

Convention on Cluster Munitions

Intersessional Meetings

UNIVERSALISATION

Statement by Australia

27 June 2011

Statement delivered by HE Mr Peter Woolcott, Australian Permanent Representative to the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament

As this is the first time we have taken the floor during the intersessionals, we wish to congratulate Japan for its consistent efforts to promote the universalisation of the CCM and other international humanitarian law instruments. We also wish to thank the Lao People's Democratic Republic for its leadership of the CCM in its first year and the preparations for this week of intersessional meetings. We also thank the GICHD for making these facilities and interpreters available.

Australia continues to be a strong supporter of the CCM, and was one of the first countries to sign the Convention on 3 December 2008.

We are committed to ending for all time the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions.

Since signing the CCM, Australia has made steady progress on domestic procedures to ratify the CCM. These processes are well advanced.

Once all of the necessary legislative and administrative measures to give effect to the Convention are in place, we will move as quickly as possible towards lodging Australia's instrument of ratification for the CCM with the UN Secretary-General. We hope to be in a position to do so later this year and look forward to joining the ranks of States Parties to the CCM.

In the meantime, Australia is committed to supporting the humanitarian objectives of the CCM, including through our \$100 million Mine Action Strategy and acting in the role of Friend of the President on clearance and risk reduction.

Australia continues to take opportunities to promote the universalisation of the CCM, at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels. We have also provided financial support to the Cluster Munitions Coalition for its advocacy campaign globally. As a donor to mine action, Australia has also used its partnership relations to encourage recipient States to join the CCM. Australia

will also host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth in October 2011 where Australia will encourage Commonwealth States to join the CCM.

Like others, Australia notes with concern the recent reports of the use of cluster munitions. Australia urges all States to refrain from their use and encourage them to join as soon as possible the CCM.