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Address by H.E. Tehri Hakala
Ambassador of Finland to the United Nations in Geneva
Fourth Annual Pledging Conference for the
Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Geneva, 26 February 2019

Mr President,

I would like to begin by thanking Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Halvorsen for his remarks and congratulate once again Norway for taking over the Presidency of this important Convention. You may rest assured of Finland's support as we head towards the Fourth Review Conference in Oslo.

Mr President,

The Mine Ban Convention has had a remarkable effect on the countries and the civilians suffering from anti-personnel mines. We should not shy away from portraying the Convention as a success: thousands of lives have been saved, countries have been helped back on their feet and an entire weapon system has been stigmatized to a degree that its production has all but ceased.

Needless to say however that a great deal of work remains to be done. There are still 56 states and four other areas which have an identified threat of antipersonnel mine contamination. The ongoing conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Ukraine create new contamination, which must be cleared away as soon as possible.

Finland's support to humanitarian mine action dates back to the early 1990's and our current humanitarian mine action policy channels around 12 million euros during 2016-2020 to five countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia and Ukraine. Our implementing partners are UNMAS, ICRC, HALO Trust, MAG and GICHD.

For efficient use of limited resources, Finland supports these organizations through multi-annual framework agreements, which improves predictability of funding and lowers administrative costs. We recommend this type of funding structure also to other donors.

As in previous years, I am pleased to announce that Finland will again pledge **10 000 euros** in voluntary support to the Implementation Support Unit. We look forward to continuing our dialogue and good cooperation with the ISU, the Presidency and all States Parties of the Convention in order to make the Review Conference a success.

Thank you Mr President.
