

Statement by Mr Markku Reimaa
Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Finland
to the Conference on Disarmament
at the Plenary 29 th July 2004

Mr. Chairman,

I am very pleased to see you in the Chair of our meeting and conducting our proceedings when we start the last session of our work this year. You know, how anxious we are to start the substantive work of the CD. The informal discussion on a structured basis and following our agenda has been characterizing our activities this year. I think it could be useful in some fashion to reflect that in our report to the UN General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

I took note with great interest of the statement just made by my American colleague, Ambassador Sanders. I think I am not the only one who has been waiting for her message with regard to the possible commencement of our substantive work in the CD. I have the feeling that I am not the only one who must take the time in order to analyze the implications for the CD work and perhaps even outside our common framework.

We certainly share the concern expressed in the statement that persistent mines are causing unnecessary casualties to the civilian population. For those reasons, Mr. Chairman, it might be appropriate that I briefly inform you and our colleagues in this room of the most recent efforts and developments made in the CCW context.

Mr. Chairman,

The governmental experts of the states parties to the CCW met in Geneva 5 - 16 July 2004 to continue their work on the basis of the mandate given them last year. The experts discussed the issues relating to the Mines Other Than Anti-personel Mines in a very constructive

atmosphere. The military experts had a chance to conduct a thorough exchange of views on the questions of their concern. Also that discussion was substantive and constructive. We have the understanding that we made progress in clarifying our positions, started to identify areas of common ground and narrowing down differences in certain areas.

The experts are supposed to meet again in November this year. It is my understanding that nobody is excluding the possibility that we will make further progress in our deliberations. Our mandate for this year is to elaborate appropriate recommendations to the meeting of state parties later in November. For those reasons I, as the MOTAPM coordinator, have expressed the wish that all delegations should make the preparations for that meeting in a constructive spirit and with " a result-oriented determination".