



AUSTRALIA

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

**Statement by Caroline Millar
Ambassador for Disarmament
Permanent Representative to the United Nations**

10 November 2008

Mr President

May I first thank you for your efforts in preparing for this important Second Conference of High Contracting Parties.

I would also like to thank the five Coordinators on clearance, victim assistance, international cooperation and assistance, generic preventative measures and reporting templates for their hard work.

Through your efforts, Mr President and those of the Coordinators we are now moving forward to operationalising Protocol V. Australia supports the proposal for a Plan of Action on victim assistance, as well as the proposal to launch a database for international cooperation and assistance.

Mr President

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

Australia has taken all necessary steps to fully implement the provisions of Protocol V. The Australian Defence Force has updated its doctrine in relation to explosive ordnance to incorporate the provisions of Protocol V.

The Australian Defence Force has implemented its obligations under Protocol V in all aspects of operational planning, including in the targeting process.

In addition, Australia is working to implement the preventive measures in Part 3 of the Technical Annex. This includes ensuring compliance both in the acquisition phase and for munitions manufacturing management.

Australia continues to maintain a robust ordnance management regime. Samples of our ordnance stocks in our inventory are inspected and tested regularly to ensure they continue to meet their performance specifications. This is a critical activity in minimising the potential for ERW.

Australia is equally committed to fulfilling its obligations under Article 8 of Protocol V on cooperation and assistance and to help combat the dangers posed by ERW in all its forms.

Australia's 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 and survivor assistance.

Australia provides integrated and effective donor assistance, including through multi-year pledges and by linking assistance to development programs. We urge other donors to adopt this approach, which Australia has found to be highly effective on the ground and to deliver best for victims, their families and communities.

Australia has recently committed \$10 million over two years to Afghanistan to launch small-scale community-based ERW clearance programs, and rehabilitation and

support for victims. We support similar programs in Laos, Cambodia, Iraq and other ERW-affected countries in close coordination with civil society.

We have also recently pledged \$1 million to ERW clearance in Lebanon, in addition to the \$1.5 million provided last year.

Additional information on Australia's implementation of Protocol V can be found in our national report on the CCW website.

Mr President

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.

Thank you.