

STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA
3rd Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
(Oslo, 11-14 September 2012)

Thank you Mr. President,
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Mr. President, allow me to congratulate you for your appointment as a president of Third Meeting of States Parties to the Cluster Munition Convention and thank you most cordially for Norwegian hospitality that we enjoy here in Oslo. With your appointment we honour and recognise important role and leadership that Norway is having in the international disarmament field in last two decades. We are confident that you and your country will be able to lead us, States Parties to the Convention efficiently - like before, successfully and with new initiatives and ideas until the Fourth Meeting of Meeting of States Parties in September 2013. We also welcome active participation of civil society, notably of survivors who represent special part of the whole process. Their contribution remains crucial. Last but not least, we would like to pay a tribute to success of the Lebanese presidency that wisely guided us in the course of last year.

Mr. President, allow me also to express Slovenia's support to the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union (EU) yesterday. Since many relevant points have been raised, allow me to limit myself to only few general points important from our national point of view. At this point, I would not touch upon particular points on implementation of the Convention in Slovenia, since we have fulfilled most of tasks of State Party, including the destruction of cluster munitions stocks that was finalised in summer of 2011.

Mr. President, Slovenia is satisfied with the progress achieved in short life of the Convention. Four years after its signature here in Oslo, we have 111 State Signatories and 75 States Parties. We welcome countries that become new States Parties since the Second meeting of States Parties, particularly European Union fellow member states like the Czech Republic, Italy and Sweden. Speaking in the sport terms, this is quite good score, though we need to continue to be ambitious. Many good things have been done and the impact of the Convention on the situation on the ground is considerable. Vientiane Action Plan is being implemented. But more should be done. We are also concerned because of reports of recent use of cluster munitions, mainly in internal conflicts in Libya and Syria.

That is why we have to continue our outreach and universalisation efforts. We are quite happy that in our close and wider neighbourhood in Europe almost all countries became States Parties and that there are currently only few countries out of the Convention. There is still a work to be done - we have to work with the states being outside of the convention, notably through our regional frameworks, and bring them to our group.

Mr. President, Slovenia also believes in synergies and complementarity between different international agreements in the field of international humanitarian law, such as CCW, Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of anti-personnel Mines and the Cluster Munition Convention. There is an opportunity to synergise our efforts that we do elsewhere that should be seized, notably in the field of victim's assistance. We are convinced that there is a room to make progress here as well.

Finally, Mr. President, allow me to say word on reporting. According to the article VII, States Parties are obliged to report on national implementation of the Convention. Number of national reports has slightly decreased this year, while we were expecting them to increase. National reports are important. They represent a tool for streamlining our work within national implementation. They represent a real indicator - what is going

on in the States Parties. That is why they should be more substantive and above all more numerous next year. We will have next opportunity to observe results of our work at the Fourth Meeting of States Parties.

At the end, Mr. President, while being happy to be here and enjoying traditional and warm Norwegian hospitality in Oslo once again, we would like to underline that we should not lose sight of our ultimate goal - a world free of cluster munitions and free of victims of cluster munitions.

Thank you Mr. Chairman