



S L O V A K I A

STATEMENT

by

**His Excellency
Ambassador František Ružička**

**Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic
to the United Nations**

to the First Committee
of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

on Conventional Weapons

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Mr. Chairman,

1. I would like to join others in **congratulating Ambassador Desra Percaya of Indonesia** on his election as the Chairman of the First Committee and also to congratulate other members of the Bureau on their election. We are convinced that under his able leadership we can reach positive results of the negotiation. I assure you, Mr. Chairman, of **the full support of my delegation**.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Slovakia **associates itself with the statement of the European Union** delivered earlier on this subject. Nevertheless, I would like to stress a few points from Slovak perspective.
3. Slovakia believes that **establishment of global conventional arms control regimes** contribute significantly to international peace and security as well as to the efforts aimed at promoting development. Since the last First Committee, there have been several developments in the field of conventional weapons at different fora. We note with satisfaction that in some areas the implementation of relevant existing instruments has been strengthened.
4. There is no doubt that the **Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW)** is one of the important instruments of international Humanitarian Law within the UN framework.
5. Last year at the Review Conference on the CCW the UN Secretary General pointed out, that the **Convention remains a flexible and dynamic framework making a tangible difference in the lives of people caught in cross-hairs of conflict**. It offers a unique forum with a potential to create effective global measures. We have to take advantage of this potential and seek development and implementation of global and viable solutions to common problems and shared concerns.
6. As a State Party to the CCW, **Slovakia remains committed to the full implementation and universal application of the provisions of the framework** Convention and its five Protocols. We take all necessary steps to implement our obligations under the CCW and its protocols.
7. In November last year the **Fourth Review Conference of the CCW was focused on addressing cluster munitions**. Slovakia supported a **legally binding protocol on the cluster munitions** in the framework of the CCW in order to add another crucial instrument into the CCW family.
8. Establishing a **regulatory regime in the framework of the CCW with broad membership** would have been a great accomplishment in addressing concerns of cluster munitions. We continue to believe that finding and concluding an agreement on cluster munitions in the CCW would contribute significantly to a humanitarian outcome and make substantial changes on the ground in relation to these weapons.
9. We regret that the State Parties failed to utilize benefits of the CCW framework and to find an acceptable global response to concerns associated with cluster munitions. **A failure in this regard**

might negatively impact the CCW as a respected negotiating forum. Now, we must **maintain and reaffirm credibility and relevance** of this instrument and to further strengthen it.

Mr. Chairman,

10. **Slovakia has met its obligations stemming from the Mine Ban Treaty (or so called Ottawa Convention)** in an expeditious way. We have focused our contribution to those areas where we are efficient and effective, where we have experience and means to add substantial value into efforts of the international community in the fight against these weapons.
11. We are actively engaged in **clearance of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war in areas of the world where they still threaten the lives of civilians** and create obstacles for the development both in social and economic fields of these countries and their society. Our demining activities, mainly in Afghanistan and Iraq, have placed a small nation such as **Slovakia to the biggest contributors to mine action**. We are committed to continue rendering our services in this field.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Global security has undoubtedly been affected by poorly regulated trade in conventional arms. That is why **Slovakia has been a strong supporter of the UN process aimed at concluding the Arms Trade Treaty**, an instrument for regulating the international legal trade in conventional arms, while combating the illicit trafficking.
13. In July, we gathered here at the UN Diplomatic Conference to confirm our commitment and common determination to change the situation in this area. **We regret that despite the great efforts of all involved we were not able to reach a consensus** and to adopt the Treaty.
14. Nevertheless, we must **recognize that a substantial progress towards a final agreement has been made**. We would like to pay tribute to all Participating States for their engagement and to give high credit to Ambassador Moritan for his stewardship in the whole process so far.
15. We believe that we can and must complete our business and seek a solution, which would bring us to the adoption of the Treaty. Slovakia remains **fully committed to securing a meaningful and effective, legally binding international Arms Trade Treaty**. In this regard, my delegation supports continuing negotiations on the basis of the President's text presented by Ambassador Moritan on 26 July this year. We believe that with sufficient political will we can still find consensus and reach an outcome acceptable to all.
16. Slovakia fully supports **convening the Final UN Conference on the ATT in early 2013** to be governed by the rules of procedures adopted on 3 July 2012 hoping that Ambassador Moritan would be able to lead us on the final step.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman