



# EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS



# **EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS**

Oslo Conference 2024

## **CHAIR'S SUMMARY**

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL FOLLOW-UP  
CONFERENCE**

of the

**Political Declaration on Strengthening  
the Protection of Civilians from the  
Humanitarian Consequences Arising  
from the Use of Explosive Weapons in  
Populated Areas**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



- I. INTRODUCTION – PAGE 4
- II. OPENING SESSION – PAGE 5
- III. SESSION I: MILITARY POLICIES AND PRACTICES – PAGE 8
- IV. SESSION II: UNDERSTANDING DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS – PAGE 13
- V. SESSION III: ASSISTING CONFLICT-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES – PAGE 17
- VI. CLOSING SESSION – PAGE 21
- VII. RECOMMENDATIONS – PAGE 23

- 
- ANNEX 1 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
  - ANNEX 2: OUTCOME STATEMENT
  - ANNEX 3: LIST OF ENDORSING STATES
  - ANNEX 4: LIST OF PARTICIPATING STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS
  - ANNEX 5: LIST OF WORKING PAPERS SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE

# I. INTRODUCTION

The first international follow-up conference of the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas took place on 23 April 2024 in Oslo, Norway.

The conference brought together 245 participants from 81 States, including senior officials, experts from ministries of defence and foreign affairs, 41 international, regional and civil society organisations, as well as private sector, and academia representatives.

The aim of the conference was to take stock of the Declaration's implementation, to discuss progress, opportunities and challenges, as well as explore areas for further progressing the Declaration's aims and commitments. It furthermore provided a space to exchange on the central commitments of the Declaration with a view to build a shared understanding of the priority areas and key issues in implementing the Declaration, including different regional experiences and approaches. For this, the conference focused on three core areas:

- i. Military policies and practices
- ii. Understanding direct and indirect effects
- iii. Assisting conflict-affected communities

In addition to facilitating exchanges on implementation, the conference aimed to foster cooperation between States and other participants, as well as to promote awareness of the Declaration to ensure that it gains more support, endorsements and attention in the years to come.

The Chair's summary provides a brief account of the conference. It is issued under the sole responsibility of Norway and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). The summary does not attribute statements made during the meeting to specific delegations beyond those delivered during the panel presentations, nor does it purport to reflect a consensual view of delegations or the position of the Chair or UNODA.

## II. OPENING SESSION

The opening session set the stage for the conference by highlighting the continued relevance of the Declaration, the humanitarian impacts of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and the urgent need to strengthen the protection of civilians from their use, placing a particular focus on lived experiences and testimonies from relevant contexts.

The conference was opened by **Tine Mørch Smith**, Director General of the Department for Multilateral Affairs of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She introduced the Declaration's proposed new support structure composed of a 'Troika', made up of

the previous, current and future Chairs of the process, Ireland, Norway and Costa Rica, in collaboration with UNODA, which was established to support the universalization, implementation and promotion of the Declaration.

**Andreas Kravik**, State Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, underlined the crucial importance of the Declaration in light of the increasing use of explosive weapons in populated areas, including in Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. He reiterated that the Declaration commits endorsing States to do more to protect and assist civilians in



© Ludvig Gundersen

armed conflict and requires endorsing States to assess their own policies and practices to ensure that the necessary precautionary measures are in place.

**Marwa Almbaed**, an activist and a survivor from Syria, provided a first-hand testimony about the devastating impact of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and the particular challenges faced by people with disabilities during settings of conflict. She noted that psychological harm from wars is often overlooked but that depression and trauma are prevalent amongst the survivors and that approximately seventy-five per cent of Syrian people are estimated to suffer from psychological trauma.

**Dr. Younis Al Khatib**, President of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, informed of the current situation in Gaza, noting that the extensive use of explosive weapons in what is considered to be one of the most densely populated areas in the world had led to over thirty-four thousand casualties in the span of seven months. He noted that the majority of the hospitals had ceased functioning due to destruction of the premises and equipment, rendering the healthcare system non-operational to treat the injured or provide the required medical care for those with chronic or long-term diseases or disabilities. He appealed to endorsing States to commit to avoiding civilian harm when conducting military operations and not amplify a global pattern of harm.

