

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction

Australian Statement

Mr Philip Kimpton
First Secretary
Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva

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We are pleased to see both of you, Co-Chairs, assume your responsibilities in this Standing Committee, and we appreciate your work in preparation for this meeting.

Australia emphasises the importance of compliance with Article 4 obligations to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines no later than four years after entry into force of the Convention.

We welcome the significant process in destroying over 43 million during the life of the Convention.

We reiterate our concern that some States remain in non-compliance of the Convention. However, we recognise that the four States Parties which have missed their deadlines each face different challenges in order to complete destruction of their stockpiles. We welcome the updates provided today by the States in question and are encouraged that some of them are close to fulfilling, or have taken concrete steps towards fulfilling, Article 4.

We strongly encourage the early completion of landmine destruction. States parties have a role in together being vigilant in ensuring that those with stockpile destruction deadlines are on track to meet their obligations, including through the provision of international cooperation and assistance.

Australia endorses the recommendations of the Cartagena Action Plan and strongly encourages States Parties to comply with the Convention.