

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Treaty)
15th Meeting of States Parties

Australia

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

Madam President

Australia thanks the Committee for its work mapping the needs and challenges faced by States Parties in the implementation of the Convention and on how best to bring donors and affected states together in dialogue, including its efforts to promote the “Platform for Partnerships” tool. We support the Committee’s recommendations, and in particular welcome its proposal that States Parties engage on a voluntary basis in individualised approaches. We consider this initiative has significant potential to increase the effectiveness of our efforts to improve the level of cooperation and assistance under the Convention.

Australia is committed to supporting the implementation of this important Convention. Last year Australia’s total expenditure on mine action was USD10 million.

Australia’s approach to providing support is through a three pronged approach.

Australia funds international organisations such as the Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Demining, whose work we are very appreciative of, Geneva Call which does important work with non-state actors and the ICRC and Handicap International to support their work with victims.

Australia funds bilateral programs in countries including Cambodia, Iraq and Palau.

In the reporting period the Australia Defence Force also provided training relevant to Mine Ban Convention to representatives of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, the Republic of Fiji Military Forces, the New Zealand Defence Forces, the Papua New Guinea Defence Forces and the Royal Thai Armed Forces.

Australia also supports the effective operation of the Convention through our role as sponsorship coordinator and an annual contribution of USD26,000 to the sponsorship programme. Australia extends its thanks to the other states parties that have contributed to the sponsorship programme. The programme has

enabled delegates from fifteen states to attend this meeting. We encourage states parties who are able to contribute to this programme in order to facilitate the full participation of all states parties in the operation of the Convention. Australia also makes an annual voluntary contribution of USD 100,000 to the Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit.

The challenge of identifying the needs of affected states parties and matching them to donors is a challenge for us all. Australia encourages a continuation of this important work. It is critical for the successful implementation of the Convention.

Thank you Madam President