

Universalisation

Australian statement

Madam President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentleman

We wish to thank Ghana and Portugal for their consistent and continuing efforts to promote the universalisation of the Convention.

Australia welcomes the continued momentum on universalisation and strongly encourages States - not party - to join the Convention as soon as possible. We are delighted to be amongst the 8 states which have ratified or acceded to the Convention since the Third Meeting of States Parties. We would particularly also like to welcome Nauru, from the Asia-Pacific region, as a new State party - having ratified in February 2013.

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.

Madam President

In 2013, Australia as a committed long-term donor to mine action **sponsored the** second Pacific Regional workshop on Explosive Remnants of War. Australia's support to the Pacific regional workshop enabled participation at the workshop by 8 Pacific Island Countries. Such activities and our ongoing mine action program provide a framework for encouraging non-parties to consider accession and ratification to this convention

Australia will continue to work to enhance coordination and capacity building efforts for the nine Pacific Island Countries that remain contaminated by limited landmines and cluster munition contamination - a dangerous and long lasting legacy from WWII.

As we move into the fourth year of the Convention's activities, Australia welcomes all efforts towards universalisation and will continue to promote universalisation at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels.

Madam President

We join Zambia in reminding States Parties, signatories, observers and other participants to the 4MSP, that CCM is the framework by which we, as States Parties, continue to work to render this world free of cluster munitions. This objective is only possible if States continue to sign, ratify and implement the convention effectively.