

INTERVENCIÓN DEL VICEMINISTRO PARA ASUNTOS MULTILATERALES
DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COSTA RICA
EMBAJADOR ALEJANDRO SOLANO ORTIZ

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Thank you, Mr. President,

It is an honor for Costa Rica to participate in this follow-up conference to the Political Declaration on Enhancing the Protection of Civilians against the Humanitarian Consequences of the Use of Explosive Weapons in Densely Populated Areas (EWIPA). May my first words, be of appreciation and congratulations for the work done, by both Norway and Ireland in coordination with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and The International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW) for bringing this event to life. We are grateful for your work, hospitality, and support, but more importantly, we are grateful for your commitment to building a safer world for all through dialogue, transparency, and cooperation.

Two years ago, when Costa Rica joined this declaration, we recognized it as a living commitment, part of the ongoing task of building international peace and security. Two years on from Dublin, in an international climate marked by a particular increase in the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, we are witnessing the grave human cost of the use of these weapons in Ukraine, Gaza, Myanmar and Sudan, to name but a few examples of the growing number of conflicts that afflict us as an international community.

Oslo forces us to reflect, we must rise to the challenge we face. We must act against the increasing indiscriminate violence, these crises will not be effectively contained with purely militaristic answers; it is our task as an

international community to resume and redouble our commitment to building peace through dialogue, cooperation and the construction of more just and inclusive societies for all. The answer is in our hands, we must continue to build spaces for dialogue and cooperation.

Your presence - today in Oslo - and the support of a growing community committed to promoting EWIPA's declaration reflect that -even in this tragic chapter of human history when some decided to ignore the rules of international humanitarian law- there is a growing majority ready to protect the hope for better days. And even if it might seem like a pale small glimmer of hope, as long as there is hope, we the signatories of EWIPA, request the international community real actions. Honoring this commitment is one of the best ways to honor and pay respect to the more than 50,000 civilian lives lost due to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas – in the first four months of this year, worldwide -.

This follow-up conference in Oslo has been instrumental in fostering cooperation, sharing best practices, and building renewed commitments to this common cause. We close this conference with a series of recommendations to continue our work. Costa Rica, together with Ireland and Norway, hope that you take these recommendations and build upon them as the foundation of many more actions to be implemented to address the task at hand. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but our commitment will undoubtedly drive our actions forward.

In line with this commitment and following my country's vocation as a promoter of multilateralism, disarmament and the observance of international

law, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that Costa Rica joins Norway and Ireland as a member of the EWIPA troika, to continue promoting the commitments of this declaration and carry on with the task of universalization and implementation of the Declaration and taking this commitment to new spaces of influence at the regional and sub-regional levels.

In addition to complementing the knowledge built in these spaces of exchange, we will emphasize the perspective of different security models that do not focus solely on militarism, but that are compatible with the commitments and objectives of the EWIPA declaration.

As part of this objective and in support of the Troika's joint effort, I am honored to announce that we look forward to host you in Costa Rica next year for the second follow-up conference to the EWIPA Political Declaration. The difficult times that we are facing demand us to respond with strong and concrete actions. Gathering here in Oslo proves that the international community is willing to build upon the commitments announced in Dublin and Costa Rica is ready to continue this task, alongside this vast and diverse community gathered here today. Costa Rica will be very proud to receive all of you next year.

Thank you very much