



AUSTRALIA

**Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons:
Protocol V: First Conference of High
Contracting Parties**

**Statement by Caroline Millar
Permanent Representative of Australia
to the Conference on Disarmament**

5 November 2007

Mr President

May I first congratulate you on your election and thank you for your efforts in preparing for this important meeting.

Australia is pleased to be represented as a Party at this First Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.

Australia submitted its consent to be bound by Protocol V on 4 January 2007 and the Protocol entered into force for Australia on 4 July 2007.

Mr President

Protocol V is a significant and practical step forward in reducing the humanitarian risks of explosive remnants of war.

Australia is committed to combating the dangers posed by ERW in all its forms. Our Mine Action Strategy, supported by a 5-year \$75 million pledge, aims to reduce the humanitarian suffering and socio-economic impact of landmines and other ERW through clearance, risk education, survivor assistance and stockpile destruction.

Australia seeks to provide integrated and effective donor assistance, including through multi-year pledges and by linking assistance to development programs. And we urge other donors to adopt this approach.

In Cambodia casualties caused by ERW now out-number those caused by landmines. Australia has allocated \$12 million for landmines and ERW clearance in Cambodia; and \$1.5 million to support victims of ERW (and landmines) in Vietnam.

In response to a UN request for additional assistance, Australia has committed \$2.5 million to Lebanon to assist in ERW clearance since July 2006.

Mr President

Australia is committed to international efforts to ban cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians. We will contribute strongly to efforts in the CCW, as well as in the Oslo Process, to address this humanitarian concern.

The CCW Meeting of High Contracting Parties this week must seize the opportunity to adopt a negotiating mandate on cluster munitions. Australia is eager to work with all delegations to ensure this outcome.

Protocol V provides us with an immediate tool to address ERW concerns. We urge all CCW Member States to join Protocol V as soon as possible.

Universal acceptance and effective implementation of Protocol V will greatly assist in minimising the humanitarian hazards posed by all forms of ERW, including cluster munitions.

Thank you.