



STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA

Convention on Cluster Munitions Eighth Meeting of States Parties Storage and stockpile destruction Geneva, 3-5 September 2018

**Delivered by H.E. Vojislav Šuc,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United
Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva**

Mr. President,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election and assure you of our full cooperation and support.

In addition to the statement to be delivered by the European Union, I would like to contribute to this discussion by making some additional points in my national capacity.

To start with, let me reiterate that Slovenia strongly condemns the use of cluster munitions and considers it a grave violation of international humanitarian law. We call upon all sides involved in armed conflicts around the world to respect international humanitarian law and refrain from the use of weapons that do not distinguish combatants and civilians, particularly cluster munitions.

Being a staunch supporter of the respect for international humanitarian law, and a strong advocate of the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, it was with regret for Slovenia to learn that its stockpiles of cluster munitions, sent for destruction to Bulgaria in 2011, were not completely destroyed by the service provider.

We have worked relentlessly, in cooperation with our Bulgarian colleagues, to ensure the complete destruction of the remaining elements of munitions. Today, it is a pleasure for me to inform that the Slovenian stockpiles of cluster munitions were completely and irreversibly destroyed on 12 April 2018, which was also confirmed with an on-site inspection, conducted jointly by Slovenian and Bulgarian officials. Thus, Slovenia has fulfilled all its obligations arising from Article 3 of the Convention.

Mr. President,

We have to strive for synergies with other instruments of the international humanitarian law, including the Ottawa Convention, CCW and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We have been contributing to the overall humanitarian goal of these Conventions also through our strong support to the International Trust Fund, ITF Enhancing Human Security, based in Slovenia. ITF is marking the twentieth anniversary of its work this year and has been active in the field of mine action, cluster munitions clearance, and victim assistance in several regions across the world. Thus, ITF has become a significant contributor to the implementation of the Convention.

Finally, this year, when the Convention marks its tenth anniversary, we should, more than ever, focus on its ultimate goal: a world free of cluster munitions.

I thank you Mr. President