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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

**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

Santiago de Chile, 30 November, 2016

Madame President,

As this is the first time that Finland takes the floor, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chile for the excellent arrangements of this meeting and also for its dedication to overcome the financial challenges for holding the meeting. The importance of full and timely contributions by all States Parties cannot be overemphasized.

Madame President, let me join those congratulating you on your appointment as the Chair of this meeting and assure you of my Delegation's full support.

Finland adheres to the statement made by the EU on behalf of all member states. We would now like to provide additional information on the cooperation and assistance we provide in our national capacity.

Madame President,

Finnish support to humanitarian mine action dates back to late 1990's. Last year an independent evaluation was carried out of the activities supported by the Government of Finland. On the basis of that evaluation a new humanitarian mine action concept was prepared this year. Finland's Humanitarian Mine Action Concept for 2016-2020 is based on a comprehensive approach. We see humanitarian mine action not only as an important form of humanitarian assistance but also part of the wider effort to promote international security, stability and development. We work closely with other countries, international organisations and relevant NGOs.

Our comprehensive approach comprises different areas of humanitarian mine action: mine clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, advocacy as well as building local capacity.

Finland's support is concentrated on fragile states and fragile environments where mines are a major problem and which need assistance to resolve the problem. The goal is to save lives as well as to strengthen long-term security and development.

Effectiveness and efficient use of limited resources are key drivers of our policy. Thus, we are focusing our support on five target countries. In the next five years Finland will concentrate its support for humanitarian mine action on activities in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia and Ukraine.

Almost half of the total of 12 million euros funding will be channeled to support activities in Iraq and Syria in areas liberated from DAESH. We are particularly concerned about the increasing use of different types of improvised explosive devices by DAESH in these two countries. We will support Ukraine in its efforts to tackle mine problem. And we will also continue our long term support to Afghanistan and Somalia.

Finland's humanitarian mine action concept stresses the importance of including the gender perspective at all stages in mine action activities.

Madame President,

I would like to finish by commending the staff of the Implementation Support Unit for their excellent work. To help them in their efforts we have provided them the financial support of 10 000 euros which we pledged at the First International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Convention in March. We urge other State Parties do likewise.

Thank you.