

**Statement by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia, at the Eight Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, 23 March 2023**

Mister President,

at the outset, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention for this year. We look forward to working with you.

In addition to the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, Slovenia would like to make several remarks in the national capacity.

Over the past years, the Convention proved itself as one of key agreements in the disarmament area and finest example of multilateralism. It has helped save millions of lives from the scourge of antipersonnel mines. However, many challenges still remain. It is therefore important that we strengthen our collective resolve, enhance our cooperation, move another step closer to a mine-free world by 2025.

I would like to **reconfirm that Slovenia will remain a strong supporter of the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention** and ensuring better tomorrow for the most vulnerable.

Mister President,

Slovenia has **funded projects by ITF Enhancing Human Security**. In recent years this non-profit organization founded by our country carried out a number of landmine and ERW clearance projects, as well as awareness-raising activities among local populations in **Syria, Iraq and Jordan**. Such activities have furthermore aimed at not only improving the security of the locals living in those areas but also at enabling them to access their previously contaminated agricultural fields.

Slovenia plans **to support Ukraine** in the challenging endeavour of demining through capacity building and knowledge transfer, also by ensuring local ownership. Our active engagement in the area of mine action reflects our strong commitment to peace and security, development and human rights.

At the 20th meeting of State Parties to the Convention Slovenia has also become a member of the **Committee on Victim Assistance**, within which we share a feminist foreign policy perspective by focusing on women and girls.

Finally, I would like to encourage all to continue our joint efforts and fulfil our promise of achieving a world free of anti-personnel mines.

Thank you.