



Statement

by

Ms Blažka Kepic

Head of Department for International Organisations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

at the

Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the
Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-
Personnel Mines and on their Destruction

Santiago de Chile, 28 November – 1 December 2016

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to thank you and your government for warm hospitality that we are privileged to enjoy here in Santiago de Chile at the Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties (15 MSP) to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and for the efficient work done during preparations for this meeting. As the Chair of this important meeting you can count on the Slovenian support.

I would like to align myself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. In my national capacity, I would like to make the following remarks.

The Convention is a success story in the area of international instruments of disarmament and humanitarian law. The success of the Convention is substantial: a comprehensive ban on anti-personnel mines has become a global standard; the number of mine victims has decreased since the entry into force of the Convention; more countries are becoming mine-free; vast areas of land have been cleared; 157 States Parties have disposed their stockpiles; 48 million mines have been destroyed and only a few States Parties have stockpiles left to destroy.

However, there are still challenges ahead of us. We need to focus on the area of **protection** of the civilian population, especially children, who are the most affected by land mines and suffer life-long consequences. Also from this reason we have to pursue with determination our ultimate goal - the world free of anti-personnel mines.

One of the most important outstanding challenges is **universalisation** of the Convention. I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate Sri Lanka for its decision to join the Convention as the 163rd State Party soon.

As a staunch supporter of the concept of human security and a member of the Human Security Network the Slovenian Government established in March 1998 the **ITF Enhancing Human Security**, designed to help solving humanitarian crises caused by anti-personnel mines and other unexploded remnants of war in our neighbouring region of South-Eastern Europe. Outstanding results in the countries of the region have encouraged further engagement and today the ITF is, with the support of donors, actively engaged in many other mine-affected regions and countries in the world. Since 1998 the Slovenian Government has been supporting the activities of the ITF politically, financially and with in-kind contributions.

We would like to flag the importance of **promoting cooperation and synergies with other international instruments**, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

We sincerely hope that in the course of the next few years the number of countries that will complete their treaty obligations will increase, the number of new mine victims will continue to decrease, and that in 2019 when we meet at the fourth Review Conference we will be only a step away from our final goal – a world free of anti-personnel mines and all suffering caused by them.

Thank you, Mr President.