



Convention on Cluster Munitions

Third Meeting of States Parties

UNIVERSALISATION

Statement by HE Mr James Choi, Ambassador of Australia to Denmark

Mr President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates.

Australia welcomes the continued momentum on universalisation and strongly encourages States not party to join the Convention as soon as possible. We welcome the 12 states which have ratified or acceded to the Convention since the Second Meeting of States Parties.

Australia has supported efforts to encourage universalisation of the Convention internationally, particularly in our Asia-Pacific region.

Also recognising the positive contribution that civil society plays in encouraging broad participation in the Convention, Australia continues to support the Cluster Munition Coalition to undertake advocacy and universalisation work, including in the Asia-Pacific.

Mr President, I am pleased to report that Australia has made significant progress on domestic procedures to ratify the Convention. Legislation to implement the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Australia was passed by the House of Representatives in November 2010, by the Senate three weeks ago on 21 August, and received Assent by the Governor-General on 8 September.

Once the last of our domestic processes to ratify the Convention are complete, we will lodge Australia's instrument of ratification for the Convention with the UN Secretary-General. We hope that this will occur over the next few months, and we look forward to joining the ranks of States Parties to the Convention very soon.

As we move into the third year of the Convention's activities, Australia remains committed to promoting universalisation of the Convention.