

**ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION INTERSESSIONAL
MEETINGS, 19-20 MAY 2016**

COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

STATEMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Mr Chair,

Australia's mine action work seeks to reduce the threat and socio-economic impact of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). The intended outcomes include: improved quality of life for victims; reduced number of deaths and injuries; and enhanced capacity of countries to manage their mine action programs. Australia is focused on assisting significantly affected countries in the Asia-Pacific region, while retaining the flexibility to respond to other emerging needs and priorities.

Through our long term mine action programs, we have been working with partner agencies on clearance of landmines, cluster munitions and other ERW, and capacity building, in over twenty countries including Afghanistan, Cambodia, Iraq, Laos, Lebanon, Mozambique, Palau, the Bougainville region of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu.

Since 2010, we have contributed more than 125 million Australian dollars towards survey and clearance as well as risk education, care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of victims of landmines, cluster munitions and other ERW. This has been of major benefit to improving the security, restoring the livelihoods and enhancing the economic prospects of affected communities.

In 2015 alone Australia contributed AUD5,450,000 to mine action through bilateral programs in Cambodia and Palau, and through partnerships with international organisations including United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Geneva Call and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC).

Thank you Mr Chair.