



## **Second International Conference of the EWIPA Declaration**

### **Luxembourg Statement for Session 1:**

*General Debate – Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas.*

**San José, Costa Rica 19 November 2025**

Thank you, (Mr./Ms.) Chair,

Allow me to begin by thanking Costa Rica for hosting this year's conference on EWIPA. We also take this opportunity to commend the recent signings of the declaration by Thailand and Honduras, which demonstrate that efforts toward the universalisation of the Declaration are making tangible progress.

(Mr./Ms.) Chair,

The use of explosive weapons in populated areas has devastating consequences, with civilians accounting for 90% of casualties in such attacks. Explosive weapons damage infrastructure and affect both the physical and psychological health of the civilian population. Children and women are disproportionately affected, while the long-term humanitarian consequences further exacerbate the suffering. Tragically and alarmingly, we are witnessing far too many of these consequences in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan to name just some of the most prominent examples. Ukraine has become the most heavily mined country in the world and will bear the consequences of Russia's illegal war of aggression for decades.

EWIPA constitutes an essential step towards protecting civilians against all potential harms. Therefore, Luxembourg actively contributes to the promotion and advocacy of the Declaration by regularly highlighting its significance at relevant events, most notably during the general debate of the 80<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly's First Committee in New York, calling on Member States to endorse the Declaration.



(Mr./Ms.) Chair,

Luxembourg attaches great importance to shielding of civilians from the consequences of warfare. In addition to supporting various medical and humanitarian access projects, humanitarian demining continues to be a priority for Luxembourg. At the recent GICHD Innovation Conference hosted in Luxembourg in October, Foreign Minister Bettel announced plans for a new 3D database of explosive ordnance that will be hosted in Luxembourg. Once this database is ready and tested, it will be shared with non-profit Mine Action organizations, which will be able to use it to train AI models and create new tools that help make Mine Action programs safer and more effective.

This new initiative, alongside the many demining projects Luxembourg has been supporting in recent years across conflict-affected areas, including Ukraine, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Myanmar, Mali, Lebanon, Mozambique, Senegal, Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Laos, stand as strong testaments to Luxembourg's enduring commitment to demining.

To conclude, my delegation wishes to emphasize the importance of States' annual submission of information on the status of domestic implementation of the Political Declaration, as this allows for the exchange of information and best practices.

We greatly value the productive discussions on the implementation of the political declaration in the days ahead.

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