

**Convention on Cluster Munitions**  
**Intersessional Meeting**  
**RETENTION OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS**  
**Statement by Australia**

27 June 2011

Statement delivered by Mr Philip Kimpton, First Secretary, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva

Retention of cluster munitions enables the Australian Defence Force to familiarize personnel with these munitions, in particular to train in cluster munitions detection, clearance and destruction for battlefield and humanitarian clearance operations.

Australia's representative samples are not part of Defence's operational weapons inventory, and are not – in either numbers or configuration – suitable for operational use by the Australian Defence Force. They are a combination of live, inert and simulated cluster munitions as permitted by the Convention. This includes some dispensers and submunitions. Only two of the bombs are live. The remainder are inert or simulated munitions. Australia does not believe that this is an excessive number for training and counter-measures purposes.

The Australian Defence Force requires the use of inert cluster munitions for training, as simulated versions may not be available for all submunitions currently in use or which may come into use in the future by States not party to the CCM.

Until such time as simulated versions become available, the Australian Defence Force will need to retain the flexibility to use inert systems, principally for training in the identification and disposal of these submunition types in order to ensure the safety of its deployed personnel.

Details of Australia's samples will be included in its first national report under the CCM.