

Address by the Finnish delegation  
Fifth Annual Pledging Conference for the  
Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Geneva, 25 February 2020

Mr President,

I would like to begin by thanking His Excellency Omer Gamareldin Ismail, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sudan, for his remarks and congratulate once again Sudan for taking over the Presidency of this important Convention. You may rest assured of Finland's support as we head towards the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties in November.

I would also like to congratulate Norway for the successful review conference held in Oslo. We now have an important task ahead of us: implementing the 50 actions commonly agreed upon in the Oslo Action Plan. I wish us all the best of success in this endeavour.

Mr President,

In addition to the EU statement delivered earlier, which Finland fully aligns itself to, please allow me to make some remarks in my national capacity.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention has been a success story. After the signing of the treaty 20 years ago, we immediately witnessed a sharp decline in the number of landmine victims. However, it seems that despite the progress we have achieved to date, the future we face is less flattering: the number of landmine victims is on the rise again, reaching numbers as high as before the Convention was created. It is needless to say that we must do our utmost to reverse this trend. The ongoing conflicts - such as in Syria, Yemen and Ukraine - create new contamination, which need to be addressed urgently.

Finland has supported humanitarian mine action since the early 1990s when we first started to fund mine activities in Afghanistan. Even today, we remain a steadfast supporter of the country. In addition to Afghanistan, Finland's current mine action support is channelled to Iraq, Syria, Somalia and Ukraine. As our current programme cycle is coming to an end in 2020, I am happy to note that we will increase our funding from 12 million to 15 million euros for the upcoming period of 2021–2025.

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 Mr President.

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