**Svitlana Avramenko** Head of War-related Threat Awareness Department, Ukrainian Red Cross Society, briefed on the current situation in Ukraine, noting that it is now considered one of the most mine contaminated areas in the world, facing severe humanitarian, environmental challenges and imposing physical and psychological harms on individuals and communities. She informed that mine action activities are being implemented despite active hostilities, focused in particular on improving training procedures, providing civilian risk education, restoring agricultural sectors and access to drinking water, and rebuilding housing. However, she added that immediate and long-term clearance operations remain dependent on support from relevant partners and funding and called on partners to strengthen the joint work.

Speaking on behalf of the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW), **Ms. Radhya Al-Mutawakel**, underlined the unprecedented levels of civilian harm and suffering, noting that in 2023 alone civilian harm from the use of explosive weapons was recorded in at least 75 countries and territories. She urged that the Declaration should act as a lens that turns political attention to ongoing harm and drives humanitarian action in response and called on endorsing States to speak out on civilian harm, regardless of the perpetrator, to investigate this harm, and strengthen efforts to establish accountability.

**Mélanie Régimbal**, Chief of Service of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), delivered a Statement on behalf of ten UN entities (OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNHCR, UNEP, UNICEF, UNIDIR, UNMAS, UNOPS, UNODA) to send a message of unity and determination. On behalf of the UN system, she appealed to endorsing States to urgently and ambitiously implement the Declaration, and reiterated the UN Secretary-General's longstanding call to avoid the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. She further reemphasized the continued and coordinated support of the United Nations system to the process through its varied mandates, including via the development and compilation of good practice, policies and norms aimed at protecting civilians at the global, regional and national levels, facilitating dialogue amongst all actors, the provision of technical assistance to develop standards and policies, clearance efforts,

explosive ordnance and risk education, as well as the collection of disaggregated data to contribute to evidence-based dialogue.

**H.E. Noel White**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, reiterated the clear operational commitments and practical measures the Declaration puts to endorsing States, and all parties to armed conflict, to drive effective change in the protection of civilians. Referring to the ongoing wars in Ukraine and Gaza, among others, he recalled the international community's collective responsibility to reinforce global norms and address the causes of human suffering and noted that work on the implementation of the Declaration will require long-term cooperation among States, international organisations, and civil society.



© Ludvig Gundersen



### III. SESSION I – Military Policies and Practices

The session focused on the commitments in the Declaration regarding the adoption, review and implementation of policies and practices aimed at strengthening the protection of civilians and avoiding civilian harm (primarily commitments 3.1.–3.4.). The session was opened by a panel discussion, moderated by Wendy **MacClinchy**, Director of the United Nations program at the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), and was followed by thematic interventions from participants.

#### PANEL

**Rear Admiral Bjørn-Erik Marthinsen**, Deputy of the Norwegian Defence Staff, expressed concern that the proliferation of explosive weapons has fundamentally altered the nature of armed conflict. He underlined that the issue of explosive weapons in populated areas intersects with safety and security considerations worldwide, noting that it poses concrete risks to civilians, the environment and the social fabrics of communities.

**Dr. Arnold Kammel**, Secretary General of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence, underlined the importance of prevention and mitigation measures, and the centrality of assessing risks and humanitarian consequences, including considering reverberating effects, when conducting an attack. He further shared some key findings of the Vienna Military Workshop on EWIPA (working paper one contained in Annex V), which i.a. recognized: the need to more actively include civilian expertise in military planning and training; the necessity to enhance knowledge on the reverberating effects and the humanitarian consequences of explosive weapons in a specific context of

use; and that commander's intent during military operations and its transmission to the soldiers in the field is one of the most important aspect to ensure the protection of civilians.

