

Check against delivery!

**STATEMENT BY SLOVENIA
SECOND MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON CLUSTER
MUNITIONS
(Beirut, Lebanon, 13 September 2011)**

Mr. Chairman

Allow me first to join previous speakers and congratulate you for your election to the post of the chairman of the Second Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. My delegation stands ready to assist you in your efforts to smoothly bring this meeting to its successful end. I would like to particularly thank you, your colleagues and all representatives of Lebanon for warm hospitality that you are offering us this week in your beautiful country.

Secondly, I would like to support statement already delivered on behalf of the European Union (EU).

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to express our satisfaction for continuously rapid process of ratification of the Convention. We warmly welcome recent ratifications of the Convention coming from different parts of the world. We note with satisfaction that our family is growing: there are already 61 states that ratified or acceded to the Convention. We call upon other states – signatories and non signatories of the Convention to become States Parties of the Convention as soon as possible. Slovenia will continue to work, together with other States Parties for universalisation and effective implementation of the Convention. We would like to thank non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society, notably the Cluster Munitions Coalition for their continuous and invaluable work in this regard. Indeed, raising public profile of the Convention is a task, where the role of civil society is indispensable.

Mr. Chairman,

It is an honour for me to announce that Slovenia on 29 July this year fulfilled its obligations under Art III of the Convention and finalized process of destruction of all stocks of cluster munitions

previously possessed by Slovenian Armed Forces. Destruction of all stocks means, that Slovenia did not retain any cluster munitions for the purposes permitted under Article III Para. 6 of the Convention. We are extremely satisfied that Slovenia managed to join countries, whose territory is free of cluster munitions. Slovenia calls upon all other States Parties and non States Parties to destroy its stocks of cluster munitions as well. This represents our contribution on our journey towards the final goal – a world free of cluster munitions.

In this context, let me underline that for effective implementation and operationalization of the Convention, it is of utmost importance to establish and formalize functioning structures of the Convention and to formally and effectively establish Implementation Support Unit (ISU). Only with fully fledged and operating Support Unit (as it is the case of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Anti-personnel Mines), we will be able to fully coordinate implementation of the Convention and of the 5 year Vientiane Action plan that we adopted at the First meeting of States Parties last November in Vientiane.

Mr. Chairman,

For the implementation of the Convention we will need additional resources, which is not easy to provide in these difficult times of economic and financial crisis that has shaken so many countries and regions throughout the world. We have to attract more donors to donate more to assist the cluster-munitions affected countries, notably victims of cluster munitions, and ensure that the money is spent wisely. Slovenia will join these efforts mostly through Slovenia based International Trust Fund ITF, that intends to focus more efforts also in the field of cluster munitions.

Finally, allow me to conclude my statement, Mr. Chairman, we welcome initiative of Government of Norway to organize next meeting of State-Parties in Oslo. Contribution of Norway to our joint efforts is enormous. For my delegation it will be a great pleasure to come to Oslo next year and to take stock four years after the signature of the Convention in early December 2008. By then, we hope, all parties and other states will make more steps forward on our way to our common goal - a world free of cluster munitions.

I thank you Mr. Chairman