



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

STATEMENT

**by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN
Ambassador Darja Bavdaž Kuret
at the First Committee of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly
New York, October 24, 2019**

Mr. Chairman,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and I wish to contribute a few further remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Slovenia is fully committed to the Ottawa Convention and we expect further steps towards a mine-free world can be made at the upcoming Review Conference in Oslo. Slovenia dedicates substantial attention to the field of mine action. The Slovenian Government established ITF Enhancing Human Security in 1998, 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, from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gaza Strip, Ukraine, Belarus etc.

Recently the Slovenian government decided to provide a financial contribution for a project implemented by ITF in Syria with the primary objective to assess the situation and enable the subsequent elimination of threats posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), including improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Mr. Chairman,

We firmly believe that the dire humanitarian consequences of these indiscriminate weapons can be addressed by universal adherence to the Ottawa Convention. Slovenia dedicates special attention to the implementation of the Convention. Slovenia provided a symbolic voluntary contribution for the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.