

Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their
Destruction

Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

Statement by Finland

Vienna, 20 December 2017

Mr President,

As this is the first time Finland takes the floor, I would like to begin by congratulating you on your appointment as President of this meeting and assure you of my Delegation's full support. Like others, we warmly congratulate Sri Lanka for having joined the Convention. Finland fully adheres to the statements made by the European Union and I would like to provide some additional information in our national capacity on the cooperation and assistance Finland provides.

Mr President,

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention has during the past twenty years made a remarkable difference in the safety and security of countries affected by anti-personnel mines. States Parties must keep up their engagement with the Convention's obligations and provide the humanitarian demining community with the resources and tools they need to continue their courageous and dedicated work. Finland finances mine action organisations through multi-annual framework agreements, which improve the predictability of funding and lower the administrative cost of projects. We recommend this type of funding structure also to other donors.

Finland has been a steadfast supporter of humanitarian mine action for over thirty years. A new national humanitarian mine action concept was developed last year. The goal is to save lives as well as to strengthen long-term security and development in the affected countries. The new concept also stresses the importance of including a gender perspective into all stages of mine action activities. Our comprehensive approach comprises all five pillars of humanitarian mine action: clearance, risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and advocacy.



Finland's support is largely focused on fragile states and fragile environments where mines pose a major problem. Recipients of our assistance are Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia and Ukraine. Almost half of the total of 12 million euros of funding will be channelled to support activities in Iraq and Syria in areas liberated from ISIL. We are particularly concerned about the use of different types of locally produced mines used by ISIL in these two countries.

We see humanitarian mine action not only as a valuable form of humanitarian assistance but also as part of the wider effort to promote international security, stability and development. It is an important factor in the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Finland works closely with other countries as well as international and local organisations especially when it comes to information sharing and coordination.

Mr President,

I would like to finish by commending the staff of the Implementation Support Unit for their excellent work. To assist them in their efforts Finland has recently provided the ISU yet again with a voluntary financial contribution of 10 000 euros, as we promised to do at the Pledging Conference in February. We encourage other States Parties to do likewise.

Thank you, Mr President.