**Ltcol Peter de Bock**, Senior Policy Advisor on the Protection of Civilians with the Directorate of International Affairs of the Netherlands Ministry of Defence, briefed on the ongoing efforts of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in developing internal military procedures with the aim of developing a national civilian harm mitigation strategy. Referring to a baseline study conducted to determine how civilian harm, including from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, is assessed and responded to in the context of implementing paragraph 3.1 of the Declaration, he: affirmed the importance of education, training and independent checking of use cases; recognized that misidentification plays a major contributing factor to civilian harm; stressed the importance of considering and mitigating the effects of explosive weapons due to the consistently high numbers of





© Ludvig Gundersen

civilian deaths; noted the ongoing commitment by the Kingdom of the Netherlands to minimize civilian harm including by restricting the use of certain weapons; underscored that the best way to refrain is to not utilize explosive weapons in populated areas.

**Dan Stigall**, Director for Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response Policy with the Office of the United States Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Irregular Warfare and Counterterrorism, Special Operations & Low-Intensity Conflict, provided an overview of the United States' recent national efforts revising and developing national policies and practices. These include the establishment of a Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response Action Plan

(CHMR-AP), intended to create an institutional and policy framework to mitigate and respond to civilian harm which further includes the formation of the Civilian Protection Centre of Excellence (CP CoE) which will serve as the Department of Defense's (DoD) hub of analysis, learning, and training with the aim to institutionalize good practices across the force. Further efforts include the release of a new civilian harm mitigation and response instruction that formalizes a requirement to assess civilian harm resulting from military operations and standardizes civilian harm assessment processes across the Department of Defense.

Addressing practical implementation measures to review and develop policies and

practices to promote and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law, **Laurent Gisel**, Head of the Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit with the Legal Division of the ICRC, urged States to implement an avoidance policy (avoiding the use of explosive weapons in populated areas), noting that the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas is expected to have indiscriminate effects and is therefore likely to violate international humanitarian law. Regretting that few States actively taking part in armed conflict have endorsed the Declaration, he further stressed that all endorsing States have a responsibility beyond their participation in hostilities, in particular when assessing the provision of means that support parties to armed conflict.

**Diana Castillo**, Director of International Relations with the Colombian Ministry of Defence, briefed on national implementation measures. These include guiding documents for military operations which seek to ensure compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law during all operations; constant exchange with operational legal advisors during military decision-making processes; training of armed forces and a prohibition to target combatants in the presence of minors. Reflecting on the Colombia's national context and paragraph 3.6 of the Declaration, she regretted the continued use of explosive weapons in populated areas, in particular of an improvised nature



© Ludvig Gundersen

and the use of increasingly sophisticated technologies, by non-state armed groups.

Addressing implementation challenges **Laura Boillot**, Director of Article 36, acknowledged the difficulty of building new norms and standards in light of the current scale of use of explosive weapons in populated areas, as well as of the limited awareness of the Declaration within Ministries of Defence and armed forces, stemming i.a. from a disconnect between Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence. On the necessary steps, she stressed the urgent need for the international community to stigmatise all harmful practices, to ensure transparency over actions, to establish a better understanding of the indirect effects, and for States to recognise that compliance with international humanitarian law is not sufficient to implement the Declaration or to avoid civilian harm, which requires a process of policy review, and development. In this regard she noted that the Declaration provides specific guidance and identifies concrete actions through its commitments.

## THEMATIC STATEMENTS

Following the panel discussion, States and other meeting participants delivered remarks on steps taken to implement and operationalize the Declaration, including on measures aimed at preventing and mitigating civilian harm, as well as on challenges faced.

Delegations recalled the centrality of reinforcing **international cooperation**. They recognized the importance of collaborative action in particular among the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence, of exchanging with relevant partners from international and civil society organisation, as well as of actively including civilian expertise in military planning and training.

The commitment for the full compliance with **international humanitarian law** by the armed forces with a view to restrict or refrain from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas was noted as a central measure to implement the Declaration and mitigate civilian harm. Some delegations also noted that the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in densely populated areas will inevitably cause indiscriminate harm and thus cannot comply with the principles of distinction, precaution, and proportionality as required by international humanitarian law.

