



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

ARTICLE 5 EXTENSION REQUESTS - MAURITANIA

Statement by Australia

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

29 November 2010

Australia thanks Mauritania for its application for an extension of time to clear under Article 5 and welcomes its engagement with the Analysing Group and the progress it has been able to achieve with demining since the entry into force of the Convention for it. We are pleased to support the application overall.

Although there is much remaining to be done, we recognise that since 2006, Mauritania's efforts to demine have substantially improved. We particularly welcome the fact that more than 20 million square metres have been cleared, which has resulted in significant humanitarian and socio-economic gains, such as access to water and development of tourism.

We welcome Mauritania's ambitious clearance plan for 2011-15. We note that to achieve greater efficiency, Mauritania could utilise all options to release land. We also acknowledge the need for international cooperation and assistance, and note in this regard Mauritania's ongoing significant contributions of national resources to demining. We do not underestimate the challenge of raising the substantial amount that Mauritania needs to complete demining in five years.