



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement by Ms. Ondina Blokar Drobíč, Deputy Permanent Representative
UN Security Council Arria meeting on explosive ordnance threat mitigation for the
implementation of a coherent and comprehensive response**

New York, April 12, 2019

I would like to thank the briefers for providing information on current and planned initiatives in the area of explosive ordnance threat mitigation for the implementation of a coherent and comprehensive response. We also thank to Belgium, Germany and Poland for organising this open Arria Formula meeting. I wish to align myself with the statement delivered earlier by the EU.

The topic chosen for this meeting provides an opportunity to bring renewed attention to the Security Council Resolution 2365 (2017) in conjunction with the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council. Equally important is the new UN Mine Action Strategy for 2019-2023, which we welcome.

Land mines are security, economic, social and environmental problem, which, among others, lead to degradation of environment and lack of resources for the population affected. Education of local population about the danger of land mines and how to avoid it is crucial as is the medical assistance to victims. Much can be done in cooperation with local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other governments.

Concerning the United Nations operation we wish to underline two elements:

1. A need to incorporate in planning and programming of the mandate of the UN operations in its earliest stage a threat posed by landmines and
2. In the post-conflict areas it is essential to include relevant mine action provisions into peace agreements.

Slovenia is fully committed to the Ottawa Convention and to the vision of a landmine free world by 2025. For this reason the Slovenian Government in 1998 established ITF Enhancing Human Security, aiming at alleviating the scourge of antipersonnel mines in mine-affected regions across the world.

Over the last 20 years ITF has, with support of its donors, responded to the needs of children and adults affected by conflicts in different states and regions across the world. A number of projects have been implemented with the focus on capacity building and providing medical and psychosocial rehabilitation of victims, especially children.

We firmly believe that the dire humanitarian consequences of these indiscriminate weapons can be mitigated in the future by universal adherence to the Ottawa Convention and its implementation.

In this connection, we are pleased to contribute to the ISU (Implementation Support Unit) of the Convention in the next three years. We are looking forward to the Review Conference in Oslo later this year and hope further steps towards a mine-free world can be made.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that responsibility for the success story in the fight against the threat posed by explosive ordnance is on each Member State and in the joint effort of the international community to achieve a vision of landmines free world by 2025.

Thank you.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**