



STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA AT THE DUBLIN CONFERENCE - EWIPA

by
H.E. Mr. Stanislav Vidovič
Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia in Ireland

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Republic of Ireland for leading the path to this ceremony. I would like to affirm our strong support for the Political declaration on strengthening the protection of civilians from the humanitarian consequences arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

Slovenia has always been a strong advocator for the protection of civilians, with special emphasis on children. Our pledge to strengthen our commitments cannot be timelier as the number of armed conflicts is growing and will continue to grow especially in urban settings.

The use of explosive weapons causes devastating physical harm to civilians but at the same time damages water supplies, electricity, and other civilian infrastructure and harms the environment. Consequences of these destructions are long-lasting and generational, as many civilians must leave their homes, which causes a loss of security and stability, livelihoods, loss of access to education and adequate health services.

In this context, we cannot ignore the grave situation in Ukraine. We are deeply concerned about the aggravating situation with Russia's continuous reprehensible strikes on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure leaving people without electricity, water, and other supplies, as well as exacerbating additional migration flows and internal displacements.

Declaration holds a strong message of the importance of International Humanitarian Law, which has to be respected and effectively implemented in all the circumstances, and at all levels – national, regional and international.

Excellences,

Slovenia has always attached great importance to victims' assistance, which is an important pledge also in this political declaration. Our efforts should continue to focus on both - providing a safe environment for all and ensuring the social and economic inclusion of survivors.

We will continue to support all efforts and activities of organizations that focus on victims' assistance such as Slovenia-based ITF Enhancing Human Security, which with the support of its donors, implements mine-victims assistance programs, provides medical and



psychosocial rehabilitation of victims, provides programs of capacity building, and leads demining activities in different regions of the world.

Finally, I would like to emphasise that Slovenia will continue to promote the protection of civilians in all fora and work towards the effective implementation of International Humanitarian Law. Our joint commitment here today contributes to securing the future for the benefit of all, which is also an important part of our campaign for the non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2024-2025 term.