



*Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic
in Geneva*

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**Statement of
H.E. Mr. Fedor Rosocha
Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations Office and other International
Organizations
in Geneva**

**in Main Committee II
at the 4th Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties
to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)**

Geneva, 15 November 2011

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to begin by congratulating you on the assumption of the Chairmanship of the Main Committee II of this Review Conference. We are convinced that under your able leadership we can reach positive results of the negotiation ahead of us. I assure you of the full support of my delegation for achieving a constructive and forward looking outcome.

The main task of this Committee in coming days is to consider proposals for an additional protocol on cluster munitions to the Convention. In this regard, I wish to thank the chairman of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) Mr. Gary Domingo of the Philippines and his team for their work and dedicated efforts to find a common ground for addressing cluster munitions in the CCW. We welcome the progress that was made by the GGE on negotiating a draft text under his stewardship. My delegation supports continuing negotiations on the basis of the GGE Chair's text and believes that with sufficient political will we can still find consensus and reach an outcome acceptable to all.

Mr. Chairman,

We have gathered here today to show our commitment to international humanitarian law and the willingness to make substantial changes on the ground in relation to cluster munitions.

Slovakia has been supporting and actively participating in international efforts aimed at restricting cluster munitions since the very beginning. We are convinced that the CCW framework is an appropriate forum for providing a solution to this issue, which would enjoy wide support. We continue to believe that finding and concluding an agreement on cluster munitions in the CCW, taking into account both humanitarian and military aspects, which would contribute significantly to a humanitarian outcome is still achievable goal.

I would like to reiterate that Slovakia remains fully committed to negotiate a legally binding Protocol on the Cluster Munitions in the CCW. It is our priority to conclude such a protocol during this Review Conference and to add another crucial instrument into the CCW framework thus reaffirming credibility and relevance of the Convention and strengthening its norms. A failure in this regard might have a negative impact on the CCW as a respected negotiating forum. We must do our best and redouble our efforts to utilize benefits of the CCW framework and to find an acceptable global response to concerns associated with cluster munitions.

Mr. Chairman,

Negotiating a new instrument requires new ideas and new approaches. While we indeed understand and duly recognize an approach and value of the Oslo Convention, we see great benefits in engaging all countries, including those that produce and stockpile vast majority of cluster munitions, to address concerns of these weapons. Establishing a regulatory regime in the framework of the CCW with broad membership would be a great accomplishment. Attempts to strictly mirror provisions of other norms in the new CCW protocol might not be viable approach towards reaching such an achievement.

Slovakia considers the draft text as submitted by the Chairman of the GGE, as a good basis for continuing our work here. It provides for immediate prohibitions of certain type of cluster munitions. It also contains provisions allowing for further evolution and progress of this norm over time thus providing a basis for additional restrictions in the future. In this regard, at this moment my delegation supports retaining definitions of cluster munitions as they stand in the GGE Chair's proposal contained in CCW/GGE/2011-III/1.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate commitment and readiness of my country to continue working with all delegations on a new Protocol on Cluster Munitions on the basis of the draft text as submitted by the Chairman of the GGE.

Thank you.