Other priority areas to implement the Declaration included ensuring that the Declaration is integrated in **training** programmes for military personnel, the review and potential adaptation of practices and processes to assess the lawfulness of the use of certain weapons and expected

collateral damage, as well as ensuring that legal advisers are present at various levels of command. Among measures to strengthen operational procedures Delegations mentioned the potential of using advanced technological assets, i.e. drones, including to improve information gathering.

The **exchange of good practices** among States and including relevant partners and organizations was highlighted as an important measure to operationalize the Declaration and review progress made on the implementation with a view to better protect civilians and civilian infrastructure. The military workshops organised by Austria as well as Article 36 and Airwars (working papers one and two contained in annex V) were noted as essential initiatives in this regard. In addition, the establishment of an online platform containing national practices, i.e. those submitted to the Conference by the United States (working paper six contained in annex V), was suggested as a practical measure to facilitate the exchange of good practices and support implementation of the Declaration.

Some Delegations called on endorsing States to stop the **transfer and sale** of explosive weapons expected to be used

against the provisions of international humanitarian law and the commitments contained in the Declaration. In this regard primary responsibility for management use and transfer of weapons as well as the revision of criteria for assessing exports of military, dual-use, and catch-all goods under domestic export controls regimes, to explicitly cover the Declaration was raised.

Delegations underlined the importance of **regional and sub-regional efforts** to facilitate universalization and implementation efforts, address concerns of the region and elaborate specific recommendation. The regional workshop organized by UNODA and Ireland in Togo (working paper seven contained in annex V),

which brought together 15 African States was recognized as a crucial endeavour in building awareness and strengthening capacities to further implementation efforts and ensure active engagement during meetings of the Declaration.

Among the challenges encountered, concerns that **non-state armed groups and terrorists** escape the application of international humanitarian law and are not likely to adhere to the commitments contained in the Declaration were raised by some Delegations. In this regard it was noted that these actors must be held accountable.



© Ludvig Gundersen

## IV. SESSION II – Understanding direct and indirect effects

The session focused on the direct and indirect effects arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and the centrality of data collection in understanding these effects (primarily commitments 3.4., 4.2.–4.3.). As such the discussion aimed to increase understanding on how direct and indirect effects are understood, what the long-term consequences might be, and how those can be factored into the planning and execution of military operations. The session furthermore looked at approaches to establishing mechanisms to collect data on civilian harm from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, spaces for sharing findings from recent data collection efforts and how such mechanisms can be used to improve the tracking of and responses to civilian harm. The session was opened by a panel discussion, moderated by Dr. **Robin Geiss**, Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), and was followed by thematic interventions from participants



© Ludvig Gundersen

## PANEL

Ambassador **Ammar Hijazi**, Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine, briefed the conference on the current situation in Gaza. Speaking to the direct effects of the extensive use of explosive weapons, he noted that over thirty-four thousand people, including fifteen thousand children had been killed over the span of six months and that nearly all hospitals, schools, universities and other public institutions had ceased to exist or function. In addition, indirect effects continue to hamper civilian life and well-being, as over three quarters of the population now faces food insecurity, no longer has access to basic medical services, and has been internally displaced as seventy per cent of all homes have been destroyed or rendered inaccessible due to large amounts of explosive remnants. Reiterating that the Declaration is rooted in a large number of existing norms and rules that the international community is bound by, he cautioned that a failure to uphold even these values and principles and the ongoing provisions of weapons to Israel by endorsing States, will undermine and delegitimize the Declaration.

**Katherine Young**, Research and Monitoring Manager of the Explosive Weapons Monitor gave an overview of the Monitor's findings for the year 2023, which recorded a staggering increase of explosive weapons in populated areas over the past year, driven in

large parts by the war in Gaza. Figures by the Monitor furthermore showed that uses have been recorded in seventy-three countries, and that attacks on humanitarian aid occurred nearly five times more often in 2023 compared to previous years. She



© Ludvig Gundersen

recognized that further efforts are needed to strengthen the work on data collection and understanding reverberating effects, underlining in particular the need for detailed incident-based data collection, while also noting the importance of qualitative information to understand patterns of harm beyond the immediate impact. In this regard she shared recommendations from a workshop organized by UNIDIR and the Explosive Weapons Monitor (working paper five contained in Annex V) to advance the collection of data on indirect or reverberating effects of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

