



S L O V A K I A

Address by
H. E. Mr. Fedor Rosocha
Permanent Representative of Slovakia
To the United Nations Office and other International
Organizations in Geneva

At the 11th 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
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
(28 November – 2 December 2011)

Phnom Penh, November 28, 2011

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to represent Slovakia and on behalf of my country to make some remarks from our national perspective.

Firstly Mr. President, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as President of the 11th Meeting of the Ottawa Convention State Parties and to assure you of the full support of Slovakia. I am looking forward to a constructive meeting.

The last two years, when also the Second Review Conference in Cartagena and 10th State Parties Meeting in Geneva were organized, have provided us an opportunity to look back and make recapitulation of our achievements so far and to identify areas where our potential, to do more for the world free from anti-personnel mines, is.

Slovakia supports common international efforts to reach all the objectives of the Ottawa Convention and is committed to implementing the Cartagena Action Plan. Slovakia appeals to all States outside the Convention, to accede it as soon as possible.

Having met our obligations following from the Convention, we have focused our contribution to the areas where we have experience and means and where we are efficient to add substantial and effective value into efforts of the international community in the fight against this devastating weapon.

The details of the Slovak contribution to the definite elimination of the scourge of antipersonnel landmines is reflected in the ICBL's Landmine Monitor in previous years. Slovakia finished destruction of its stockpile of antipersonnel

mines already in August 2000 and retained 1 500 of them for the purpose of the development of demining technology and for the mine destruction training. As of the end 2010, 1372 mines were retained for the mentioned purpose. Fortunately, no mined areas are in Slovakia.

Our demining activities, mainly in Afghanistan and Iraq have placed a small country such as Slovakia among the serious contributors to mine action. Slovak Armed Forces have established Centre of Excellence for Explosive Ordnance Disposal. This entity is able to provide teams to international humanitarian operations where Explosive Ordnance Disposal is needed for their safe and successful performance.

The development and production of demining devices has traditionally been a domain where Slovakia brings an added value. Details were provided several times in our national reports under Article 7 of the Convention. Slovakia possess, in military and civilian facilities, considerable capacities in the field of destruction of stocks of mines and other explosive devices, where emphasis is given to use of environmentally friendly methods in the process of these sensitive activities.

Mr. President,

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation to the hospitality of the Government of Cambodia and special thanks to all those who have been involved in organization not only of this 11th Meeting of State Parties but also in assisting on regular basis to the MBC States Parties and to the noble goal of cleaning the world from these harmful devices.

I thank you for your attention.

