

10th Meeting of the State Parties (10MSP) of the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine Ban Treaty)*

Geneva, 29th of November – 3rd of December 2010

Statement by Finland

Mr. President,

I would like to begin by congratulating you on your assumption of the chair. You can rely on my delegation's co-operation and support. Finland fully associates itself with the statement of the European Union.

Anti-personnel mines cost lives, cause injuries and hinder development around the world long after conflicts have receded. The Ottawa Convention banning their use, stockpiling, production and transfer has become a key instrument for addressing these issues and preventing them from reoccurring. Although most countries have now banned anti-personnel mines, the universalisation of the Ottawa Convention continues to be work in progress.

Finland participates in this meeting as an observer, as it is not yet party to the Convention. However, we have consistently promoted the Convention's universalisation and its humanitarian objectives. Finland will vote in favour of the resolution on the implementation of the Convention at the United Nations General Assembly in December.

More importantly, Finland has pledged to join the Ottawa Convention in 2012 and, consequently, destroy all its existing stockpiles of anti-personnel mines by the end of 2016. We are committed to these timelines. I would like to emphasize that there are no minefields in Finland, nor do we produce or export anti-personnel mines.

The national constitutional measures required for the accession to the Convention are under way. An inter-agency working group is currently finalizing the Government Bill to Parliament. The proposal will be submitted to Parliament for approval in spring or summer next year in order for the Convention to be ratified in 2012.

Mr President,

Finland considers humanitarian mine action as an integral part of early recovery and support to partner countries' longer term rehabilitation and development efforts. Humanitarian mine action plays an important role in transition from conflict to sustained peace. Successful mine action will be integrated with a country's poverty reduction strategy and its development plans.

In 2010, Finland supports humanitarian mine action in seven countries, namely Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Chad, Ethiopia, Iraq and Somalia. Support by Finland is based on a comprehensive approach. For us, mine detection and clearance, assistance for the care, rehabilitation and social and economic integration of mine victims as well as support to mine awareness projects are mutually complementary.

Finland's contribution to humanitarian mine action in 2010 amounts to five million euros. We intend to increase mine action funding, subject to parliamentary approval, so as to reach the level of 6 million euros annually by 2014. As demining will continue to challenge us in scale and complexity, we must mobilise new donors to support humanitarian mine action.

Thank you.