



## **Intersessional Meeting of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

20 June 2025

### **Sponsorship Programme Coordinator Statement**

Thank you, President

Australia is honoured to serve as the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 2025. The Sponsorship Programme is key to our collective efforts to ensure broad, inclusive participation in the work of the Convention. Its value has been clearly reflected in these past days of our deliberations.

As we begin implementing the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan 2025–2029, the importance of the Sponsorship Programme is even more evident. It enables States with limited resources—particularly those undertaking mine clearance and victim assistance—to engage meaningfully in our meetings and contribute to our shared goals.

Many sponsored delegates have met with Convention Committees and partners, participated in the Victim Assistance Experts Meeting, and shared their progress and challenges. This exchange of experiences is what makes our Convention unique, and the Sponsorship Programme plays a vital role in nurturing this community.

We are also encouraged to see that the Programme has supported participation by States not yet party to the Convention, allowing them to outline steps toward accession and deepen their engagement.

In 2024, contributions from Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Türkiye, together with my country Australia, enabled the participation of numerous States in the Intersessional and Preparatory Meetings, as well as the Fifth Review Conference. This year, we began with a balance of approximately 156,866 Swiss Francs. We have since received contributions from Canada, France, Japan, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Türkiye. Australia was also pleased to contribute again. At the time of these Intersessional Meetings, contributions total approximately 114,000 Swiss Francs.

We are pleased to report that the Sponsorship Programme supported 41 delegates from 29 countries at these meetings – up from 33 delegates last year. As we noted at the Review Conference last year, 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. At this meeting 24 per cent of the sponsored delegates are women. While some delegates were unable to attend due to travel-related challenges, the Programme's impact remains significant. The estimated cost for the Intersessional Meetings is approximately 110,000 Swiss Francs, leaving a projected balance of approximately 160,000 Swiss Francs for the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties.

Thanks to the continued support of our contributors, we are well-positioned to deliver a robust Sponsorship Programme for the upcoming Meeting of States Parties. However, to ensure the Programme's sustainability and continued success, we rely on your voluntary contributions.

I appeal to all States Parties: even modest contributions can make a meaningful difference. Your support ensures that all voices—especially those from mine-affected and resource-constrained countries—can be heard in our shared mission to end the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines.

Thank you, President.