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.