

STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA

First Preparatory Meeting for the 3rd Review Conference in Maputo Geneva, 6 December 2013

/Agenda item 6: Preparation of a review of the operation and status of the Convention 2010-2014 and agenda item 7: Preparation of the Maputo Action Plan/

First statement

Mr President-Designate,

Allow me to express you a warm welcome here in Geneva and to congratulate you on your nomination as President-designate of the Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Slovenia is looking forward to working with Mozambique, the ISU and all States Parties to achieve the best possible outcome of the Maputo conference.

On the substance, Slovenia would like to align to the statement of the European Union.

In our view, Maputo is the right place to hold the Review Conference. Fifteen years after the first Meeting of States Parties the Convention family is heading back to Maputo, one of its sources. In the meantime, Mozambique proved to be a model for real progress achieved in mine action. Being one of most heavily mine-affected countries, you effectively addressed a huge task of clearing all mine contaminated areas and will complete the work by the end of next year.

We understand that fifteen years after the first MSP the Convention has reached its maturity. We have to adapt our approach and plans to present and future challenges. Slovenia is grateful for discussion papers you submitted. They point to the right direction.

These papers introduce a new approach which is not only fresh, but also daring. Slovenia commends you and respects your approach. As already said, we need to adjust the work of Convention to the present reality and for the future.

Regarding preparation of the **review document** we believe that a thorough review of the operation and status of the Convention is necessary. We need to have a clear picture where we stand now. Only effective review will help us to take the right direction for the next five years.

It is not only necessary to review AP mine clearance process, stockpile destruction and mine victim assistance, but also issues as donor cooperation and reporting. We should keep in mind our commitments to victim assistance and the long-term needs of mine survivors. Victim assistance should be gradually integrated into national health, education and employment programmes and systems.

Regarding **preparation of the Maputo Action Plan 2015-2019** we commend your starting to work on the Maputo Action Plan. We agree with your idea of having a shorter, concrete, concise and measurable Action Plan, which would contain concrete actions and goals for the next five years. Excellency, here you have our support. The logo “Commit to Complete!” is adequate. But let us not forget that compliance has to remain our lasting obligation.