**Simon Walker**, Chief of the Rule of Law and Democracy Section of the United Nations

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), put forward concrete ways in which casualty recording and the collection of disaggregated data can support the implementation of the Declaration. This includes an improved understanding of the impacts on various groups, including gendered impacts; an ability to improve the provision of assistance to victims, families and communities, including by identifying discriminatory patterns of harm; and the ability to inform policies and practices to help avoid civilian harm. He, furthermore, noted that further collaboration among casualty recorders, and a greater sharing of data, including by States and national statistics offices is needed.

**Ezequiel Heffes**, Director of Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, stressed the importance of bringing the Declaration to a cross cutting arena and ensuring it is used as a cross cutting tool. This includes bringing the Declaration to discussions on humanitarian concerns and breaking thematic and geographic siloes. Recognizing the devastating impact of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas on children, he underlined the importance of better understanding the particular situation children face during armed conflict, including their potential recruitment by armed groups as well as the need to ensure accountability, including through prosecution at the domestic level for crimes against children as well as commissions of enquiry.

## THEMATIC STATEMENTS

Following the panel discussion, States and other meeting participants delivered remarks on the immediate and long-term effects of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and addressed concerns raised by current contexts of use.

Numerous delegations raised concern at the stark **increase in armed conflict** and widespread use of explosive weapons in populated areas, in particular in the context of Gaza, Myanmar, Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen, noting that these constitute a failure of the international community to prevent conflict and meaningfully commit to an avoidance of civilian harm as stipulated by the declaration. Particular concern was raised on disproportionate attacks, meaning those which are expected to cause loss of civilian life, injuries to civilians and damage to civilian infrastructure and which are excessive in relation to the concrete military advantage, attacks that do not comply with the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution, as well as direct attacks on healthcare, which results in catastrophic direct and indirect effects on civilians.

Noting that existing tools lack considerations of the indirect effects of explosive weapons in populated areas, delegations affirmed the need to take into account long-term and reverberating effects when planning and conducting attacks. They acknowledged the importance of

utilizing the extensive body of research and knowledge on **direct and indirect effects** to inform policies and practices and to operationalize concepts. The recommended prevention and mitigation measures, stemming out of the expert meetings by the ICRC (working paper four contained in Annex V) on preventing and mitigating the indirect effects of the use of explosive weapons on essential services were recognized as an important effort in this regard. It was, however, also noted that further work is needed to translate the extensive body of research, in particular on the indirect effects, into practice and integrate it into training, exercises and guidebooks.

The **collection of disaggregated data**, on both direct and indirect effects, was recognized as an essential measure to understand civilian harm, to inform the development of policies and practices, to enhance the quality of battle damage assessments and to ensure accountability including by facilitating investigations. Delegations commended the ongoing work on casualty recording by civil society and the United Nations, and called to further support this work. In addition, the 2019 Guidance on Casualty Recordings by the OHCHR as well as the 2016 Standards for Casualty Recording by Every Casualty

Worldwide were recognized as important tools.

In addition, some reflected on the need to involve **conflict-affected communities** to better understand the nature and extend of direct and indirect effects, including on the long-term harm caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The importance of consulting international and civil society organizations operating on the ground, including those directly linked to healthcare and religious institutions, was further underlined.

Delegations shared views on the effects of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas on the **environment**. It was recommended that parties to armed conflict ensure that environmental risks are fully integrated into the planning and conduct of military operations, including in the assessment of targets, considering the potential long-term effects, contamination of the soil and resources has on the civilian population. In addition, it was noted that the implementation of the Declaration should align with relevant environmental processes and policies, for example the UN Environment Assembly resolution on environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflicts.



