



STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

by

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at the

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Mr President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank the Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance for the presentation of the conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee.

In addition to the statement delivered by the European Union under this agenda item, I would like to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Slovenia is deeply concerned about the rising numbers of anti-personnel mine victims. According to the Landmine Monitor, an exceptionally high number of 8.605 people were recorded as killed or injured by landmines and explosive remnants of war in 2016. The trend, after the surge of victims in 2015, is becoming profoundly worrisome.

Slovenia has always attached great importance to mine victim assistance. For us, mine victim assistance always represented one of the core objectives and true embodiments of the spirit of the Ottawa Convention. It is a long-term commitment to all victims and their families and often means lifetime care. We need to ensure their social and economic reintegration and full participation in all spheres of the society on an equal basis and in a sustainable manner.

In this respect, I wish to highlight the importance of promoting cooperation and synergies with other international instruments and welcome the activities undertaken by the Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance in this regard. We believe that talks with the representatives of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Coordinators of Victim Assistance of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and Protocol V, have contributed to the goal of achieving greater cooperation and synergies with other international instruments.



Mr President, Slovenia has been active in the area of mine victim assistance also through the ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF), established in March 1998 by the Slovenian Government.

ITF has, with support of its donors, responded to the needs of children and adults affected by conflicts in different states and regions across in the world. ITF has, also in cooperation with the Slovenian Red Cross and experts of the Slovenian National Institute for Rehabilitation, implemented a number of projects, focused on providing medical and psychosocial rehabilitation of victims, especially children, from Gaza Strip, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, etc. So far, it has provided rehabilitation treatment to more than 1.270 mine victims and psycho-social assistance to over 17.000 mine survivors and other disabled persons. Through ITF, over 1.100 experts received training in the field of humanitarian demining, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and/or mine action management.

Finally, Mr President, I would like to emphasise that Slovenia will continue to help achieve the elusive goal of a world without mine victims, which we believe is the core objective of the Convention.

Thank you Mr President