



**Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the**

**22nd Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention – General
Exchange of Views**

Geneva, 1-5 December 2025

Thank you, Madam President.

As this is the first time my Delegation is taking the floor, allow me to extend my congratulations and best wishes to you, Madam President, for the successful conduct of this meeting.

Slovenia warmly welcomes Tonga and the Marshall Islands to the family of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). This important instrument has time and again demonstrated its life-saving impact, its role in improving the security of civilians and its contribution to the socio-economic development of post-conflict societies. The Convention stands on strong moral and ethical foundations, deeply rooted in the commitment of civil society. It has proven to be an effective and functional mechanism for safeguarding international humanitarian law and upholding our shared humanity.

The world around us is rapidly changing – becoming more interconnected, multipolar and technologically advanced. While these developments bring undeniable benefits, we are also witnessing the erosion of international law, the growing number of armed conflicts, forced displacement and rising civilian casualties. In such an environment, challenges to established international norms are mounting.

The APMBC is not immune to these challenges. Funding for mine action is decreasing, the number of victims is again on the rise and the number of States Parties is fluctuating, reflecting both new accessions and recent withdrawals. Slovenia remains steadfast in its commitment to the Convention and its principles. We continue to value and support efforts to sustain dialogue, including with those States that are not – or will no longer be – parties to the Convention. We encourage them to remain engaged in the spirit of humanity and to uphold the protection of civilians as the highest moral priority.

Slovenia particularly values the APMBC's comprehensive, whole-of-society approach in addressing the threats posed by anti-personnel mines. The text and provisions of the Convention are clear, its obligations well-defined and no State Party can disregard its commitments.

This year, as the United Nations marks its 80th anniversary, we must recall the purpose and principles upon which it was founded – peace, security and respect for the sovereignty of all nations. Yet, it is profoundly disheartening to witness that one of the UN's own founding members and a Permanent Member of the Security Council – the Russian Federation, which is entrusted with maintaining international peace and security – has chosen a path of aggression and violations of international law, bringing war back to the heart of Europe. The world is currently facing over 130 armed conflicts and instead of providing solidarity and resolve to others in need of humanitarian assistance, Europe has once again had to focus on bolstering its own defences, providing protection to millions of refugees and addressing domestic economic challenges.

Madam President,

The APMBC represents a moral commitment as well as a legal one: a promise to preserve human life and dignity, even in the darkest of times. Slovenia reaffirms its full support for this noble convention and calls upon all states to uphold its principles and protect the foundations of international law and humanitarianism, upon which our collective peace depends. Hopefully, the world will collectively choose the path to peace, not destruction, and more states will join the Convention in the future. Thank you to Tonga and the Marshall Islands once again for endorsing this path in these challenging times.