

Meeting of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction

Geneva, 27 May 2013

Statement by Finland

Finland is delighted to address this Standing Committee meeting today, for the first time as a full member of the Ottawa Convention. The Convention entered into force for Finland on 1 July 2012. We started the implementation of the Convention shortly after the entry-into-force. We commenced the destruction of the stockpile in August and we delivered the appropriate reports in line with Article 7 of the Convention to the United Nations Secretariat, the initial report in December and the first annual report in April.

Finland has always had a responsible mine policy. Our mines were acquired for defensive purposes only and they have been stored in stockpiles that are in the possession of the Finnish Defense Forces. There are no minefields in Finland, we have not produced anti-personnel mines since 1981 and we have never exported them. We have also supported humanitarian mine action projects since 1991, for more than twenty years now.

As a member of the Ottawa Convention, Finland will follow this same responsible policy. We will fully comply with the Convention as we have done with all other arms control and disarmament agreements we have joined. We also join others to promote the universalisation and implementation of the Convention, as they still are as important goals as they have been during the existence of the Convention.

The destruction of Finland's APM stockpile commenced shortly after the entry-into-force and we will have finalized the destruction of our stockpile by the end of 2015. Since the entry-into-force Finland has destroyed 220,455 mines. 809,308 mines remain to be destroyed. These remaining mines will be destroyed by the Finnish Defence Forces between 2013 and 2015 so that the work will be finalized by the end of 2015, well before provided by the Convention, Article 4. More detailed information of the destruction of Finland's stockpile can be found in reports submitted to the UN Secretariat. We are, of course, ready to answer any possible questions which different parties may have.

Thank you.