

Twentieth 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

November 2022

Mr President,

I would like to begin by expressing our appreciation to the chair and his team for the hard work during your Presidency. You have Finland's full support. In addition to the statements made by the European Union, I would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is one of the cornerstones in conventional arms control. Its meaning and objectives are still not only valid, but their significance is highlighted amidst turbulent times. We must persistently uphold our joint commitments, and move forward with their compliance. It is of utmost importance that States Parties to the Convention continue to keep up their engagement with the Convention's obligations.

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

Therefore, it is essential that we continue to provide the humanitarian demining community the resources and tools they need to continue their vital work.

Mr President,

Finland has been a steadfast supporter of humanitarian mine action for three decades. Key components of our comprehensive humanitarian mine approach are clearance, risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, and advocacy. We emphasize building local, long-term capacity to assist host countries to develop their abilities to tackle remaining contamination.

For the period of 2021-2025, Finland is supporting humanitarian mine action projects with 15 million euros, which marks an increase of 3 million euros compared to the previous period. Our support is focused on fragile environments where mines and explosives pose significant obstacles to peace and security, and thus, to development. Our current support is directed towards Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Somalia.

In our humanitarian work, we continue our strong focus on the promotion and protection of full human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons, including persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the inclusion of a meaningful gender perspective, through all stages of mine action activities, is central to Finnish humanitarian mine assistance. Promoting gender

equality and human rights, strengthening the influence and participation of women and girls, as well as advancing non-discrimination are of great importance to us. We seek to continue facilitating gender equality through practical means, by highlighting, among other things, equal access for women to employment opportunities in humanitarian mine action operations.

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 despite operating in challenging circumstances.

I would also like to thank the staff of the Implementation Support Unit for their excellent work. We have continued our support to the ISU, through a voluntary financial contribution of 10 000 Euros again this year. We encourage other States Parties to also continue their support, to ensure ISU's sustained operations.

Thank you, Mr President.