



**PERMANENT MISSION**  
**OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**  
**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement**

**by**

**H. E. Mr. Michal Mlynár**

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

**at the**

**United Nations Security Council Open Debate**

**on**

***Mine action and sustaining peace: Stronger partnerships for better delivery***

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New York**

Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for organizing this important debate on *Mine action and sustaining peace: Stronger partnerships for better delivery* which will certainly raise awareness of the continued threats posed by landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices to human lives, security and humanitarian efforts. Slovakia associates itself with the statement of the European Union. Allow me to make a few additional observations.

Mr. President,

Mines and other explosive devices, including abandoned munitions and military equipment, unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war (ERW), as well as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) pose a hazard all over the world. Therefore, mine action makes an important contribution to peace, security and development.

Slovakia is a state party to the conventions with relevance for mine action. We strongly support actions, which address the threats of anti-personnel mines, including those of an improvised nature, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention represents the global norm against anti-personnel mines, a norm that has saved thousands of lives and spared countless of children, who constitute the majority of mine victims. Slovakia supports the universal ban on anti-personnel mines. We appeal to all actors to refrain from the production, stockpiling, trade and transfer of anti-personnel mines and strongly condemn their use anywhere, anytime, and by any actor, whether States or non-State actors. We consider the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to be a key disarmament instrument. Its integrity, full implementation and strict application must be guaranteed and universal adherence pursued.

As regards various activities areas within mine action, Slovakia has been active in areas, where it has means and experience. We have been actively engaged in international cooperation and assistance, either on bilateral basis or within activities of international organizations. Slovakia contribution focused mainly on areas of training, capacity building, mine-clearance, destruction of

stocks of anti-personnel mines and other explosive devices, where its focus is on environmentally friendly and secure methods of disposal. Activities of the Slovak troops in the area of demining, mainly in Afghanistan and Iraq, have considerably contributed to the mine action objectives.

Enhanced support of the international community for the preparation and training of national capacities in the field of demining capabilities as part of the Security Sector Reform (SSR) process would undoubtedly contribute to the mitigation of threats caused by ERW and mines. Already for many years, Slovakia has identified SSR to be one of the key elements for effective conflict prevention and successful post-conflict rebuilding and stabilization.

We would like to encourage all decision-makers to make effective use of military-engineering capabilities in peacekeeping operations and to use specifically military demining capabilities to create a secure environment and train national capabilities, and to leave building and construction activities to the capabilities of host states.

Victim assistance is an on-going issue that requires both short and long-term solutions. In this context, we support EU's work with assistance organizations and national authorities in affected countries to use available resources effectively and to contribute to integrating victim assistance into broader disability and development policies at the national level.

Mr. President,

It's my pleasure to state that Slovakia recently contributed to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, which was established by the General Assembly to act as an accountable, fast-track, low-cost mechanism to rid the world of the threat of landmines. Slovakia has also provided a financial contribution to the IEDs Threat Mitigation Advisory Team project as well as to the UNMAS project addressing the threat posed by explosive ordnance in Iraq.

Mr. President,

Mine action is key to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. That is why we emphasize the importance of connecting the Sustainable Development Goals and development strategies with mine action. Now, the world is facing a daunting pandemic, but the threats posed by COVID-19 should not undermine all our previous efforts.

I thank you.