

STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA
5th Meeting of States Parties of the
Convention on Cluster Munitions
Convention
(San Jose, Costa Rica, 2-5 September 2014)

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

Mr. President, allow me to thank you, your government and your staff for the warm hospitality that we are privileged to enjoy here in San Jose at the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I would like to assure you the support of my delegation. We are convinced that you will safely lead us to successful conclusion of this Meeting of States Parties.

Mr. President, I would like to align my statement with the statement of the European Union.

Allow me to outline our views on few issues of particular importance for Slovenia.

Firstly, Slovenia believes that the universalization of the Convention remains our key challenge in the future. We note with concern that the number of new States Parties is not increasing. We – the States Parties and other members of the Convention's family – have to continue our work on universalization, namely by using regional approach. We should also work with non-governmental organizations and civil society. With regard to individual regions, the situation varies from region to region. There is big potential in Africa, where we have almost thirty signatories that have not yet ratified the Convention, while Middle East and Asia remain the greatest regional challenge. In this context, **Mr. President,** Slovenia will support your universalization efforts during your term in office.

Secondly, we strongly condemn recent use of cluster munitions, namely in Syria, South Sudan in Ukraine. We see any use of cluster munitions as a grave violation of the international humanitarian law. Speaking of Ukraine, I would like to add that we support the government of Ukraine in its efforts to

safeguard national sovereignty and restore its territorial integrity. We call upon all sides involved in the conflict to respect international humanitarian law and not use weapons that do not discriminate combatants and civilians, particularly cluster munitions.

Thirdly, in our view, the issue of complementarity of the Convention with other instruments of the international humanitarian law is also important. We have to use complementarities and synergies with those instruments, notably the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines (Ottawa Convention), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and the Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons. We are at the beginning of this process. Slovenia welcomes the fact that Inter-sessional meetings in April were held immediately after the meetings of the Ottawa Convention. This was a step in right direction. We also hope that in the future, ISU (Implementation Support Unit) will work together with the ISU of the Ottawa Convention.

Lastly, Mr. President, allow me to touch upon the issue of transparency measures, namely reporting. National reporting is sometimes perceived as a less important part of the Convention. In our view it is quite the opposite: we see national reporting as very important instrument, since it represents an important indicator of vitality of the Convention: more national reports demonstrate improved vitality of the Convention. National reports show our daily work related to the implementation of the Convention. That is why it is important to reverse the recent trend of decreasing of national reports. I would like to use this opportunity and appeal to all delegations to improve our joint record in this regard and improve the quality and quantity of our national reports in the future.

At the end, **Mr. President**, we should continue with working together and underline our ultimate goal, a world free of cluster munitions and their victims.

Thank you Mr. President