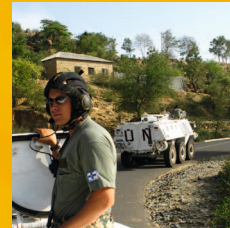




MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

# FINLAND AND AFRICA

*Working Together for Peace and Security*



## FINLAND'S COMMITMENT TO AFRICA



Finland has a long-standing commitment to Africa. Fifty years ago Finland – then still a less affluent European country – joined the other Nordic countries in initiating development cooperation with Africa. Since then we have built solid partnerships with several African countries and organizations and contributed to Africa's development with steadily increasing funds and a variety of instruments. Finnish development cooperation funds amount to roughly one billion euros annually, of which more than half continues to be earmarked for Africa.

Finland's partnership with Africa is motivated by solidarity deeply rooted in the attitudes and values of the Finnish people and by what we believe are our joint interests. Africa and Europe are neighbours and the prosperity,

peace and stability of one are affected by those of the other. We also need each other to face common global challenges. Finland is a committed supporter of regional integration and multilateral cooperation, both of which are also actively pursued in Africa.

Security and development go hand in hand. That is why we have been and will remain partners for Africa in promoting peace and security on the continent. Finland gained her independence in 1917 and was always a firm supporter of decolonization and the anti-apartheid struggle. Today we seek to contribute to African structures and capacities related to peace and security. The ways and means of our contribution may have changed over the decades, but Finland's commitment to the partnership with Africa will endure.

Erkki Tuomioja  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

## UNITED NATIONS – THE GLOBAL GUARDIAN OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY



Photo: UPI/Lehtikuvu

*Ambassador Max Jakobson as President of the Security Council in January 1969. To his left, UN Secretary General U Thant.*



Photo: The Finnish Defence Forces

*Nobel Peace Laureate and former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari served as UN Commissioner for Namibia in 1977 – 1981, and was in charge of the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) that assisted Namibia to independence in 1990.*

The UN Security Council plays a leading role in maintaining international peace and security. We believe that the Security Council should be enlarged in order to be more effective and representative. Finland supports stronger representation, permanent and non-permanent, for Africa on the Security Council.

Finland joined the United Nations in 1955. In 1969 - 1970 Finland served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the first time. During this period, close to half of the questions dealt with in the Security Council were related to Africa. The rebellion in then-Rhodesia, the coup d'état in Guinea and the situation in Namibia were high on the Council's agenda. On Finnish initiative, the Security Council adopted in 1970 a resolution that strengthened the pressure on South Africa by declaring that its continued presence in Namibia was illegal. During Finland's second term on the Security Council, in 1990-1991, apartheid in South Africa, the civil war in Angola as well as Namibia's transition to

independence were the African issues that most preoccupied the Council.

Finland is committed to building a more secure and just world through the United Nations. Over the years, Finland has demonstrated its commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security by its active involvement in a broad range of UN activities. Today, Finland finances UN peace operations with more than 40 million euros per year. Over the years Finland has contributed more than 50 000 peacekeepers to international peace operations, many of them in Africa.

Finland is presently a candidate for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the period 2013-2014. The election will be held during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly in October 2012. Our candidacy, fully supported by the other Nordic countries, is yet another indication of our belief in the UN's key role in maintaining international peace and security.

*Finnish mine-sweeper Pohjanmaa participated in the EU operation Atalanta off the coast of Somalia protecting vessels sailing in the area from pirates and helping to deliver humanitarian assistance. February 2011.*



## PEACE OPERATIONS

With participation in the UNTAG mission in Namibia in 1989-1990, Finland began to contribute military, police and civilian personnel to peace operations in Africa.

Currently Finland contributes, inter alia, to the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia and to the training of Somali security forces. In the context of development cooperation Finland also contributes to improving maritime safety

and security in Ghana. The two-year, 15 million euro project helps to develop the guarding of the Ghanaian coast, river banks and Lake Volta.

As far as improving African crisis management capabilities is concerned, the focus of Finnish support is on training and education. Finland has supported, inter alia, UN pre-deployment courses for African police officers as well as the Amani Africa training cycle assisting in

the development of the African Standby Force (ASF). Since 1968, officers and other personnel from African countries have participated in various training activities organized by the Finnish Defence Forces International Centre (FINCENT) and the Crisis Management Centre Finland (CMC Finland). Finland also supports, together with the other Nordic countries, the development of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF).

