

EWIPA General Debate – San José, Costa Rica

National Statement

19 November 2025

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

- Ireland thanks Costa Rica's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship on hosting the second implementation conference of the EWIPA Political Declaration.
- As we know, this conference builds on the valuable work in Oslo in 2024, where States explored how to translate the Political Declaration into action and practical change.
- This month marks three years since the Declaration was adopted in Dublin in 2022: Ireland remains firmly committed to championing and supporting the full universalisation and effective implementation of the Declaration and its aims.
- Ireland warmly welcomes the most recent endorsing States, Honduras and Lesotho, and we look forward to welcoming more soon.
- Recent conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar, Yemen and elsewhere are a painful reminder of how explosive weapons continue to claim innocent lives and cause long-lasting suffering. The unrestrained use of explosive weapons in populated areas must never be normalised.
- Growing the family of endorsing States helps to strengthen this vital norm. It also adds additional experience and expertise for developing effective tools, training and processes, towards strengthening the protection of civilians.
- These are not additional burdens, but complementary tools and measures for States and militaries to strengthen compliance with existing International Humanitarian Law obligations. Critically, they

should lead to enhanced capabilities for the protection of civilians in conflict zones. For that to be realised, national implementation of the EWIPA Political Declaration is central.

- In Ireland, implementation has informed future force design in the areas of target assessment and Civil-Military Cooperation. Our Defence Forces have reviewed their targeting doctrine and are expanding training in line with commitments under the Political Declaration. Drawing lessons from international workshops, they are also examining enhanced tools, which could increase the specificity of damage assessments, to include second and third order impacts to civilian infrastructure.
- At the Protection Forum yesterday, the impacts from the use of EWIPA on individuals, families and societies was made powerfully clear. It is also clear that the differentiated impacts for men and women, adults and children, and reverberating effects across civilian infrastructure, require better understanding within and amongst States. My delegation thanks all the speakers and wishes to acknowledge the importance of the multi-stakeholder approach to advancing the EWIPA Political Declaration.
- Since the last international conference, Ireland has financially and politically supported the hosting of EWIPA workshops in Johannesburg, Rabat and London. We have also been active participants at national consultations on EWIPA and other EWIPA workshops focused on healthcare access, risk education and conflict preparedness. We stand ready to further support regional champions in the years ahead.
- Discussions, insights and recommendations from these events help to build the foundations for effective implementation. We must now ensure that our work is turned into action through cooperation and engagement.
- Muchas gracias – go raibh maith agaibh – thank you.