



Convention on Cluster Munitions 9th Meeting of States Parties

Geneva 2-4 September 2019

Australia – Comments on International Cooperation and Assistance

Mr President

Australia's mine action work seeks to reduce and eliminate the socio-economic impact of all explosive hazards - including cluster munitions, IEDs and landmines and other explosive remnants of war.

Australia provided over 14 million Australian Dollars – some ten million US Dollars – to explosive hazard reduction and victim assistance initiatives in our last financial year, including – in Australian Dollars:

- \$4 million to the United Nations Mine Action Service in Syria as part of Australia's 220 million dollar Syria Crisis Humanitarian and Resilience Package
- \$1 million to international humanitarian organisations in northeast Syria.
- \$6 million to the United Nations Mine Action Service in Iraq as part of Australia's Iraq Humanitarian and Stabilisation Package
- \$1 million to our ongoing project in Cambodia, Clearing for Results Phase III
- contributions to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (\$820,000), and other international partners (\$250,000)
- \$400,000 to the United Nations Mine Action Service for projects in Afghanistan
- \$300,000 to the United Nations Mine Action Service for Global projects
- \$300,000 to Mines Advisory Group to support the program, "Towards a Landmine Free Sri Lanka".

Through the Disability Rights Initiative Cambodia (2013-2018), Australia supported Cambodia in with assistance to over 100,000 people with disability at 11 physical rehabilitation centres. 38% of these people were victims of landmines or explosive remnants of war.

The Disability Rights Initiative Cambodia program has ended but a new disability and gender-based violence program, the Australia-Cambodia Cooperation for Equitable Sustainable Services – ACCESS for short – is building on its work.

Australia considers clearing of explosive hazards to be a humanitarian imperative for the successful distribution of aid and safe return home of thousands of displaced residents. We also support efforts by states parties to pursue work on stockpile management and encourage cooperation in capacity building and establishing best practice.

We urge all States Parties in a position to do so, to provide assistance to address the explosive hazard threat through providing assistance to affected states.

Thank you Mr President