

## Convention on Cluster Munitions

### International Cooperation and Assistance (Article 6)

#### Statement by Australia

- . Australia would like to thank the coordinators for their work to progress international cooperation and assistance over the past year.
- . Australia is pleased to have submitted information to the trial version of the Cooperation portal
  - We hope the portal, as it is intended, helps support States parties with their implementation of the Convention by helping connect the needs of States parties with potentially available international resources
  - We encourage State Parties to contribute to the Cooperation Portal.
- . Australia remains committed to fulfilling its cooperation and assistance obligations under the Cluster Munition Convention and contributing to the global effort towards a mine free world
- . Over the past five years, Australia has provided over \$120 million to work towards a world free from cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.
  - The majority of our assistance has been allocated to priority clearance and risk education activities.
  - It has been directed to the heavily affected countries in the Indo-Pacific region and to those with which Australia engages in a bilateral aid relationship.
  - Our funding considerations have taken account of the extent that a state has demonstrated commitment to the Convention and related instruments of humanitarian law as well as the priority that mine action is accorded within the national development program.
- . The Australian aid program is now closely aligned with Australian foreign and trade policies.
  - The geographic priority of the Australian aid program is the Indo-Pacific region, especially the South Pacific and South East Asia.
  - The focus of the Australian aid program is sustainable economic development and poverty reduction.
  - The aid program also focuses on ensuring peace and security for our region and supporting greater growth and equity.

Mr President

- . Given prevalent economic challenges faced by most countries, it is important that we maximise the effectiveness of our aid dollars.
  - We therefore seek to focus our investments on areas that will produce the greatest socio-economic and humanitarian outcomes.
  - To ensure that our mine action assistance is effective and has maximum impact, we will continue to work with partners and donors to strengthen national mine action programs.
- . As we noted earlier this meeting, Australia will review its *Mine Action Strategy for the Australian aid program* in the latter part of 2014.
  - The Review will help to inform Australia's future international cooperation and assistance in mine action and we look forward to opportunities to consult and update you on the Review.

Thank you