## V. SESSION III – Assisting conflict-affected communities

The session put forward the perspectives of communities affected by explosive weapons in populated areas and focussed on the humanitarian-centred aspects of the Declaration (primarily commitments 3.5., 4.4., 4.5. and 4.6). Through the discussion the session sought to address the different types of assistance needed by affected communities, both during and after conflict, and steps that can be taken to protect civilians and facilitate and maintain humanitarian access, while emphasizing the importance of supporting the work of humanitarian organisations in providing assistance and protection, including clearance of contaminated areas, risk education and victim assistance. The session was opened by statements of some affected States and a panel discussion, moderated by **Dina Abou Samra**, Protection Advisor in the Policy and Planning Section of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and was followed by thematic interventions from participants.



© Ludvig Gundersen

## AFFECTED STATES

Expressing concern at the ongoing attacks on schools and hospitals in Gaza and Ukraine, **Bosnia Herzegovina** urged all States to respect the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and take the necessary steps to implement the Declaration, noting that policies are only as good as their implementation. **Cambodia** recalled the extensive harm of explosive

weapons to the environment, critical and civilian infrastructure and underlined the centrality of clearance efforts as explosive remnants continue to hamper reconstruction efforts. It further reiterated the UN Secretary-General's call to avoid the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and take conflict out of urban areas altogether.

## PANEL

**Alma Taslidžan**, Disarmament and Protection of Civilians Manager for Humanity & Inclusion pointed to the lasting physical impairments and psychological trauma caused by blasts and fragmentations, calling on States to use the Declaration and extensive documentation of harm as incentive to prevent harm. Pointing to the availability of emergency healthcare as a deciding factor for survival, she stressed that a lack of materials and equipment to deal with injuries, will lead to increased casualties and higher likelihood for injuries to become life-long disabilities that require extensive and long-term rehabilitation.

funding commitments, he underlined in particular the importance of supporting organizations that work to negotiate humanitarian access, as well as local protection actors working directly with the civilian population and providing legal information, counselling and psychological support to affected communities.

Ambassador **Julien Thöni**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, briefed on Switzerland's long-standing support humanitarian organizations working to assist conflict affected communities, including in Ukraine, Sudan and Yemen. Calling on States to strengthen



© Ludvig Gundersen

**Hazel de Wet**, Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Programmes with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), cautioned that casualty numbers of the past

five years suggest a dynamic shift where explosive weapons are replacing firearms as a leading threat to children in armed conflict situations, as evidenced in numerous conflicts around the world including in the State of Palestine, Myanmar, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine. Emphasizing the immense suffering of children affected by the use of explosive weapons, who are killed, maimed, and face psychological, and social impacts that can persist throughout their lifetimes, she called for a global recognition that these attacks are neither acceptable nor inevitable.

The concern over the increasing use and acceptability of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas was further confirmed by **Alonso Martínez Ruiz**, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations in Geneva, who emphasized the importance of the Declaration as a mechanism to counter this dynamic, before, during and after armed conflict. He appealed to all endorsing States and the international community at large to heed the commitment contained in the Declaration to actively promote and distribute it and seek adherence to its commitments by all parties to armed conflict.

### THEMATIC STATEMENTS

Following the panel discussion, States and other meeting participants delivered remarks on efforts taken to address and respond to humanitarian concerns arising

from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, as well as the challenges faced in the delivery of assistance.

Delegations shared views on the need to address the **remedial aspects** of the Political Declaration, recognizing the imperative to provide, facilitate, or support assistance to victims and affected communities, as recognized by the Declaration. Against the backdrop of increasing attacks on humanitarian and healthcare providers, the need for security and for States to reinforce the protection of medical facilities, healthcare and humanitarian workers was underlined as essential to enable the work of humanitarian organizations to deal with the impacts of explosive weapons in populated areas. In addition, predictable financing, including to reinforce civil society actors and organizations on the ground, was highlighted as an important factor for being able to provide long-term and targeted assistance to affected communities.

Delegations further underlined that reverberating effects were further prolonged and worsened when affecting people's **health**, warning about the risks of the spreading of diseases due to drinking water contamination that can lead to a spread of infectious diseases including cholera, dysentery and typhoid as has been documented in a number of conflicts including in Gaza, Iraq, Ukraine and Yemen. The direct and indirect effects of explosive weapons on cultural heritage and, by

extension, on civilians were noted as another area that necessitated preventive and remedial action.

