

Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties
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

Petra Paasilinna, DPR to the CD
Geneva, 29 November 2018

Madam President,

As this is the first time Finland takes the floor, I would like thank you for your hard work during your Presidency and assure you of my Delegation's full support to this meeting and to the Convention. I would like to provide some information in our national capacity in addition to the statement made by the European Union.

Madam President,

Finland has been a steadfast supporter of humanitarian mine action for nearly thirty years. Our comprehensive approach comprises all five pillars of humanitarian mine action: clearance, risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and advocacy. We stress the importance of including a gender perspective into all stages of mine action activities.

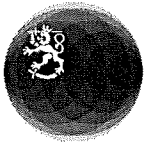
Finland sees humanitarian mine action not only as a valuable form of humanitarian assistance but also as part of a wider effort to promote international security, stability and development. It is an important factor in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention must keep up their engagement with the Convention's obligations, and those in a position to do so should provide the humanitarian demining community with the resources and tools they need to continue their courageous and dedicated work.

Finland supports mine action organizations through multi-annual framework agreements, which improve the predictability of funding and lower administrative costs. We have received positive feedback on this approach from the organizations we support, and we recommend this type of funding structure to other donors.

Finland's support is largely focused on fragile states and environments where mines and ERWs pose a major obstacle to development. Our support is directed to Syria, Iraq, Ukraine, Somalia and our most long-standing partner country, Afghanistan. In light of the challenges that Afghanistan faces, we made an exceptional increase to





our on-going project funding earlier this year. The funding is directed through UN-MAS and builds on Finland's long history of support to the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan. It supports the Afghan Government in making progress towards the goals and objectives of its National Mine Action Strategic Plan. As His Excellency, Foreign Minister Rabbani reminded us on Monday: "Despite all of the achievements...the road to being mine free by 2023 has many challenges". We urge the donor community to remain at Afghanistan's side in this endeavor.

Madam President,

I would like to conclude by commending the humanitarian demining community present here today and the staff of the Implementation Support Unit for their excellent work. Finland recently provided the ISU once again with a voluntary financial contribution of **10 000 Euros**, as we promised to do at the Pledging Conference in February. We hope that all donors in a position to do so will continue to support the ISU, especially next year as we head towards the important Oslo Review Conference.

Thank you, Madam President.