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**STATEMENT
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ON BEHALF OF THE HUMAN SECURITY NETWORK

**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,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Human Security Network, a cross-regional Network comprising Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Panama, Switzerland, Thailand and my own country, Slovenia, with South Africa as an observer.

Let me start by expressing gratitude to you and your government for hospitality that we are privileged to enjoy here in Santiago de Chile at the 15th 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 (so called Ottawa Convention) and for the efficient work you have done during the preparations for the Meeting in Geneva.

The Human Security Network is an informal group of States that promotes the integration of the human security approach in policies and programmes at international, regional, and national levels. Although the Network played an important role in advancing the Ottawa Convention during the years its activities expanded to cover other current UN and other international fora agenda issues which constitute a direct threat to human security including disarmament.

The Human Security Network rallies around the concept of human security which calls for a people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented approach to the challenges relating to peace, security and development. It calls for a better protection and empowerment of each individual and societies.

Mr President

We welcome progress made over the past years and note the significance and comprehensiveness of the Ottawa Convention in the field of humanitarian, disarmament and development issues. We are happy to note that since the entry into force of the Convention the number of new mine victims per year has on average fallen; regrettably though, last year the rise in the number of new mine casualties was recorded again.

It is encouraging that more and more countries are becoming mine-free and only a few States Parties have stockpiles left to destroy. It is also important to note that the norms that have been set by the Convention extend well beyond the framework of the States Parties.

Notwithstanding the success of Ottawa convention, important challenges remain to be addressed in the future:

1. Implementation of Article 5 and mine clearance remains the most significant challenge to be addressed in the coming years. In this regard the Human Security Network highlights the urgency of remobilising the community of donors to secure new resources and techniques available for mine-affected countries in order to fully implement of Article 5.

2. Despite the decreasing numbers of mine victims, the overall need for assistance remains. Victim assistance is a long-term commitment for all victims and their families and often means lifetime care. In this regard, we highlight the importance of promoting cooperation and synergies with other international instruments, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
3. Despite 162 States Parties to the Convention, universalization still remains one of the main challenges. To this end, the Human Security Network will endeavour to promote the universal acceptance of the Convention and we call upon those States that have not yet done so, to join the Convention.

We are deeply concerned about the tremendous humanitarian and development challenges still caused by the presence of mines and other unexploded ordnance. These devices continue to constitute an obstacle to the return of refugees and other displaced persons, humanitarian aid operations, reconstruction and economic development, as well as the restoration of normal social conditions. They also have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for the populations of mine-affected countries long after conflict situation. We bear in mind the serious threat that mines and other unexploded ordnance pose to the safety, health and lives of civilian populations, as well as personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping and rehabilitation programmes and operations.

Members of the Network recognise the importance of the United Nations system, international and regional organisations to assist mine-affected countries.

Mr President,

We as States Parties to the Convention, remain committed to end the human tragedy caused by anti-personnel mines through their total elimination. We continue to be encouraged by the unprecedented manner in which the international community has rallied to end the devastation caused by landmines.

Thank you.