thank you.