
**ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE**

**AUSTRALIAN STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 9 (e)
DESTROYING STOCKPILED ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES**

2 December 2009

Australia emphasises the importance of compliance with Article 4 obligations to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines no later than four years after entry into force of the Convention. We welcome the tremendous achievement of the Convention that over 42 million anti-personnel landmines have been destroyed.

Australia reiterates its concern that three States remain in non-compliance with the Convention: Belarus, Greece and Turkey. While we note that some progress has been made and acknowledge the technical challenges involved, we nevertheless strongly encourage these States to increase their efforts to ensure the destruction of all stockpiled mines they own or possess, or which are under their jurisdiction or control. And we express our hope that Ukraine might still be able to meet its commitments to stockpile destruction prior to 1 June 2010.

States parties must be vigilant in ensuring that those with upcoming stockpile destruction deadlines are on track to meet their obligations. Such vigilance may reveal ahead of time whether states need assistance in this regard. Donor countries will then be better placed to provide assistance to overcome stockpile destruction challenges.

Australia endorses the recommendations of the Cartagena's Action Plan and strongly encourages States Parties to comply with Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention.