



STALNO PREDSTAVNIŠTVO REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE PRI URADU ZDRUŽENIH
NARODOV IN OSTALIH MEDNARODNIH ORGANIZACIJAH V ŽENEVI
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA – CCM, Geneva, September 4, 2017

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr President, allow me to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Seventh Meeting of States parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and for the excellent work done.

In addition to the statement to be delivered by the European Union, I would like to contribute to this important 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 their use as a grave **violation of the international humanitarian law**. We call upon all sides involved in armed conflicts around the world to respect international humanitarian law and refrain from use of weapons that do not distinguish combatants and civilians, particularly the cluster munitions.

It was with regret for Slovenia to learn that its stockpiles, which were sent for destruction to Bulgaria in 2011, were not completely and irreversibly destroyed **by the service provider**. Slovenia is **fully committed to its obligations under the Convention** and is doing **everything in its power** to ensure the **irreversible destruction of the remaining elements of the munitions before the deadline**.

Slovenia believes that in order to achieve the prohibition of use, production, transfer and stockpile of cluster munitions, **we** – the **States Parties**, together with the **non-governmental organizations and civil society**, have to continue our work on **universalization** of the Convention, taking into account a regional approach. Middle East, North Africa and Asia will remain greatest regional challenges in the years to come.

At the same time, we have to **use complementarities and synergies** with other **instruments of the international humanitarian law**, including Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines (Ottawa Convention), Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Slovenia supports the overall humanitarian goal of these Conventions by offering strong political, financial and in-kind support to the **ITF Enhancing Human Security**. ITF has been active in the field of mine action, including cluster munitions clearance, provision of assistance and rehabilitation to the victims of cluster munitions in several regions across the world. Slovenia believes that ITF is one of the most important instruments for the implementation of the obligations arising from the Convention.

We welcome the **documents** that will be adopted here in Geneva. They will provide us with **guidelines and work plan until the Second Review Conference** where we should be able to **set up the timeline** for our ultimate goal: world free of cluster munitions and the suffering caused by them.

Thank you, Mr President