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Address by Finland, Mr. Kari Puurunen, Minister Counselor
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention - Third International Pledging Conference
Geneva, 27 February 2018

Madam President,

I would like to begin by once again congratulating you and Afghanistan for taking over the Presidency of the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties this year and thank you for convening this important meeting. We also sincerely thank His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Abdullah for his opening remarks.

Madam President,

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention has during the past twenty years had a remarkable effect on the countries and the civilians suffering from anti-personnel mines. We should be proud of our achievements but also recognize that there is still a lot of work to be done. Finland remains steadfast in its support to the implementation of the Convention and the vision of a landmine free world by 2025.

Finnish support to humanitarian mine action dates back to the early 1990's and our current humanitarian mine action policy will channel around 12 million euros during 2016-2020 to five countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia and Ukraine. Our implementing partners are UNMAS, ICRC, HALO Trust, MAG and GICHD. For efficient use of limited resources Finland supports these organizations through multi-annual framework agreements, which improves predictability of funding and lowers administrative costs of projects. We recommend this type of funding structure also to other donors.

As in previous years, I am pleased to announce that Finland will again pledge **10 000 euros** in voluntary support to the Implementation Support Unit. We look forward to continuing our dialogue and good cooperation with the ISU, the Presidency and all States Parties of the Convention.

Thank you Madam President.
