



February 26th, 2009

Mr. Stephen D. Goose
Executive Director, Arms Division
Human Rights Watch
1630 Connecticut Ave. NW # 500
Washington DC, 20009
USA

Dear Mr. Goose,

In reference to your letter to Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb on January 30th 2009, I am confirming to you Finland's position on the issue of cluster munitions.

Concerned of the humanitarian aspects of the use of cluster munitions, Finland has participated in two international negotiating processes on cluster munitions, the so called Oslo Process as well as the ongoing negotiations within the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

As cluster munitions have an important role in Finland's defence system the President of the Republic and the Cabinet Committee on Foreign and Security Policy decided on October 31, 2008 that Finland will not sign the Cluster Munitions Convention in December 2008.

It was also further decided that the Cluster Munitions Convention will be discussed again after an evaluation of defence capabilities has been carried out and the international development work along with the supply and cost options of cluster munitions have been analysed. The Cabinet Committee on Foreign and Security Policy will follow the situation on an annual basis.

Finland considers the Cluster Munitions Convention significant from the humanitarian perspective and supports the objectives of the Convention and efforts to make the Convention universal.

Finland will participate in the implementation of the Cluster Munitions Convention through humanitarian mine action.

Finland does not produce cluster munitions nor has it never used them.

Sincerely,

Mari Männistö
Attaché
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Unit for Arms Control
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