

Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Universalizing the Convention

Statement by Finland

Geneva, December 2025

Madame President,

As this is the first time Finland is taking the floor, I would like to begin by expressing our appreciation to your dedication to ensure the success of this Meeting of the States Parties.

Finland wishes to reaffirm its unwavering commitment to international law and the international rules-based order, as we are withdrawing from the Convention on 10 January 2026. We remain fully dedicated to upholding international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles of the Convention, and to minimizing human suffering caused by anti-personnel mines.

Finland remains a steadfast supporter of humanitarian mine action. Since 1991, we have contributed approximately 125 million euros to global mine action efforts in its all five pillars. In recent years, our funding has focused on fragile and conflict-affected regions such as Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Somalia, where mines and explosive remnants of war pose severe threats to civilians and sustainable development.

Finland continues to emphasize gender equality and the rights of persons with disabilities in all phases of humanitarian mine action. Our partnerships with international and non-governmental organizations remain crucial to ensuring that our support has the greatest possible impact on the ground.

Finland is planning to continue this humanitarian engagement. Tentatively, we expect to allocate around 15 million euros for mine action between 2026 and 2030, and work is ongoing to define the priorities for this next funding cycle.

Madame President,

The reasons for the decision of Finland to withdraw from the Convention have been explained in detail earlier this year in various fora. I will only recall them briefly. The European security environment has fundamentally deteriorated due to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Russia has blatantly violated the UN Charter and demonstrated disregard for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states, and Finland has a unique geographical position with a 1340 kilometers long border with Russia. These developments require Finland to strengthen its national

defense in a manner that cannot be achieved without reintroducing anti-personnel mines to the range of our available means of defense.

Finally, I wish to underline that this decision does not affect Finland's other obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, which will continue to be respected. We will also continue to respect the humanitarian objectives of the Convention and remain a State Party to other relevant instruments, such as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

Thank you, Madame President.