

Second international conference of the
Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas

San Jose, Costa Rica, 18¹-20 November 2025

Agenda

Day 1 – Wednesday, 19 November 2025

09:00–10:15 | Opening Ceremony

The session will consist of introductory keynote remarks by high-level participants, and other key partners.

10:15–13:00 | Session 1: General Debate: *Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas*

This session will consist of statements from participating states including general statements from endorser states, announcements from new endorser states, and updates from participating non-endorser states. It is an opportunity to make general remarks about the humanitarian consequences arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and to highlight efforts to promote and implement the Declaration and the standards that it aims to set. This segment of the agenda relates to section 1 of the Declaration (the preamble) and section 2 on relevant obligations under international humanitarian law.

- Statements from participating states
- Endorsing Ceremony with Costa Rica and representatives of states that endorsed since the Oslo conference.

13:00–14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30 | Session 2: *Aligning commitments with practice to advance civilian protection.*

This session will focus on national processes to review, develop and improve national policy with regard to the protection of civilians and civilian objects in armed conflict involving the use of explosive weapons in populated areas [3.1]. **This includes identifying the policy elements requiring review, sharing relevant tools and methodologies, and determining which ministries and agencies should be involved in the process.** Secondly, this session will examine how to ensure comprehensive training for military forces particularly to improve understanding of the anticipated effects of explosive weapons on a target and its surrounding areas [3.2, 3.6]. The discussion may also consider ways to enhance cooperation and mutual assistance to support this objective [4.1]. This segment of the agenda relates to operative commitments 3.1, 3.2, 3.6., and 4.1.

¹ The protection forum will take place on the 18th / The EWIPA conference will take place from 19th-20th

- Panel (30 minutes)
- Interventions, questions and comments from the floor (1 hour)

15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee Break

16:00–18:00 | Session 3: *Harm reduction and protection through data collection and sharing.*

This session will focus on the collection and sharing of disaggregated data on the direct and indirect effects on civilians and civilian objects of operations involving the use of explosive weapons in populated areas [4.2]. It will look at practices to record and track civilian casualties [1.8] as well as at methods and tools to better anticipate and mitigate the long-lasting reverberating effects of explosive weapons that often stem from damage and destruction of critical infrastructure, disrupt the provision of basic needs and provision of essential services which are often interconnected [1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6]. This segment of the agenda relates to operative commitments 4.2. and 4.3.

- Panel (30-45 mins):
- Interventions, questions and comments from the floor (50 mins – 1 hour)

Day 2 – Thursday, 20 November 2025

09:00–10:30 | Session 4: *From policy to action: training, resources, and field application*

This session will focus on approaches to adopt and implement practices to help avoid civilian harm, including by restricting or refraining as appropriate from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, when their use may be expected to cause harm to civilians or civilian objects [3.3]. This includes addressing factors that increase risks to civilians, including the weapon's explosive power, its level of accuracy, and the number of munitions used [1.2]. It will also look at practices to take into account the direct and indirect effects on civilians and civilian objects in the planning of operations and execution of attacks [3.4]. This segment of the agenda relates to operative commitments 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 4.2.

- Panel of 3-4 speakers to kick start discussion (30-45 mins):
- Interventions, questions and comments from the floor (1 hour 30 mins / 15 mins)

10:30–11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00–13:00 | Session 5: *Enabling access to humanitarian assistance to communities affected by the use of EWIPA*

This session will focus on how to protect and assist civilian populations affected by armed conflict, including facilitation of humanitarian access to civilians in need, provision of assistance to victims and affected communities, and efforts to support post-conflict recovery and durable solutions [4.4, 4.5, 4.6]. It will also consider how to ensure the marking, clearance, and removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war [3.5]. It will look at how to facilitate the work of international and civil society organisations to address the humanitarian impacts of explosive weapons in populated areas, and considering the differentiated impacts based on

gender, age, disability and other relevant factors [[4.5](#), [4.6](#)],. This segment of the agenda relates to operative commitments 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6.

- Panel of 3-4 speakers to kick start discussion (30-45 mins):
- Interventions, questions and comments from the floor (1 hour 30 mins / 15 mins)

13:00–14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00–15:00 | Roadmap to the Third Conference

15:00–15:30 | Coffee Break

15:30-16:30 | Closing Session