



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE
POLITICAL DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTION OF
CIVILIANS FROM THE HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES ARISING FROM THE
USE OF EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS ON POPULATED AREAS (EWIPA DECLARATION)**

Oslo, 23.04.2023

Statement by Germany in Session 2 – *Understanding direct and indirect effects*

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me **express our sincere gratitude** to our host country Norway for inviting us and to everyone who contributed to this important conference. **Addressing the humanitarian consequences of EWIPA use remains a key political priority for my government.** We would like to thank all panellists for their highly insightful presentations.

As many among us, Germany has been engaged in the EWIPA process since many years. From early on, we have put a particular focus on indirect or reverberating effects and welcome that we agreed on specific commitments to address this complex, yet important topic.

[Our panellists already convincingly underlined the importance of improving the understanding of the nature, scope and foreseeability of reverberating effects.] We were grateful for the possibility to **support UNIDIR's publication of two *Menus of Indicators*** to support collection of data, to understand and document the reverberating effects of the use of EWIPA on different areas of civilian life.

UNIDIR and the Explosive Weapons Monitor, with the support of Norway and Germany, have organised a **workshop in February in Geneva** to advance discussions on effective measures for the collection of data on reverberating effects. They have **published a Working Paper** that summarises the outcome of the workshop and shows a clear way forward to implement the respective commitments of the declaration. Allow me to congratulate all contributors for this impressive achievement!

This important work is already informing various research efforts on specific cases – such as **Handicap Internationals important study** on the reverberating effects of EWIPA in the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We now do have a solid basis to understand reverberating effects. While this knowledge base will be further enriched via improved data collection, case studies, research and exchange among relevant stakeholders, **we need to move towards utilising this knowledge to inform policies and practices**. We need to conceptualise reverberating effects, and we need to operationalise these concepts. Finally, we need to identify ways to feed it into the practice of our armed forces.

Germany stands ready to decisively contribute to taking this next step: And we are looking forward to support UNIDIR and other partners in **translating the research work into practice**. That could entail tools, guidance and scenario-based exercises that could be used as part of national and regional level workshops and other training and capacity building activities. We could also think of a guidebook for states on how to consider reverberating effects, check-lists on what the EWIPA declaration entails on this topic, as well as on data collection, and

what should be done nationally, or additions to training manuals. We consider national workshops to bring all relevant national stakeholders around the table also useful. **We are open for ideas!**

While indirect or reverberating effects and data collection, might seem complex and abstract, the testimony of Disability rights and refugee activist **Nujeen Mustafa** during yesterdays' Protection Forum workshop has shown how **disaggregated data** and information sharing leads to better policies and practices - and **can save lives**.

[There is a long way ahead of us. But events such as the Conference today are an important step in advancing this work in a constructive and collaborative manner. You can count on Germany's continued support for this endeavour.]

Thank you.