



STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

by
H.E. Mr. Vojislav Šuc
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia

at the
Seventeenth Meeting of the State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction

Geneva, 26 – 30 November 2018

Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance for the presentation of the conclusions and recommendations. In addition to the statement delivered by the European Union, I would like to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Slovenia is deeply concerned about the rise in numbers of anti-personnel mine victims in recent years. The only encouraging news seems to be that the number of people recorded as killed or injured by landmines and explosive remnants of war in 2017 has decreased slightly compared to the previous year. It remains however excessively high, whereby it is certain that numerous casualties went unrecorded.

Assistance to these victims represents a long-term commitment to them and their families and often involves lifetime care. It is therefore of paramount importance that we ensure social and economic reintegration and full participation of victims in all spheres of the society on an equal basis and in a sustainable manner.

Madam President, Slovenia has been active in the area of mine victim assistance also through support to the activities of ITF Enhancing Human Security. Over the last 20 years ITF has, with support of its donors, responded to the needs of children and adults affected by conflicts in different states and regions across the world. A number of projects have been implemented with the focus on capacity building and providing medical and psychosocial rehabilitation of victims, especially children, from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gaza Strip, Ukraine, etc.

Finally, Madam President, I would like to emphasise that Slovenia will continue to help achieve the goal of a world without mine victims, which is at the core of the Convention.

Thank you Madam President