### Finland's civilian, police and military participation in peace operations in Africa:

UNTAG / Namibia	1989 –1990
UNOSOM I / Somalia	1992 –1993
UNMEE / Ethiopia and Eritrea	2000 –2008
UNMIL / Liberia	2003 –
EU Support to AMIS / Sudan	2005 –2007
UNMIS / Sudan	2005 –2011
EUFOR RD Congo / Democratic Republic of the Congo	2006
UNAMID / Sudan	2007 –
EUPOL RD Congo / Democratic Republic of the Congo	2007 –
EUFOR TCHAD/RCA / Chad and Central African Republic	2008 –2009
EUNAVFOR Somalia / Somali coast	2008 –
UNOCI / Côte d'Ivoire	2009
MINURCAT / Chad and Central African Republic	2009 –2010
EUSEC RD Congo / Democratic Republic of the Congo	2010 –
EUTM Somalia / Uganda	2010 –

*A senior medical officer from the Finnish forward mobile surgical team examining a child in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2006.*



## MEDIATION AND NEGOTIATION



*Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb and former President Martti Ahtisaari together with African partners Deputy Chairperson Erastus Mwencha of the African Union Commission and Vasu Gounden of ACCORD (South Africa) at a peace mediation seminar co-organized by Finland in Addis Abeba, March 2009.*

Mediation plays a key role in the peaceful settlement of disputes, in conflict prevention and in conflict resolution. Finland and Turkey established a Group of Friends of Mediation at the United Nations in September 2010. The tasks of the Group are to promote the use of mediation as well as to generate support for the further development of mediation. The African Union and several African countries are members of the Group.

In June 2011 the UN General Assembly adopted by consensus its first-ever resolution on peace mediation. The resolution, sponsored by Finland and Turkey and cosponsored by member states from around the world, highlights the importance of mediation to conflict prevention and settlement, and mandates the Secretary-General to draft a set of guidelines for effective mediation. It also recognizes the valuable contributions that regional organizations make in this regard.

Finland welcomes in particular the active roles that the African Union and subregional African organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), play in mediation. Finland participates in international mediation efforts in Africa, particularly in Sudan and the Horn of Africa.

Finland supports the building of African Union peace mediation capacity through a three-year project budgeted at three million euros. The project is part of a broader AU initiative, involving the UN Mediation Support Unit and several other partners. Its purpose is to develop Africa's own capacity to prevent and resolve conflicts, with a particular emphasis on increasing the participation of women in peace processes and on gender issues. Finland is also ready to host meetings related to different peace processes.

*Pekka Haavisto participated in peace negotiations in Sudan in 2005 – 2007 in his capacity as the Special Representative of the EU for Sudan. In 2009 Haavisto was appointed by Finland's Minister for Foreign Affairs as his Special Representative for the Horn of Africa and Sudan.*



*A former UNITA officer employed as a humanitarian deminer outside Luena in north-eastern Angola. The ground is being cleared from anti-personnel mines laid during the Angolan civil war.*





## HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION AND DISARMAMENT

Since 1991, Finland has been involved in humanitarian mine action in Angola, Ethiopia, Chad, Somalia and Mozambique. Finland's contribution to humanitarian mine action in Africa amounts to more than one million euros per year. Finland funds local and international organizations to clear the ground from mines as well as to care for the victims of mines. Removing mines and explosive remnants of war has a direct positive impact on agriculture and economic development. Finnish-funded organizations employ local people as humanitarian deminers, thus providing both training and jobs for the local economy.

In disarmament, Finland places particular emphasis on the prevention of proliferation and illicit trade of small arms and light weapons. In addition to active participation in the worldwide implementation of the

UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (2001), Finland supports regional efforts such as implementation of the ECOWAS Small Arms Convention in West Africa.

Finland plays an active role in the process to negotiate an international Arms Trade Treaty, advocated actively also by many African countries, and endorsed as a goal by the AU in June 2011.

Since 1990, Finland has supported the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in many African countries. The Finnish Institute for Verification of Chemical Weapons (VERIFIN) in Helsinki trains chemists from developing countries in the analytical skills necessary to reliable verification of the complete ban on chemical weapons enshrined in the Convention. Scientists from some 40 African countries have participated in VERIFIN courses over the years.



