

Statement of H.E. Mr. Miloš Koterec  
Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic  
At the First Review Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munition

Dubrovnik, 7 September 2015

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, let me thank the Government of Croatia for hosting this Conference and express our appreciation of the stewardship of Croatia during the preparatory process. May I wish the Conference a successful proceedings and achievement of tangible results in reviewing the operation of the Convention.

Mr. President,

I have come here with with good news; namely, the President of the Slovak Republic, by signing the instrument of accession, ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 15 July 2015. The Convention thus will enter into force and Slovakia will become its full fledged State Party as of the 1st January 2016.

Slovakia was always standing by the development and promotion of the international humanitarian law. So it was the case with this Convention. Guided by strong conviction that all cluster munitions causing unacceptable harm to civilians must be banned, Slovakia actively participated in the Oslo process from its very beginning and finally, it joined the consensus on the text of the Convention adopted in Dublin Diplomatic Conference.

However, the road from Dublin to Dubrovnik was not easy for Slovakia. We were a producer and exporter of cluster munition and certain research and development was carried out as well. So we had to address the issue and lot of political will and commitment was needed to overcome the hurdles on this road. After reaching the political decision on the accession, Slovakia immediately started to provisionally apply the most important obligations of the Convention. We stopped the trade and the Slovak Defense Forces were ordered not to use the cluster munition anymore. Any manipulation of cluster munitions was prohibited with the exception of training of pyrotechnicians and EOD experts. And the most importantly, the destruction commenced.

Concerning the retention of cluster munitions according to the Article 3.6 of the Convention, Slovakia does not intend to keep any submunition and we plan to destroy all our stockpiles.

Mr. President,

The universalization to the maximum extent possible is essential. That is why Slovakia as a new State Party calls upon all states that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention. At this juncture, let me express our will to strenuously work with other States Parties, UN, ICRC and NGO family on the promotion of this goal and towards the full implementation of the Convention.

Thank you.