

STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA
First Rev.Con. CCM - Dubrovnik, September 2015

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends

Mr. President, allow me to thank you, your government and your staff for warm hospitality that we are privileged to enjoy here in Dubrovnik at the **First Review Conference of the States Parties** to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I would like to assure you of support of my delegation. We are convinced that you will safely lead us to a successful conclusion of this Review Conference.

Allow me to outline our views on few issues of particular importance for Slovenia.

First, Slovenia welcomes the documents that we will adopt here in Dubrovnik: the 2015 Dubrovnik Declaration, the 2015 **Dubrovnik Action Plan, Croatia Progress Report**, and others. We are grateful to everyone for working and preparing them for final adoption. These documents are of great importance as they provide us with guidelines and work plan until the Second Review Conference. We hope that in 2020, we will be better fit for setting up the timeline for our final goal: world free of cluster munitions and suffering caused by them.

Secondly, Slovenia believes that the universalization of the Convention remains our key challenge in the future. We – the States Parties and other members of the Convention's family – have to continue our work on universalization, namely by using regional approach. We should also work with non-governmental organizations and civil society. There is big potential in Africa, where we have almost thirty signatories that have not yet ratified the Convention, while Middle East and Asia remain greatest regional challenge. In that context, Slovenia will support all universalization efforts.

Thirdly, we strongly condemn the use of cluster munitions. We see any use of cluster munitions as a grave violation of the international humanitarian law. We call upon all sides involved in armed conflicts all around the world to respect international humanitarian law and not use weapons that do not discriminate combatants and civilians, particularly cluster munitions.

Fourthly, in our view, the issue of complementarity of the Convention with other instruments of the international humanitarian law is also important. We have to use complementarities and synergies with those instruments, notably Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines (Ottawa Convention), Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons. We are only at the beginning of this process that can help us by bringing many positive results.

Let me also add that Republic of Slovenia supports the overall goal of the Convention by offering support to ITF Enhancing Human Security. ITF has been active in the field of cluster munition clearance operations and provision of assistance and rehabilitation to cluster munition victims in different regions. In order for Convention on Cluster Munitions to be fully and widely implemented Slovenia will continue to support ITF as one of the most important instruments for the implementation of the obligations arising from the Convention.

At the end, **Mr. President**, we should continue with working together and underline our ultimate goal, a world free of cluster munitions and their victims.

I thank you Mr. President