

Universalisation

Statement of Australia

Mr President

We thank you for your efforts as President and look forward to a successful meeting.

Universalisation is essential to the overall success of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The more states that are party to the Convention, the further the norms of the Convention are extended and the greater the positive impact of the Convention.

Australia supports the goal set out in the Dubrovnik Action Plan if 130 states parties by 2020. Australia commends the President and the co-ordinators on universalisation for their outreach efforts over the past year.

Australia welcomes Somalia, Mauritius, Cuba and Palau as states parties and looks forward to working cooperatively with them all. We already have a significant demining program with Palau worth AUD4.5 million ~~Australia dollars~~, surveying and clearing explosive remnants of war. This project commenced in 2012 and is due to be completed at the end of this year ~~in 2017.~~

We urge the 19 signatory states that are yet to ratify the Convention to make further progress towards becoming States Parties to the Convention.

We acknowledge the important work done by the United Nations, civil society and NGOs to promote universalisation of the convention. We are pleased to be funding organisations doing this valuable work, including the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor.

Thank you Mr President