



**N E W S   R E L E A S E**

## **FINLAND BECOMES NEWEST MEMBER OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION**

*NEW YORK, New York, January, 11 2012* – Finland today formally became the 159th State to join the landmark Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention – which was adopted in Oslo, Norway, in 1997 – when it acceded to the treaty at UN Headquarters in New York on Monday 9 January.

“We congratulate the newest member of the Convention” said Justin Brady the Acting Director of the United Nations Mine Action Service. “The government of Finland is a strong supporter of a mine-free world and we look forward to continued partnership as mine action personnel work to protect local populations and United Nations peacekeepers,” he adds.

Finland confirmed its intention to accede to the Convention during the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties that was held last November in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Finland will now destroy its existing stockpile of over one million antipersonnel landmines within four years, as required by the Convention. There are no existing minefields in Finland and each year it provides millions of euros to global mine action efforts.

According to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, with Finland having joined the Convention, there is near universal acceptance of this landmark treaty in Europe.

The United Nations Mine Action Service is located in the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

For further information, please contact:

**Aaron J. Buckley, Public Information Officer, UN Mine Action Service, tel: +1 212 963 4632, e-mail: [buckleya@un.org](mailto:buckleya@un.org) or visit our website [www.mineaction.org](http://www.mineaction.org)**