

Statement by

**HE Mr Boštjan Malovrh, Ambassador,**

**Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations**

at the

**Thematic debate on Conventional Weapons**

**UNGA77 – First Committee**

New York, 24 October 2022

Mr. Chair,

Slovenia associates with the statement made by the European Union. The following remarks are made in our national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

We live in a dangerous world, a world of violence, a world of complex and interdependent sources of instability, from organized violence and crime, coup d'état and wars.

In such a setting, it is increasingly pertinent for all States to respect and fully comply with the International Humanitarian Law. The Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons together with all of its Protocols are an essential part of IHL. We encourage all States that have not done so yet, to sign and ratify CCWC.

Slovenia would like to express its deep concern with the use of cluster munitions on civilian population in Syria, Yemen, Libya, and in Ukraine. We call on all to refrain from such actions as well as to respect and implement the Convention on Cluster Munition. We also call on all States to refrain from any arms transfers to those states that violate Convention on Cluster Munition. We strongly condemn Russia's use of anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions as well as its use of other explosive weapons, such as rockets and artillery shells or improvised explosive devices (IEDs) against civilians in Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

The illicit proliferation and unauthorized use of small arms and light weapons (SALW) pose a serious danger to international security and stability. It threatens the lives of millions of people around the world every day and creates continuous burden to economic development. Slovenia is committed to promote the implementation of the Program of Action on SALW. We also put in frontline the importance of the gender sensitive approach as well as on the recruitment of child soldiers in the policies of control of demand and transfer of small arms and light weapons. The latter should be executed in coordination with the policy of the effective conventional ammunition management.

Mr. Chair,

Slovenia welcomes the work done so far of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. The work of GGE contributes positively to our common understanding of this complex matter. Slovenia believes that the outcome of the GGE should also take into account the relevant ethical considerations related to decisions taken by human beings.

Mr. Chair,

Slovenia is fully committed to the Ottawa Convention as well as to the Oslo Action Plan and its implementation in all areas. Slovenia dedicates substantial attention to the field of mine action. In 1998, the Slovenian Government established ITF Enhancing Human Security, aiming to alleviate the scourge of antipersonnel mines in mine-affected regions across the world. Over more than 20 years a number of projects beside the de-mining have been implemented with the focus on capacity building and providing medical and psychosocial rehabilitation of victims, especially children, from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gaza Strip, Ukraine, Lebanon and others.

Recently, with the donation of the Republic of Korea, ITF started the mine victims' assistance projects in Lebanon to address the most crucial and lifesaving healthcare and the income generation needs of mine victims or their family members. The project of the income generation needs will bring together mine victims or their families to participate in a beekeeping and honey production training workshop.

Mr. Chair,

To conclude I would like to underline that Slovenia continues to draw inspiration from the life and work of bees. They work as one, together and united for a common goal. We, the member states of the United Nations should unite in strengthening the arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation architecture in full respect of UN Charter.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

