

Eighteenth 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**

19 November 2020

Mr President,

I would like to start by joining other delegations in thanking you and your team for the hard work during your Presidency and especially in the run-up to this 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of State Parties in a fully virtual format. You have our full support. In addition to the statements made by the European Union, I would like to provide some information in our national capacity.

Mr 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. The inclusion of a meaningful gender perspective is also central to Finnish humanitarian mine assistance. It was therefore a great honour for Finland to present – on behalf of 23 other countries – a working paper on “How to implement and monitor gender mainstreaming in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention” in support of the Oslo Action Plan in the Review Conference last year. It is our ambition that by setting the bar high on gender mainstreaming in the Convention, States Parties will not only improve practical implementation in the field, but also set a positive example for the entire disarmament sector.

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.

The ongoing pandemic situation challenges the progress achieved in many ways, humanitarian mine action being no exception. It is of utmost importance that States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention continue to keep up their engagement with the Convention’s obligations, and those in a position to do so continue to provide the humanitarian demining community with the resources and tools they need in these exceptional circumstances.

I am proud to note that Finland has continued to support mine action throughout these difficult times. We are currently planning our next funding cycle with an aim to increase

our resources by 25% for the incoming five-year period. Finland's support is focused on fragile environments where mines and explosives pose significant obstacles to peace and security, and thus, to development. Our support during 2021-2025 will be directed towards work in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia and Ukraine.

Mr President,

I would like to conclude by commending the courage and dedication of the humanitarian demining community and the flexibility and adaptability they have demonstrated during these challenging circumstances.

I would also like to thank 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 encourage other States Parties to do likewise.

Thank you, Mr President.