

Universalisation



Convention on Cluster Munitions

Second Meeting of States Parties

Universalisation

Australian Statement

15 September 2011

Mr President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates

We wish to thank Japan for its consistent and continuing efforts to promote the universalisation of the CCM and other international humanitarian law instruments. As Friend of the Chair Japan has worked hard to promote universalisation to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and we look forward to working with Japan as it continues in this role.

Australia strongly encourage States not Party to join the Convention.

Since the First Meeting of States Parties, Australia has supported efforts to encourage universalisation of the Convention internationally, particularly in our Asia-Pacific region. In Thailand and Cambodia, we supported through funding and provision of experts two cluster munition universalisation workshops, in August this year. These workshops resulted in positive engagement from both Thailand and Cambodia on the Convention.

We also look forward to supporting a workshop on universalisation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions that the UK will host in October with Commonwealth missions in London.

Recognising the positive contribution that civil society plays in encouraging broad participation in the Convention, Australia is supporting the Cluster Munition Coalition to undertake universalisation workshops in the Asia-Pacific. Leading from these second workshops, Cook Islands ratified the Convention in late August and we are also encouraged by the participation by other Pacific Islands at this Second Meeting of States Parties.

We additionally welcome other recent ratifications to the Convention, noting that 17 states have joined the Convention since the first Meeting of States Parties.



Australia also remains committed to providing support to countries affected by cluster munitions under the Mine Action Strategy of the Australian aid program 2010-14, announced in November 2009.

Since signing the CCM, Australia has made steady progress on domestic procedures to ratify the CCM. These processes are well advanced. Draft legislation to implement the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Australia was passed by the Lower House of Parliament on 18 November 2010, and is due to be debated in the Upper House.

Once all necessary legislative and administrative measures to give effect to the Convention are in place, we will move as quickly as possible towards lodging Australia's instrument of ratification for the CCM with the UN Secretary-General. We look forward to joining the ranks of States Parties to the CCM.

As we move into the second year of the Convention's activities, Australia welcomes the efforts towards universalisation and reiterates its encouragement for all States to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions as soon as possible.