

Mr Chairman,

ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF) was established by the Slovenian Government in March 1998 as a non-profit and humanitarian organization, as an indispensable partner of various stakeholders carrying out mine action projects, mainly clearance and victim assistance, in post-Dayton Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Gradually, following the needs of other governments, the wishes of donor community, and its good reputation, ITF has expanded its activities to the rest of South East Europe as well as other conflict-affected regions and countries: Central Asia, South Caucasus, North Africa, and the Middle East. An expanded geographic area came hand in hand with a broadening thematic scope of activities; firstly dealing with demining and mine victim assistance, ITF now covers the entire spectrum of humanitarian mine action and beyond.

The backbone of ITF work is human security. ITF understands human security as a human-centred, holistic, multi-sector approach supporting the nexus between mine action and broader development and human rights issues. This framework enables humanitarian mine action interventions to be implemented in a people-first manner with the objective to ensure the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair.

The highlighted human security approach is reflected within two ITF Strategic Pillars as cornerstones of ITF operations. The scope of **Strategic Pillar I** is to reduce threats from mines, explosive remnants of war and other at-risk weapons and ammunition. As a logical continuation, the scope of **Strategic Pillar II** is facilitation of safe, long-term development and building resilience of conflict-affected communities.

In order to successfully realize this human-centred principle and implement our strategic pillars in practice through ITF activities, a variety of partners/stakeholders is required. In other words, a complex interdependency of partnerships is indispensable to successfully carry out ITF's projects, especially in the field of mine action.

To this end, ever since its outset, ITF works closely with public and private donors, conflict affected states, national agencies, private companies and local partners. In addition, ITF strives to cooperate also with international actors, like international

non-governmental organizations, international governmental organizations and agencies, as well as various regional structures.

Considering the unfolding salient issues in the field of human security, ITF welcomes and looks forward to strengthen already established and reach out new partnerships so as to effectively and successfully further its mission.

Thank you.