

THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

Statement of Slovenia for High Level Segment

Maputo, Mozambique, 26-27 June 2014

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

First of all, Mr. President, allow me to thank you and your government for warm hospitality that we are privileged to enjoy here in Maputo at the Third Review Conference on a Mine-Free World and for the efficient work you have done during preparations for the Conference in Geneva.

Second, I would like to align to the statement of the European Union.

Mr. President,

Slovenia is happy to come back to Maputo, one of the sources of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, fifteen years after its First Meeting of States Parties. The meeting in 1999 was an important milestone for the 45 States Parties of that time, including Slovenia. Back then, we created new approaches to implement the Convention, including its machinery, previously unknown to similar international instruments.

In the meantime, Mozambique proved to be a model for successful mine action as an integral part of national development plans. Being one of most heavily mine-affected countries, Mozambique effectively addressed a huge task of clearing all mine contaminated areas and will complete the clearance by the end of this year.

Today we can say that our Convention made a difference on the ground. The Convention is a success story in the area of international instruments of disarmament and humanitarian law. A comprehensive ban on anti-personnel mines has become a global standard, reaching beyond the commitments of States Parties. However, there are still challenges ahead of us. That is why we have to pursue with determination our ultimate goal - the world free of anti-personnel mines.

One of the remaining challenges is universalisation; the Convention community now counts 161 members. We as States Parties should promote formal accession to the Convention by States not Parties to the Convention and coordinate our outreach activities. We welcome the news that the Sultanate of Oman will soon join the Convention and we wish to express its delegation a warm welcome.

I note with satisfaction that Slovenia has always been a part of these endeavours. As a staunch supporter of the concept of human security and member of the Human Security Network, in March 1998 Slovenia established the **ITF Enhancing Human Security**, designed to 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 South-Eastern Europe have

encouraged further engagement and today the ITF is actively engaged in many other mine-affected regions and countries in the world.

Mr. President,

Slovenia welcomes the final documents that we will adopt here in Maputo: **Maputo Declaration, Maputo Action Plan** and the **Decision Related to the Implementation Machinery**. We are grateful to you for working on them and preparing them for final adoption. These documents are of great importance as they provide us with basic guidelines and work plan till the Fourth Review Conference. We hope that in 2019, we will be better fit for setting up the timeline for our final goal: world free of anti-personnel mines and suffering caused by them. In the final texts of the documents, we highly commend your intention to make Convention machinery innovative, more flexible and rational.

At the same time, 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 Convention on Cluster Munitions.

At this point let me remind us of the Convention's historic culture of partnership and cooperation of States Parties with the United Nations and other international and non-governmental organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines – and many others - with whom we want to continue fruitful collaboration.

Mr. President,

We are convinced that we are on the right track. We sincerely hope that in the course of next five years the number of countries that will complete their demining and mine clearance will increase, that the number of new mine victims will continue to decrease, that our work will bear more fruits, that we will avoid breaches of the Convention and comply to it. Thus, we will meet in 2019 at the Fourth Review Conference much closer to our final goal – a world free of anti-personnel mines and all suffering caused by them.

Thank you, Mr. President.