Addressing the difficulties of clearance operations in urban areas, numerous Delegations raised concerns at the long-term threats posed by **explosive remnants of war (ERW)**, that impede humanitarian access and the provision of critical services, limit movement and the safe return of communities, cause food insecurities due a disruption in services and contamination of soil and agricultural areas, and hamper development efforts. The need for international cooperation and national responses were underlined as critically

important measures to address the threats posed by ERW and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the civilian population. In addition, it was, however, noted that clearance activities cannot be postponed to post-conflict settings and that humanitarian demining and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) are critical even during active hostilities.

Recognizing that the uses of explosive weapons in populated areas are likely to lead to indiscriminate damage and render the provision of humanitarian relief impossible, some delegations reiterated the call to avoid the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

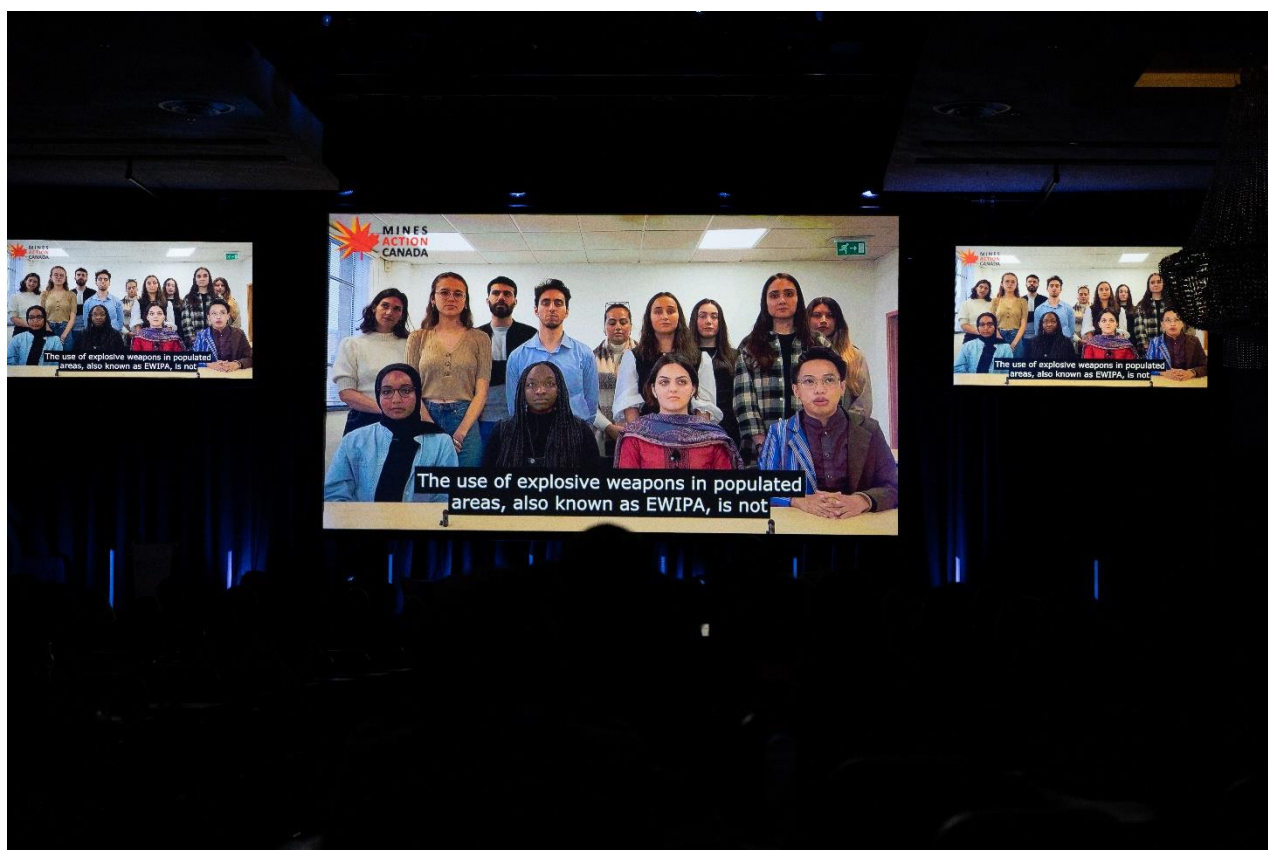


© Ludvig Gundersen

## VI. CLOSING SESSION

The closing session addressed the work ahead, including efforts to achieve broader support for the Declaration and further strengthen its implementation. During the session an outcome statement including recommendations for the way forward, issued by the Troika, was presented to the conference.

