

Mr. President,

Finland associates itself with the EU statement, but I would like to mention a few things in our national capacity. I consider that it is important to continue keeping you informed about Finland's position.

Mr. President,

As an observer state of the Convention, Finland appreciates the important humanitarian role of the Convention and we highly value the efforts to promote its aims and implementation. In addition, Finland participates in efforts to alleviate the human consequences of cluster munitions through our long-standing support to humanitarian mine action.

Finland's support to humanitarian mine action projects is focused on fragile environments where mines and explosives pose significant obstacles to peace and security, and thus, to development. Our current focus countries are Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Somalia. In our humanitarian work, we emphasize the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as non-discrimination, of all persons, including persons with disabilities. We underline the importance of including a meaningful gender perspective, through all stages of mine action activities.

Mr. President,

Finland has never used, manufactured or exported cluster munitions and the stocks we retain are stored by the Finnish Defense Forces with the utmost rigor. We follow the implementation of the Convention closely and continue to regularly evaluate progress in military technologies. As of yet, however, no such changes in conditions have taken place that would enable Finland's accession to the Convention, considering our geographical location and the on-going war of aggression by Russia against Ukraine.

I thank you for your attention!