



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND
GENEVA

Address by the Permanent Representative of Finland H.E. Terhi Hakala at the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention - Second International Pledging Conference - 28 February 2017

Mr. Chair and dear colleagues,

The Anti-personal mine ban convention is an important element of the global disarmament machinery and like during the previous years, Finland is pleased to pledge 10 000 euros in support of the ISU.

Finnish support to the humanitarian mine action dates back to the 1990's and we will continue our support also in the future. A new humanitarian mine policy has been adopted last year and is now in operation. We will channel 12 million euros during the period of 2016-2019 to implement this policy.

Finland's support concentrates on fragile states and environments. For the effectiveness and efficient use of limited resources Finland focuses its support to five countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia and Ukraine.

Almost half of the total support is targeted to support activities in Iraq and Syria in areas liberated from ISIL. We are particularly concerned about the increasing use of different types of improvised explosive devices by ISIL in these two countries. We support Ukraine in its efforts to tackle mine problem and we also continue our long term support to Afghanistan and Somalia. Finland's comprehensive support comprises of different areas of humanitarian mine action: mine clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, advocacy as well as building local capacity. Support is channeled through UNMAS, ICRC, HALO, MAG and GICHD.

Finland's humanitarian mine action seeks an increasingly comprehensive approach. Thus, we will continue to work closely with other donor countries, international organizations and NGOs. We thank the Chair and the ISU for organizing this pledging conference as events like this bring us together in planning and coordinating our action even closer. We look forward to continued dialogue and good cooperation.

Thank you