*Illegally sold small arms and light weapons being destroyed.  
Ghana, 2008.*

# PEACEBUILDING, THE RULE OF LAW AND THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY



*The Special Court for Sierra Leone was established in 2002 in Freetown, Sierra Leone.*

A comprehensive approach to conflict prevention, crisis management, crisis resolution and post-conflict recovery is a must in Africa. Together with African partners, Finland has established an African Peacebuilding Coordination Programme (APCP). Finland is also a committed contributor to the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

Finland supports the AU High-Level Implementation Panel on Sudan, led by former South African President Thabo Mbeki. The funds provided by Finland are made available through the UN, which supports the Panel and is its main partner in the peace facilitation process.

Promotion of the rule of law is vital to sustainable peacebuilding. Finland stresses the particular importance of combating the culture of impunity and bringing to justice individuals responsible for war crimes. Finland believes that the fight against impunity goes hand in hand with peace mediation and that

these two processes complement each other. The knowledge that no one is above the law also acts as a deterrent to future wrongdoing. Along with many African states, Finland has contributed significantly to the establishment and functioning of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Since 2002, Finland has contributed financially to the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The Court has tried cases involving grave breaches of international humanitarian law. As a strong supporter of the UNODC counter-piracy programme, Finland also participates in financing the construction of a prison in Puntland, Somalia.

Finland is committed to the Kimberley process, an international regime of selling and buying countries that seeks to combat trade in conflict diamonds. Finland also supports the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) that sets global standards for transparency in the oil, gas and mining sectors.

*Former Minister of Defence Elisabeth Rehn, Chair of the Board of Directors of the ICC Trust Fund for Victims, at the Review Conference in Kampala, Uganda in June 2010.*

Photo: Mia Aro-Sanchez



## EMPOWERING AFRICAN WOMEN

UN Security Council resolution 1325 “Women, Peace and Security” was adopted in 2000. It reaffirmed the need to empower and protect women through enhancing their role and decision-making capacities with regard to conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Finland promotes actively the implementation of the recommendations of resolution 1325 and related resolutions on sexual violence against civilian populations in conflicts. Finland also emphasizes the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1612 (Children

in armed conflicts). Recruitment as child soldiers, sexual violence and human trafficking continue to affect millions of children in Africa.

Finland has adopted a national action plan to implement resolution 1325, as required by the resolution. In addition, in June 2009 the Governments of Finland and Kenya entered into a twinning process that aims to develop a national action plan for Kenya. Finland has also assisted the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi in the preparation of their respective national action plans.

*In 2009, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and President Tarja Halonen of Finland (in the centre) hosted a Colloquium for Women’s Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security in Monrovia, Liberia.*



## AFRICAN INTEGRATION – AT THE CORE OF REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

With the development of the African Union and other African institutions, Africa has assumed increased ownership and responsibility for the peace and security of the continent. Africa's subregional organizations have gained more authority. There have been fewer armed conflicts. Africa's position in the international community has strengthened. In addition to political integration, economic integration is increasingly important for Africa's future.

Finland strongly supports the development of the African Union and, in particular, its peace and security architecture (APSA). The EU-Africa Partnership is another important framework for our cooperation. Finland also participates actively in the partnerships of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. In addition, Finland supports the development of the AU's information technology capabilities.

At the subregional level, and complementing its support through multilateral channels, Finland provides assistance in fields such as

natural resources management, food security, climate change and disaster preparedness in many parts of Africa.

Natural and man-made disasters cause massive internal displacement of persons in many parts of Africa. In July 2011 Finland funded the first-ever ECOWAS ministerial

conference on humanitarian assistance and internal displacement in order to facilitate a region-wide response to this grave challenge.

*Jean Ping, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union in Finland together with Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb, March 2010.*



Photo: Eero Kuosmanen / Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

## FINLAND: Brief facts

**Population:**

5.4 million

**Surface area:**

338 145 sq. km

**Capital:**

Helsinki

Independence achieved in 1917

Member of the European Union since 1995

Republic, parliamentary democracy

**Official languages:**

Finnish and Swedish

**Currency:**

Euro since 2002

**Official development assistance 2010:**

1008 million EUR/1462 million USD \*

**Gross domestic product per capita 2010:**

33 618 EUR

**Main exports:**

electronic and electrical products, pulp and paper, machinery and equipment, metal products, chemical products, services.



*\* Africa's share of our bilateral cooperation is more than half (approximately 55 % percent). Five out of Finland's eight long-term partner countries are in Africa.*

A seagull flying over the Senate square in Helsinki.  
Photo: Tourist and Convention Bureau's Material Bank/Lauri Rotko





Finland to the UN Security Council in 2013–2014

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