

## 11 MSP Australia's Intervention - International cooperation and assistance

- . I would like to share a few words on how Australia, as a country in a position to assist, delivers mine action assistance.
  - Firstly, Australia is firmly committed to meeting its international mine obligations, including to assist affected countries, and to that end we have a Ministerial commitment and strategy to provide \$100 million in mine action assistance over the period 2010 to 2014;
  - since making this commitment we have so far allocated \$70 million to mine action across 26 affected countries and through a number of global mine action programs;
  - in the year since we met at 10MSP, Australia has provided \$37.8 million for mine action in nineteen countries.
  
- . We deliver this assistance in a manner designed to maximise its effectiveness
  - by using our multi-year mine action strategy to guide assistance;
  - by taking an integrated and long-term approach to mine action that is inclusive of risk education and victim assistance;
  - by viewing mine action within the context of national development priorities and programs, which broadens and deepens the developmental impact of mine action
    - : for example, our support for mine action in Cambodia since 1994 has focused on assisting victims to lead productive lives and ensuring affected lands are restored to productivity;
  - by supporting countries to develop their own well coordinated and managed national mine action program
    - : for example, we are directing all of our mine action support to Cambodia through its nationally managed 'Clearing for Results' program to ensure that our assistance is well-targeted, coordinated and supports the priorities of the national mine action program;
  - by increasingly providing multi-year mine action funding to enhance the predictability and flexibility of our support, and reduce administrative burdens and costs;
  - and lastly, by closely collaborating with implementing agencies and other donors in effort to be strategic about how we assist States to advance their mine action priorities and programs and meet the obligations of the Convention.
    - : As part of this we look forward to Chairing the Mine Action Support Group over the coming two years.

Mr President

- . Inclusiveness is a fundamental premise of mine action.

- . We seek to take a ‘development for all’ approach, which is inclusive of age and gender considerations as well as all victims and persons with disabilities, to improve outcomes for all affected community members.
- . Mine action that takes into consideration the needs, priorities and capacities of males and females is more likely to have impact. We all committed under the Cartagena Action Plan to take action to promote the consideration of gender in mine action
  - Australia seeks to ensure that a gender-sensitive and participatory approach is undertaken at all stages of Australian-funded mine action support projects
    - : for example, gender and age disaggregated data about patterns of at-risk behaviour are being collected to understand the depth of knowledge and particular attitudes about risks and threats among different groups and efforts are made to ensure that women can fully participate including for example by providing free childcare services during workshops so that mothers with children can attend.
- . Our collective attention is required to understand and address challenges to gender mainstreaming in mine action such as the difference levels of education, security and freedom of movement of women, girls, boys and men; the unequal representation of gender and age groups in consultations and decision making processes; and gender imbalances within workforces.

Mr President

- . Australia is also committed to ensuring that we continue to evaluate the impact of our mine action assistance. Australia is therefore undertaking a Mid-Term review of our Mine Action Strategy
  - the Review will assess the progress of our Mine Action Strategy towards the central goal of reducing the threat and socioeconomic impact of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war
  - it will make recommendations for future engagement in mine action to ensure effectiveness, efficiency and best impact of Australia’s mine action assistance.
- . Input to the Review which is expected to present its findings by the end of February 2012 is welcomed.
- . A Mid-term of the Australia’s ‘Development for All’ Strategy (2009 – 2014) is also planned for the first half of 2012
  - this Strategy guides our efforts towards disability inclusive aid program
  - input to this review is also welcomed.

Mr President

- . Effective mine action assistance is dependent on strong partnerships and cooperation between all players: affected states, donors, implementing operators, local communities and a range of other stakeholders.

- . In particular, to ensure the effectiveness of its international assistance Australia requires the cooperation of affected States Parties, to:
  - provide accurate information on mine action challenges and resource requirements,
  - identify and prioritise mine action within their national development plans,
  - provide effective national leadership and coordination,
  - make national contributions to mine action,
  - ratify the relevant conventions, and
  - evaluate and demonstrate results including the development impact of mine action
- . The efforts of Cambodia, in strengthening coordination of resources, cooperation and assistance in mine action is commendable
  - this includes introducing “Partnership Principles” which in a manner consistent with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness,
    - : reaffirms development partners’ respect for national ownership and leadership,
    - : commits development partners to support capacity development, and
    - : requires development partners to align their support with Cambodian National Mine Action Standards and consult the government on project/program formulation.
- . We encourage other mine affected States to follow Cambodia’s lead and take such steps to strengthen their own coordination of mine action resources, cooperation and assistance.
- . To conclude, Australia is pleased to announce here today additional support for landmine clearance in Cambodia;
- . Australia will provide a further \$6.2 million (over three years) to Phase 2 of the *Clearing for Results Program*, a multi-donor facility managed by the Cambodian Mine Action Authority with support from UNDP.
- . Australia’s contribution is expected to clear an additional 35 sq km of contaminated land and support Cambodia to coordinate and lead mine clearance.
- . Since 1994, Australia has contributed \$78 million to clear mines and return lands to productive use, educate people about the risks of landmines and assist victims.
- . We look forward to continuing our partnership with Cambodia and other affected states to pursue our collective vision of a mine free world.

Thank you Mr President