



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

**Statement by the Delegation of Slovenia, at the Sixth Pledging Conference for the
Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
(Geneva, 23 February 2021)**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the responsibilities of the President of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. I wish you every success in discharging your duties. In addition to the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, I would like to make several remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

My country has always attached great importance to mine action. This is why we have always been an active supporter of and contributor to the Slovenia-based ITF Enhancing Human Security. We are especially pleased that in addition to engaging in humanitarian demining in various parts of the world, the ITF has in recent years also turned its attention to mine risk education and advocacy. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generous assistance of numerous other donor countries. ITF's success is therefore also their success.

Mr. President,

The implementation of the Ottawa Convention, which is one of key disarmament agreements, has always stood at the forefront of Slovenian multilateral activities. We have thus ensured regular payments of our assessed contributions in full and on time. Furthermore, my country has been a staunch supporter of the dedicated and valuable work of the Implementation Support Unit. In our view, its efforts are indispensable for the effective operation of the Convention. I am therefore pleased to announce that this year as well Slovenia will financially support the ISU with an annual voluntary contribution of 5,000 Euros.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my country's continuous commitment to the Ottawa Convention and the vision of a mine-free world by 2025. You can therefore rest assured that Slovenia will remain a reliable partner in this important quest.

Thank you.