



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

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**Statement by the Republic of Slovenia**  
**21st Meeting of the States Parties, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**  
Geneva, 20-24 November 2023

Mister President,

Since this is the first time our delegation is taking the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment and on your successful conduct of the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of State Parties. Slovenia fully aligns with the EU Statements and would like to make a few remarks in the national capacity.

Slovenia considers the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to be a key disarmament instrument and a success story of effective multilateralism and diplomacy. Its integrity, full implementation and application must be guaranteed, and its universal adherence pursued – in a spirit of cooperation among nations.

Slovenia met its obligations under the Convention in 2003 and has been since then supporting efforts of other states; primarily through the work of the International Trust Fund for Enhancing Human Security (ITF), based in Slovenia. In recent years this organization, among other, carried out several landmine and ERW clearance projects, as well as awareness-raising and other mine-action activities among local populations in countries of the Western Balkans, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Afghanistan, Palestine, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. Earlier this year, a Memorandum of Understanding with Somalia has been signed and a substantive capacity-building program for Ukraine initiated.

We welcome the significant progress made in the fight against the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines. Nonetheless, we are aware of the tremendous humanitarian and development challenges still posed by them. Slovenia is honoured to have been actively engaged in the work of the Committee on Victim Assistance over the past year and will continue to do so in the forthcoming year.

Mister President,

These devices continue to kill people and constitute an obstacle to the return of refugees and other displaced persons, humanitarian aid operations, reconstruction and economic development, as well as to the restoration of normal social conditions, and have serious and

lasting social and economic effects on the populations of mine-affected countries. We are deeply concerned by the ongoing new cases of use of anti-personnel mines, improvised explosive devices and booby traps, including in Ukraine. Slovenia joins the calls of other states parties on all actors to refrain from the production, stockpiling, trade and transfer of anti-personnel mines and strongly condemns their use anywhere, anytime, and by any actor, whether States or non-State actors.

Gender disaggregated data show that majority of mine victims are men and boys as they tend to work out in the open air, however, the indirect impact on women is immense as women take over the caregiver role as well as they try to provide for the lost family income. Physical assistance for the mine victims is, therefore, not enough – we must ensure that the socio-economic and psychological effects of mine accidents are properly addressed as well.

In a spirit of a cooperative dialogue, Slovenia will continue to work towards achieving a mine-free and victim-free world.

I thank you.