



GENERAL STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA

by

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at the

Sixteenth 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

Vienna, 18 – 21 December 2016

Mr President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to thank the Austrian Government and you personally for the warm hospitality that we are privileged to enjoy here in Vienna at the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties (16 MSP) to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and for the efficient work done during preparations for this meeting.

In addition to the statement delivered by the European Union, I would like to contribute to this important discussion by pointing-out some additional perspectives in my national capacity.

I would like to congratulate Algeria for meeting its obligations under article 5 earlier this year. Achievements, such as Algeria's, are a motivation for other States Parties, that the realization of a mine-free world is attainable. We also welcome the fact that in this year Belarus has achieved the completion of its stockpile destruction programme.

Although 163 States are already party to the Convention, universalization remains one of the most important outstanding challenges. We believe that progress in this regard can also be made by encouraging States not yet party to the Convention to respect the norms of the Convention.

Slovenia strongly condemns the use of antipersonnel mines and considers it to be 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 to refrain from use of weapons that do not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

Antipersonnel mines, whether they are manufactured or improvised, are designed to isolate and harm well after a conflict has ended. Their impact is crippling in times of war, but their long-term consequences are much worse. Minefields hobble whole populations and make



normal life impossible. For these reasons the Slovenian Government decided to establish ITF Enhancing Human Security in March of 1998, aimed at alleviating the scourge of antipersonnel mines in Bosnia in Herzegovina. Outstanding results in the countries of the region have encouraged further engagement and today ITF is, with support of its donors, actively engaged in many other mine-affected regions and countries in the world. ITF has always been among the priorities of the Slovenian Government, which continues to support ITF politically, financially and with in-kind contributions.

As an advocate of the concept of human security and a member of the Human Security Network, Slovenia has, from the inception of the Convention, been a strong proponent of its objectives. At this 20th anniversary, Slovenia reiterates its full support to the Convention and aspires that an anti-personnel mine free world can be achieved by 2025.

Finally, Mr President, I would like to renew my delegation`s full commitment to actively participate in the discussions and our utmost support for the work of the Meeting.

Thank you Mr President