



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia

at the

Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

2 - 4 September 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

In addition to the statement delivered / 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.

Mr. President,

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

Slovenia has been contributing to the overall humanitarian goal of these Conventions also through our strong support to ITF Enhancing Human Security, based in Slovenia. Over the last 20 years ITF has, with support of its donors, responded to the needs of children and adults affected by conflicts in different states and regions across the world. A number of projects have been implemented with the focus on capacity building and providing medical and psychosocial rehabilitation of victims, especially children, in conflict affected regions across the world.

Slovenia urges all States Parties, which have not yet done so, to settle their financial obligations as soon as possible. The current financial situation of the Convention is unsustainable and poses a great challenge to the process leading to the review conference next year. However, we still believe we can surmount this issue and focus on the ultimate of the Convention: a world free of cluster munitions and the suffering caused by them.

I thank you Mr. President