



**Meeting of the States Parties to the 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

Geneva, 2 December, 2015

Mr. President,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the preparation of our meeting for the excellent arrangements. I would also like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election and assure you of our full support. Let me also commend the Director and staff of the ISU for their excellent work.

Mr. President,

Finland stands fully by the statement given by the EU on this topic and would like to give some brief additional information and views on cooperation and assistance from a Finnish perspective. Over the past five years, Finland has contributed financially to mine action with a total amount of around 40 million Euros. This support is coordinated by the Ministry for Foreign affairs of Finland.

During recent years, we have focused our support on Humanitarian mine action in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Laos, Angola, South-Sudan and Somalia. Despite severe cuts to our national budget foreseen for the coming year, we will continue our support to the crucially important field of humanitarian mine action also in the future.

Finnish support to humanitarian mine action dates back to late 19990's and for the first time an independent evaluation was carried out of the activities supported by the Government of Finland. While a Government response is being drafted as regards the evaluation at the same time a new humanitarian mine policy is in making. This policy will be launched next year with the aim to link together the development and fragile states perspectives to complement the humanitarian mine action.

We will be in a better position to give details of our new policy and its implementation in the next States Party meeting.

Mr. President,

My delegation very much appreciates this opportunity to hear the views of others involved in cooperation and assistance on mine action, and we look forward to continued dialogue.

Thank you