



STATEMENT BY THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO
AT THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE POLITICAL
DECLARATION ON THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS FROM THE USE OF
EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS (EWIPA)

19–20 NOVEMBER 2025, SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

Chairperson,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Kingdom of Lesotho is honoured to participate in this important Conference on the Political Declaration on the Protection of Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas. We extend our gratitude to the Government of Costa Rica and to the United Nations for hosting this crucial gathering, which reaffirms our collective commitment to international humanitarian law and the protection of human life and dignity.

It is with great pleasure that the Kingdom of Lesotho announces its formal endorsement of the Political Declaration. This endorsement reflects our firm commitment to strengthening the protection of civilians and ensuring that the conduct of hostilities fully respects the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution.

Lesotho remains deeply concerned by the devastating humanitarian consequences of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, which continue to cause unacceptable civilian deaths, injuries, and destruction of essential infrastructure. We call upon all States engaged in armed conflicts to take concrete measures to prevent such harm, including by restricting or refraining, as appropriate, from the use of explosive weapons where their effects may be expected to cause civilian suffering.

We further encourage all States that have not yet endorsed the Political Declaration to do so without delay, and to begin its implementation in good faith. The universalisation of this Declaration is essential to its success and to our shared responsibility to protect civilians in situations of armed conflict.

At the national level, the Kingdom of Lesotho is committed to taking steps to give practical effect to the Declaration. We intend to translate it into Sesotho for wider dissemination, integrate its principles into our domestic legal and policy frameworks, and designate a national focal point within the Government to coordinate its implementation. Furthermore, we will incorporate the Declaration into the work of our National Committee on International Humanitarian Law and promote its understanding among defence and security institutions.

In conclusion, Lesotho stands in solidarity with all States and humanitarian actors working to reduce civilian suffering and strengthen respect for international humanitarian law. Together, let us turn our collective commitment into concrete action that truly safeguards civilians from the horrors of war.

Thank you, Chairperson