



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

**Statement by Ambassador Päivi Kairamo
Permanent Mission of Finland**

Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, 2 March, 2016

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is an important tool of the global disarmament machinery and has significantly contributed to making the world a safer place. Finland is pleased to be able to pledge 10 000 euros in support of the ISU.

Trough relentless hard work the international community is moving towards a world free of anti-personnel mines. Nevertheless we still have a lot of work ahead of us before being able to reach this goal. This task is not made any easier by emerging challenges.

We are deeply troubled by the increasing use of IED's and the amounts of innocent civilian men, women and children that they claim as their victims every year. We, the international community, need to find means to address these threats and protect those in most need of protection.

Finnish support to humanitarian mine action dates back to the 1990's. Despite the current national spending and budgetary constraints, we will continue our support also in the future. Our new humanitarian mine policy approach is under preparation and it will be launched during this spring.

Finland's humanitarian mine action will be based on an increasingly comprehensive approach. Our contribution is a part of a wider international support to promote international security, stability and development. Attention will be placed on effectiveness and the efficient use of limited resources.

This will demand focusing our action on a certain number of countries as well as close cooperation between other donors, international organisations and NGOs. By emphasising the priorities of the Fragile States in Finland's mine action strategy it will be possible to support overall stabilisation and development efforts of those states.

Finland is happy to pledge twelve (12) million euro for humanitarian mine action for the years 2016–2020. Over the period HMA, will focus on a handful of countries and partner organisations.

Dear colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to also extend my warmest appreciation to the humanitarian demining community. Their hard works is invaluable and enable us all to move towards a better and safer world.

My delegation also very much appreciates this opportunity to hear the views of others involved in cooperation and assistance on mine action, and we look forward to continued dialogue and good cooperation.

Thank you