



**ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
TENTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES**

ARTICLE 5 EXTENSION REQUESTS - COLOMBIA

Statement by Australia

Statement delivered by Mr Philip Kimpton, First Secretary, Australian Permanent Mission, Geneva

29 November 2010

Australia thanks Colombia for the request and appreciate its detailed engagement with the Analysing Group, and we are pleased to lend our support to it.

We recognise Colombia's commitment to the Convention and the obligations under Article 5. We also recognise the significant challenges that remain for Colombia, including ongoing activities of illegal armed groups who persist in laying new mines or devices with characteristics of anti-personnel mines.

It is unfortunate that progress in demining has been relatively modest, and that an accurate baseline of the remaining task is not available, but appreciate the security concerns that hamper efforts.

We recall that the Analysing Group and MSPs have in the past noted the importance of States requesting only the period of time necessary to assess relevant facts and develop a meaningful forward looking plan based on these facts. We agree with the analysis that, while appreciating the particular challenges faced by Colombia, prospective future mine laying is not a basis under the Convention for requesting an extension.

We encourage Colombia to use the full range of methods to release, with a high degree of confidence, areas suspected of containing AP mines.

We acknowledge that Colombia has made, and is committed to making, significant financial resources available to humanitarian demining capacity, but would appreciate

more information on resource mobilisation efforts and strategies for the period of the request.

The analysis notes that, given the lack of clarity on various matters, it would be beneficial if Colombia could provide additional information to the 11MSP, including on steps that are being taken to develop and implement more effective methods to determine the actual location and size of suspected hazardous area. The analysis also notes that Colombia's clearance plan only covers the period to 2013, the Analysing Group noted it would be beneficial if Colombia could present in 2013 a revised implementation plan that contained a more substantiated understanding of the location and nature of contamination and that included projections of which and how areas would be addressed. We consider the decision on Colombia's extension request should include these steps as important milestones in the ten year extension period.