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**STATEMENT**

**By**

**H.E. Miroslav Cerar**

**Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia**

**at the World Humanitarian Summit**

**Round table**

**“UPHOLDING THE NORMS THAT SAFEGUARD HUMANITY”**

**Istanbul**

**24 May 2016**

Distinguished Chair and Co-Chairs,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The foundations of modern international humanitarian law were established **more than 150 years ago**. However, we still continue to witness **grave violations of humanitarian norms** in the world.

**Upholding the humanitarian norms** is the **cornerstone of effective humanitarian assistance and should become a universal affair**. Slovenia firmly adheres to the **Agenda for Humanity's core responsibilities** and has formed a number of national commitments.

We will continue to focus our **activities on advocacy and promotion of international humanitarian law**, and will continue supporting initiatives to enhance its implementation. Additionally, endeavours will be devoted to ensure **compliance with refugee law**, while addressing the root causes of the current refugee crisis.

Slovenia has been successfully supporting the promotion of international human rights through **education programmes for young generations world-wide**. By reaching more than **180.000 children in 25 countries** we will continue our endeavours in this regard. Special attention will be devoted to **the role of women and girls**, as equal partners in humanitarian action.

The **protection of civilians and ensuring human security** are among our priorities. With almost two decades of experiences, Slovenia will continue ensuring assistance to countries affected by **mines and explosive remnants of war**. We will continue to support activities in the field of **human security and well-being of children** affected by armed conflicts, implemented by Slovenian non-profit humanitarian Fund "ITF Enhancing Human Security". In the conduct of hostilities Slovenia further pledges to promote the **protection of civilians and civilian property**, including schools and universities, through education and training activities for civilian and military personnel.

Slovenia also advocates compliance with international humanitarian law by promoting **the rule of law, the work of the International Criminal Court and endeavours to stop mass atrocities** in this regard. By a joint and widely supported **mutual legal assistance initiative** Slovenia will continue further promoting accountability for atrocity crimes.

To conclude, **continuous political will and efforts** will be needed to **minimize human suffering and protect civilians**. By a joint effort world-wide to **affirm the norms**, we will be able to address crises in a more effective way.

Thank you.