

**ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION FIFTH PLEDGING
CONFERENCE**

STATEMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Mr President

Australia is committed to supporting the implementation of this Convention and other international action towards a world free of landmines and other explosive remnants of war. We are pleased to confirm that we will continue our long-standing support of the effective operation of this Convention, in a range of different ways.

We will continue to make an annual voluntary contribution of \$140,000 (CHF 103,000) to the Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit under our current 2019-2022 funding arrangement.

We will continue to serve as Sponsorship Coordinator for this Convention and we will continue to make an annual contribution of \$35,000 (CHF 26,000) to the Sponsorship Programme, under that same agreement.

Mr President

Our contributions to the implementation of this Convention are just one element of our broader contributions to global mine action. Australia spent more than \$15.5 million on mine action last calendar year (2019); which included:

- \$4 million to United Nations Mine Action Service's project in Syria as part of Australia's \$220 million Syria Crisis Humanitarian and Resilience Package;
- \$1.8 million to International Humanitarian Organisations for victim assistance activities in Syria;

- \$6 million to United Nations Mine Action Service’s project in Iraq as part of Australia’s Iraq Humanitarian and Stabilisation Package
- \$1 million to Clearing for Results in Cambodia
- \$450,000 to the Mines Advisory Group for work in Sri Lanka
- \$400,000 to United Nations Mine Action Service for work in Afghanistan;
- \$300,000 in core funding to United Nations Mine Action Service;
- \$66,000 to Mines Action Canada for the sponsorship of mine action fellows; and,
- contributions to key partners as part of multi-year agreements:
 - Humanity and Inclusion (\$100,000);
 - International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition (\$150,000); and
 - Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (\$850,000).

Australia also contributed \$7 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross for work in Myanmar, including victim assistance, and \$5 million to the UNOCHA Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, through which funding was provided for mine action projects.

Mr President

We strongly encourage all States Parties to contribute, as they are able, to the critical work of the ISU, the Sponsorship Programme, and direct mine action through national, bilateral and global programs.

Thank you Mr President.