

13th Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

International Cooperation and Assistance

Australia

18 September 2025 – as delivered

President

Allow me to begin by thanking Switzerland and the Netherlands for their work during the past year and for their report on international cooperation and assistance activities.

Australia recognises that international cooperation and assistance is fundamental to the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

We welcome all efforts in this regard, undertaken by States, international organisations and civil society.

The Philippines Presidency this year, to be followed by Lao PDR presiding over the Third Review Conference next year, demonstrates the commitment of the Indo-Pacific region to the Convention. At the same time, these presidencies provide an opportunity to highlight the international cooperation and assistance efforts and needs of the region.

Australia has worked to reduce and eliminate the socio-economic impacts of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war. This has included assistance for clearance of explosive remnants of war, including munitions remnants, risk education and victim assistance. Our objective is to improve the quality of life for victims, reduce the number of deaths and injuries, and enhance capacity of countries to manage their mine action programs.

In 2024, Australia contributed over AUD 8 million to mine action, in addition to our Operation RENDER SAFE in the Pacific and partnerships through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific. Our mine action program is global in nature and funded regional programs in Cambodia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Australia's multi-million multi-year grant to GICHD over the period 2022 – 2026 for mine action work has sought to progress mine action across the world. As part of this work, in September last year and April this year, the GICHD ran workshops in Australia for regional participants to build capacity in mine action. As part of the four-year agreement, we are pleased to support the CCM Sponsorship Program. The success of this convention is founded upon strong participation.

Australia's support to our region is complemented by Operation RENDER SAFE. Operation RENDER SAFE is an Australian Defence Force led operation that reduces the threat posed by World War II-era explosive remnants of war in Pacific Island Countries.

Under this operation, the Australian Defence Force, supported by local forces from Pacific Island Countries, searches, identifies and disposes of explosive remnants of war in conjunction with running local awareness campaigns to address the risk posed to the local population.

Here in Geneva, we continue to take opportunities to promote the value of international cooperation and assistance; a fundamental part of the CCM.

Thank you, President.

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