



ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION TENTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

Statement by Australia

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

2 December 2010

We celebrate the tremendous achievement of the Convention with the destruction of some 44 million anti-personnel landmines. A total of 152 states no longer have stockpiles of landmines.

Mr President

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 ourselves do not have a stockpile, although we have retained mines for training purposes, as permitted by the Convention, which we report on annually and set out in detail during our intervention at the Standing Committee in June this year.

Mr President

We reiterate our serious concern that four States remain in non-compliance of the Convention. We thank the four States for their updates and welcome the progress made, as presented today, to implement Actions 7, 8 and 9 of the Cartagena Action Plan and Article 4.

We understand that destruction of stockpiles is challenging, expensive and often dangerous. However, stockpile destruction is a core obligation under the Convention. Australia strongly encourages these States to increase their efforts and take creative measures to meet their obligations and bring themselves into compliance with the Convention.