

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

STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

STATEMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Madam President,

Australia is pleased to advise we no longer retain stocks of Anti-personnel Landmines for training and research purposes.

As permitted by the Mine Ban Convention (MBC) and domestic legislation, Australia previously retained Anti-personnel Landmines for training and research purposes. These were reported on in our annual transparency reports. A small quantity of these mines was used each year for our training requirements.

A review of Anti-personnel Landmines training and research stocks was conducted in both 2012 and 2013, resulting in over 90 per cent of the stock being destroyed. The remaining bulk of Australia's stocks were destroyed in 2014 and 2015. In our 2015 Mine Ban Convention Annual Report we reported that Australia had reduced its total number of retained Anti-personnel Landmines by 454 to five.

The five remaining landmines have now been removed from training and research stock and are being prepared for destruction.

Australia now uses alternative technologies in order to continue to train for mine location, identification and neutralisation.

Thank you Madam President.