

**STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA  
(Victims Assistance)**

**Mr. President,**

Slovenia is pleased with the outcome in the field of victim's assistance and socio-economic integration achieved at the Second Review Conference of the Convention that took place a year ago in Cartagena, Colombia. ~~(Cartagena Action Plan introduced eleven actions (from 23 to 33) that obliged States Parties with mine victims to do more to provide assistance to victims.)~~ Slovenia welcomes all activities of the affected States Parties aimed at strengthening national ownership, internal coordination, planning and monitoring and evaluation of national activities. We also welcome all activities that have purpose to promote gender issue in national activities regarding victim's assistance. We would be interested to hear more from the affected States Parties what they have done since Cartagena summit.

From our side, Mr. President, we would like to report that in the course of last twelve months after Cartagena Summit, Slovenia has continued on-going activities and projects in the field of victim's assistance notably, in the countries of South East Europe, such as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and others. We are particularly proud of our project of assistance to children, victims of mines and explosive remnants of war from Gaza Strip, initiated by President of the Republic of Slovenia Dr Danilo Turk. In last two years Slovenia has - through International Trust Fund (ITF) - provided different ways of assistance to ~~61~~ children victims from Gaza Strip.

After the Cartagena summit, Slovenia presented its initiative to create Middle Eastern Telemedicine Network in order to promote telemedicine assistance to mine victims in the Middle East. The purpose of this project is to organize mine victim's assistance in Middle East by using modern telecommunication means. Slovenia together with the Arab League organized a conference titled Telemedicine, Mine Action and Development that took place on September 26 and 27, 2010 in the capital of Egypt, Cairo. One of main ideas of this new initiative is to create a network of medical institutions in Arab countries (mainly in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan) to better organize medical assistance to victims of mine and other explosive remnants of war in cooperation with the ITF and Slovenian experts. Since this initiative is at early stage, we will be happy to report on its further development at 11 Meeting of States Parties in 2011.

Mr. President, Slovenia is of the view that States parties of the Convention should and could do more in the field of victim's assistance. That is why we would support more engagements of Implementation Support Unit (the ISU) in this field. The ISU has recently started its activities also in this field of the implementation of the Convention. In this context we commend Australia for allocating necessary funds for these projects and Mr. Kerry Brinkert and his team for all work done. We would like to express our hope that there will be available funds for these activities in the ISU budget for 2011.

Lastly, and allow me to conclude with that, Mr. President, we support your text on assistance to victims in Geneva Progress Report 2009-2010, as well as work done by colleagues from Turkey and Peru who served this year as co-chairs of Standing Committee on Victims Assistance and Socio Economic Integration, including their proposal to find links between our Convention with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CBRD), thus using synergies of the two Conventions.

**I thank you Mr. President.**