

## **Australian Submission to the UN Secretary-General's Report on "Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices"**

Together with France and Nigeria, Australia is proud to be one of the lead co-sponsors of UNGA First Committee resolution "Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices". For more than a decade, the resolution, first introduced in 2015, has played a central role in promoting global cooperation to address the threat posed by these weapons. The UNGA resolution expresses "grave concern about the devastation caused by increasing use of IEDs by illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorised recipients which has affected a large number of countries". Australia shares this concern.

The challenges posed by IEDs are multi-faceted. They engage international humanitarian law, frameworks on disarmament and arms control, counter-terrorism, and humanitarian mine action, as well as export control systems.

IEDs pose a complex and evolving threat that requires coordinated and comprehensive action by the international community. The use of improvised explosive devices remains a direct threat to civilians, humanitarian actors, peacekeepers and security forces around the world. Reflecting the shared priority to protect frontline actors, Australia champions the practical measures available to States to safeguard humanitarian personnel, in line with the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel. Sadly, IEDs account for more than 40 percent of all global civilian casualties from explosive weapons.

IEDs affect people differently including physically, socially and economically. Women and girls often face greater social exclusion, reduced access to education and increased caregiving burdens post-incident, while men may experience economic discrimination and loss of social status.

Understanding the gendered impacts of IEDs is essential to identifying the different risks, vulnerabilities, and humanitarian consequences experienced by diverse groups, and to inform more effective, inclusive, and equitable responses and recovery efforts.

Locally-led and survivor-centred approaches can strengthen trust in institutions in post-conflict recovery and reconstruction.

Meaningful participation of women and survivors in decision-making strengthens prevention, early warning, accountability, community recovery and long-term sustainability of C-IED interventions.

Survivor-centred responses that are not only about survival, but about dignity, livelihoods and inclusion must be embedded from the outset.

This includes trauma care, rehabilitation and prosthetics, psychosocial support and socio-economic reintegration.

Countering the threat posed by these weapons requires sustained commitment in sharing technical and investigative expertise, and cooperation across borders. It demands creative solutions and resolute collective action to curb access to IEDs themselves, the critical components of IEDs, and the know-how to make them.

### **Australia's Approach to Countering IEDs**

Australia integrates prevention, protection and response to counter-terrorism and violent extremist organisations' use of IEDs. The Australian Defence Force contributes through domestic and international operations, capability development, integrated civil-military training and cooperation with allied police and military partners.

This approach recognises that effective C-IED operations rely on coordinated civil–military action, including disrupting access to precursor chemicals, improving detection and mitigation, and strengthening partner nation capacity.

Australia supports the work of multilateral institutions such as the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF), which bring a practitioner-focused approach to dealing with counter-terrorism issues, including IEDs. Through its working groups, the GCTF remains an effective forum for developing and disseminating effective toolkits, sharing lessons learned, building technical skills and fostering the partnerships that remain crucial to dealing with challenges that are not limited within any one border.

The Australia New-Zealand Counter-Terrorism Centre (ANZCTC) maintains the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) [Guidelines](#) for Crowded Places through the Crowded Places Sub-Committee (CPSC) which incorporates representatives from Counter Terrorism Policing across all Australian states and territories.

The IED Guidelines for Crowded Places are intended to help owners or operators of crowded places to be more aware of the threat posed by IEDs. They also provide guidance on considerations during risk mitigation and contingency planning activities.

The Australian Federal Police also continues to engage with domestic and international partners to counter the threat associated with criminal and terrorist use of improvised explosive devices.

#### **International Assistance and Cooperation**

Internationally, Australia supports strong measures to restrict the proliferation, trafficking and use of IEDs and their components. The Australian Defence Force engagement prioritises practical cooperation, capacity building and expert exchange, including strengthening national C-IED frameworks and supply chain controls.

The Australian Defence Force maintains regular engagement with partners. This includes activities with Thailand in 2025 and 2026 under the Joint Australia–Thailand Defence Cooperation Program. Australia also contributed to the 7th Africa Annual Counter-IED Conference in Nairobi in October 2025 and continues to support explosive hazard awareness and C-IED training through the United Nations Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP). Australia’s commitment to the TPP includes the current secondment of an ADF officer to the role of C-IED Training Advisor.

In the preceding 12 months the Australian Federal Police has engaged with close regional partners in ASEAN and hosted the Southeast Asia Bomb Data Centre Working Group over the period 18-21 November 2025. This working group brought together technical specialists from a number of ASEAN nations to share and discuss current trends and threats regarding improvised explosive devices. This level of information sharing is further expanded by Australian Federal Police subject matter experts attending the annual International Bomb Data Centre Working Group to meet with international experts and share technical information relating to improvised explosive devices.

These two engagements are critical to the ensuring that the Australian Federal Police, and indeed Australia, maintains a forward leaning posture with regard to the evolution of improvised explosive device designs and countering their use across the criminal and terrorist threat space. The recent terrorist attack in Bondi, Sydney (December 2025) demonstrates that terrorists continue to seek to use improvised explosive devices in their attacks against innocent civilians.

More broadly, in 2025, Australia provided in excess of AUD\$10 million for mine action. Further details on our mine action work can be found in the annual report to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention though this [link](#).

Australia will continue to work through relevant forums to advance international efforts to help counter the threats posed by IEDs, including the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Amended Protocol II on Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices.