

Australia's submission on countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), 29 April 2016

Australia deplores the callous and characteristically indiscriminate use of IEDs which fundamentally impacts the lives of civilians, law enforcement and military personnel, and threatens the peace and security of communities, across the world.

The IED threat is global and Australians are not immune. Alongside scores of casualties from other nations, 88 Australians were killed, with many more injured, by IEDs attacks in Bali in October 2002. In addition, since 2001, 14 Australian Defence Force personnel have lost their lives from injuries sustained by IEDs in Afghanistan.

Efforts to Counter IEDs (CIED) have their own unique challenges, but need to be part of the overall framework countries establish to prevent violent extremism and terrorism. Firstly, Australia recognises that CIED efforts start with the establishment of preventive measures to address the drivers behind radicalisation. Secondly, traditional security-based counter terrorism measures to confront pervasive and mature IED threats continue to be a key pillar that needs to be addressed globally. Thirdly, coordinated international action must continue through sharing information across both civil and military security agencies, increasing global CIED partner capacities and public awareness.

Australia supports strong measures to curtail the availability and use of IEDs, including efforts to restrict the international trafficking and supply of IED components and precursors. National CIED frameworks, with effective border controls, are most effective where a whole of supply chain approach is adopted to prevent, disrupt and neutralise IED threats by non-state actors. Countries should innovate and invest in technical solutions that neutralise imminent threats or reduce the severity of incidents, for example, through counter-measure systems, and institutionalising CIED training and awareness across all levels of relevant government agencies.

Continuing to raise awareness and sharing best practice information should be priorities at national, regional and global levels. For example, in April 2016, Australia published new national IED guidelines¹ for places of mass gatherings, which are designed to help owners and operators of these venues to be more aware of the threat and to mitigate risks through contingency planning. Australia is willing to share these guidelines with other interested countries.

At the multilateral level, the development and launch of the *CIED Global Alliance Strategy* was a key outcome of the inaugural International CIED Leaders' Forum held in Australia in September 2015. Countries may wish to consider, through the UN and in collaboration with relevant international organisations, ways to progress the Strategy and carry work forward.

Australia stands willing to contribute in combating the global threat posed by IEDs.

¹ Available here: <https://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/Media-and-publications/Publications>