



**Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas: Oslo Conference
2024**

Session 1: Military policies and practises

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to the Conference on Disarmament**

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Good morning Excellencies and colleagues

Thank you to our host, Norway, and to the panellists for sharing their expertise. We are grateful for this opportunity to review implementation efforts in a collaborative spirit.

New Zealand's EWIPA implementation efforts have required close collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand Defence Force. This has included a stocktake of our existing work to understand what we are already doing well, and to identify the areas we could improve, such as routinely raising implementation and universalisation in military-to-military exchanges. This exercise put us in a good position to engage with INEW's recent survey on implementation. Our thanks to INEW for collating this review.

I wish to draw attention to three concrete examples of New Zealand's policies and practices.

Firstly, the New Zealand Defence Force's Manual of Armed Forces Law recognises from the outset that armed conflict is now frequently conducted in areas inhabited by civilians, including refugees and displaced persons. The Manual, and training of all soldiers and officers throughout their careers includes comprehensive information on our obligations under international humanitarian law.

Second, we recently refreshed our criteria for assessing proposed exports of military, dual-use, and catch-all goods under our domestic export controls regime. The EWIPA Declaration is now explicitly listed in guidance on our assessment criteria, as a commitment that an export

should be consistent with. This means that the proposed export, its end-user and potential end-use will be assessed in light of the Declaration, among other commitments.

Finally, our Defence Force strives to include Legal Advisers in each deployment where kinetic targeting may be involved. The recent deployment of personnel to uphold maritime security and freedom of navigation in the Red Sea is an example of where we included a Legal Adviser, to ensure alignment with our commitments during the planning of operations. New Zealand takes seriously our obligations to ensure our activities are always in line with IHL.

New Zealand will continue to look for opportunities to ensure the Declaration is highlighted and upheld, and we are grateful for this opportunity to learn from others.

In closing, I use this opportunity to draw attention to New Zealand's recently released Disarmament and Arms Control Strategy for 2024 to 2026, available on our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. This strategy makes specific reference to the EWIPA Declaration, directing our efforts towards uptake and implementation, particularly in the Indo-Pacific.

Our thanks again to Norway, Ireland, and the many others leading our efforts to strengthen the protection of civilians. Realising this is more important than ever.