

**Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

Geneva, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2013

**Statement by Finland**

Mr. President,

*(Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.)  
(I would like to congratulate you on your election as President. Please be assured of Finland's full cooperation in your task to lead the discussions and deliberations in this meeting.)*

Finland is happy to address this meeting today as our second year of full membership of the Ottawa Convention advances. Finland complies fully with the Convention, as we have done with all other arms control and disarmament agreements we have joined. As the world is not yet totally mine free, Finland will continue to promote the universalization and full implementation of the Ottawa Convention.

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 Defence Forces. There are no minefields in Finland, we do not produce anti-personnel mines and we have never exported them.

The destruction of Finland's stockpile commenced shortly after the entry-into-force of the Convention in Finland in 2012. The destruction of the APM stockpiles has advanced as planned. As of today we have destroyed approximately 40% of our stockpiled mines and will have finalized the destruction of our APM stockpile by the end of 2015 – ahead of the schedule required by the Convention.

Mr. President,

Finland has supported humanitarian mine action projects since 1991, for more than twenty years now.

Finland considers humanitarian mine action as an integral part of early recovery and support to partner countries' long-term rehabilitation and development efforts. Humanitarian mine action plays an important role in the transition from conflict to sustained peace. Integration of a mine action in a country's poverty reduction strategy and development plans is a prerequisite for achieving the objectives of the Ottawa Convention.

Since the entry-into-force of the Ottawa Convention in 1999, Finland has contributed over sixty million euros to humanitarian mine action. During recent years, the level of funding has been around five million euros annually and has been increasing steadily. We intend to increase mine action funding to reach the level of 6 million euro annually by 2014.

Our humanitarian mine action is based on a comprehensive, holistic approach. This includes mine detection and clearance, assistance in the care, rehabilitation as well as social and economic integration of mine victims, and the support to mine awareness projects, including Mine Risk Education.

We are looking forward to cooperating with all State Parties and the civil society towards the Maputo Review Conference. We are convinced that the Third Review Conference will provide an excellent platform for us all to consider the future of the Convention.

Thank you, Mr. President.