STATEMENT
BY

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Mr. Chairman,

Before I start with my statement, allow me first to express our support to the statement delivered by Ambassador Lint of Belgium on behalf of the European Union (EU), to which we would like to add few national points.

**Convention on Cluster Munitions**

First of all, I would like to express our sincere joy and satisfaction on the occasion of the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 1 August 2010. This is the most important event in the field of conventional weapons in the course of this year and is in our view an important step towards safer world free of cluster munitions. It is particularly important that the entry into force enabled Secretary General of the UN and depositary of the Convention to convene the First Meeting of the States Parties that will take place in the second week of November this year in the capital of the People’s Democratic Republic of Lao, Vientiane. Slovenia is proud to have been actively involved in the diplomatic process of negotiating the Convention and also ratified it in August 2009, thus becoming the 17th State Party to the Convention.

Slovenia, as a State Party to the Convention, will participate at this meeting. First meeting of States Parties will be a milestone in the life of the Convention. There we will adopt important documents: Vientiane Declaration, Plan of Action, Work Programme for 2011 and reporting mechanisms. These documents will guide our work in future years. Slovenia is grateful to Lao PDR and to the group of its friends - "friends of the chair" for their efforts to prepare the Vientiane meeting. Slovenia also joined this process by assisting Australia being a friend of the chair for cluster munition clearance. The most important challenge ahead of us, the Parties to the Convention, is its universalisation. We hope that soon the number of the Convention States Parties will include more than one hundred states.

**Convention on Anti-personnel Mines**

Slovenia is pleased with the outcome of the Second Review Conference of the States Parties that took place in November last year in Colombia. In Cartagena, under wise and able leadership of Ambassador Susan Eckey of Norway, we adopted an important five-year action plan that must be consistently implemented, notably in the field of mine victims assistance. However, in recent years we have been facing a challenge of growing number of Parties that do not manage to clear mined areas in the 10 years deadline determined by the Article V of the Convention. We all have to overcome donor fatigue and assist those countries, which were so far less exposed to donors’ attention. In this context, the credibility of the Convention is at stake.

At the forthcoming Tenth Meeting of States Parties that will take place in November in Geneva important issues will be discussed, such as review of the intersessional process, future financing of the Implementation Support Unit and other important issues related to the implementation of the Convention. In the context of our fight against the scourge of anti-personnel mines, Slovenia will continue to support the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) that has a seat in Slovenia and currently operates in 14 countries. Lastly, Mr. Chairman, we should not spare any additional efforts related to the
universalisation of the Convention, which must remain our highest priority. We would like to invite all members of the UN that have not acceded to the Convention to do so without further delay and join us in achieving our common noble goal of world without anti-personnel mines.

Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

Regulating international trade in conventional arms remains a challenge of the international community. Strong and robust Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) would be in our view the only relevant and efficient answer of the international community to this problem. We are pleased to note that there are less and less countries that dispute the need to conclude the ATT as a global response to illicit and irresponsible international trade in arms. We would call upon the sceptic countries to join our endeavours. The year of 2012, when we should finalise negotiations on the ATT, is approaching fast. The Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee is due next July here in New York. We should invest additional efforts to take the opportunity and our historic task to move negotiations towards our goal - the Arms Trade Treaty.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me conclude by commending the role of the civil society in our endeavours and international negotiations in the field of conventional weapons. The role of NGOs and other members of civil society is invaluable and often not appreciated enough.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.