

Third Review Conference of the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction*

Maputo, 23rd to 27th of June 2014

Statement by Finland / High level segment

Mr. President, excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all let me on behalf of the delegation of Finland, thank you, Mr. President, and Mozambique for hosting us so cordially in Maputo. Mozambique's leadership also during the preparatory process towards Maputo Review Conference, will allow us to adopt forward looking final outcome documents that will guide our joint work well in the future.

Finland is happy to address this Conference today as our third year of full membership of the Ottawa Convention is about to begin. This is the first time that Finland is participating a Review Conference of the Convention as a States Party.

Finland continues to comply fully with the Convention, as we have done with all other arms control and disarmament agreements we have joined. As the world is not yet totally free of anti-personnel mines, Finland will continue to promote the universalization and full implementation of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Mr. President,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union, but allow me to emphasize some important issues from the national point of view.

Firstly, Finland has always had a responsible mine policy. Our anti-personnel mines were acquired for defensive purposes only, and they have always been stored in secured stockpiles that are in the possession of the Finnish Defence Forces. There are no minefields in Finland, we do not produce anti-personnel mines, and we have never exported them.

The destruction of Finland's stockpile commenced immediately after the entry-into-force of the Convention in Finland, in 2012. The destruction of the anti-personnel mine stockpiles has advanced as planned. As of today, we have destroyed approximately 95% of our stockpiles, and will have finalized the destruction by the end of 2015 – ahead of the schedule required by the Convention.

Secondly, let me reaffirm our commitment to continue to provide support to mine action, emphasizing the national ownership of the activities.

Finland has supported humanitarian mine action projects since 1991, for more than twenty years now. Since the entry-into-force of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention in 1999, Finland has contributed over sixty million euros to mine action. During recent years, the level of funding has been around six million euros annually.

Our humanitarian mine action is based on a comprehensive, holistic approach. This includes mine detection and clearance, assistance in the care, rehabilitation, as well as social and economic integration of mine victims, and the support to mine awareness projects, including Mine Risk Education.

Finland considers mine action as an integral part of early recovery and support to partner countries' long-term rehabilitation and development efforts. Humanitarian mine action also plays an important role in the transition from conflict to sustained peace.

Thirdly, please, allow me also to commend the important work of the United Nations, the ICRC and civil society organisations, in making the Convention work in an efficient manner.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by reaffirming Finland's commitment to comply fully with the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Treaty and its provisions. The Third Review Conference has provided us all an excellent platform to consider and to form the future of the Convention.

Thank you, Mr. President.