

## **Mine Action Support Group Meeting 11 October 2016**

### **Australia – Update**

The Australian Government remains committed to mine action and to supporting the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (also known as the Ottawa Treaty or MBC) and Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

We have a multi-pronged approach which is designed to extend the reach and breadth of our support for mine action.

Firstly we support international agencies which are involved in clearance, development of standards and victim assistance; including the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) and Handicap International.

Secondly we fund clearance work in individual countries either bilaterally or through United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

In June 2016 Australia provided \$5 million through UNMAS to demining activities in Iraq and have also provided support to UNMAS activities in Afghanistan and Colombia.

Australia has a significant long term commitment to demining activities in Cambodia. Australia has committed \$9 million to Clearing for Results Phase III, which commenced in 2015 and will run until 2020. The program is implemented through the Cambodian Mine Action and Victims Assistance Authority (CMAA), which is the peak body for monitoring and coordinating mine action activities in Cambodia.

The Australia Defence Force is active in our region. We provide support to the Royal Solomon Island Police Force explosive ordnance disposal training centre and Operation Render Safe is taking place at present in Solomon Islands –consists of 120 personnel and two navy ships with support.

Thirdly we are active in the management of the Conventions. At present we are Coordinator of the working group for international cooperation and assistance for the Convention on Cluster Munitions, together with Iraq.

In cooperation with Austria, Chile and Iraq, and with assistance from *Handicap International*, we are developing guidance for countries to implement an integrated approach to victim assistance.

Australia continues to be a key contributor to sponsorship funds enabling developing countries to send representatives to convention meetings.