A **youth group**, including people who have directly been affected by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, delivered a statement to the conference via video. They underscored the pattern of harm witnessed in Gaza, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine and called on States to take immediate action by endorsing and ambitiously implementing the Declaration to ensure civilian needs are met.



© Ludvig Gundersen

**Caoimhe Udom**, Deputy Director for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of the Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, welcomed the four new endorsing States: Jordan, Kosovo, Montenegro, and North Macedonia

and called on all endorsing States to review and improve national frameworks. Speaking to Ireland's continued commitment to the Declaration and its role as a universalization champion, she briefed

on initiatives taken to promote the Declaration, including at regional and sub-regional level, noting the importance of taking into account the views and concerns of a wide range of regions to ensure global ownership of the Declaration.

**Juliana Helou van der Berg**, Political Affairs Officer with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs highlighted that UNODA has taken on a leading support and coordination role for the Declaration, as recognised in the Troika outcome statement. She informed that as part of this role the office seeks to act as a cross-sectoral coordination entity among all stakeholders with a view to build a roadmap for the path ahead, facilitate implementation and capacity building through technical, operational, and policy exchanges at the international, regional, and subregional levels; promote universalization and bring the declaration to a cross-cutting arena of discussion.

**Alejandro Solano Ortiz**, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica announced Costa Rica taking over the Chairmanship of the process with the intention to host the next follow-up conference in 2025. He reiterated the importance of building a space for dialogue and cooperation and called on endorsing States to honour their commitments under the Declaration.

**Anne Beathe Tvinnereim**, Minister of International Development for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, recalled that the choice of the means and methods of warfare has an immense bearing on civilians and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, but that a meaningful implementation of the Declaration and its commitments can significantly strengthen compliance with International Humanitarian Law, save lives and prevent suffering.



© Ludvig Gundersen

To build on the progress achieved in Oslo and to advance the Declaration's goals, the Troika, in its outcome statement, furthermore, put forward the **following recommendations to the endorsing States**:

- I. To **identify national focal points** for the Declaration and lead implementation efforts, including disseminating the Declaration and its objectives within the armed forces.
- II. To **share regular updates on national implementation** of the Declaration on a voluntary basis and respond to implementation surveys, thereby supporting efforts to monitor implementation.
- III. To **contribute to building an active intersessional programme of work** to advance implementation and universalisation of the Declaration. This could take the form of thematic and regional meetings and/or structured intergovernmental and military-to-military exchanges, including multistakeholder participation.
- IV. To **accelerate efforts to take stock of implementation and share good policies and practices**, and if necessary to review, update and develop national operational policies and practices.
- V. To continue to **foster cooperation between states and international and civil society organisations** to promote awareness of the Declaration and to ensure it gains more support and attention in the years to come.
- VI. To **conduct outreach and increase engagement** to encourage more states to endorse, especially from underrepresented regions, recognising the value of cross-regional support for the Declaration, and the experiences and approaches different regions bring to these efforts. High priority should be given to promoting full adherence to commitments under the Declaration by all parties to conflict.
- VII. To **share national examples of policies and practices and lessons** learned on implementation, for inclusion on an online portal and information hub hosted by UNODA.



## Official Conference Programme

The 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 in Populated Areas (EWIPA Declaration)*

**Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Oslo, 22–24 April**

### 22 April

19:00–21:00      Opening reception for the Conference

Opening Reception for all participants hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at *Høymagasinet*, Myntgata 7, Akershus Fortress. Opening remarks delivered by the State Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Eivind Vad Petersson.

### 23 April      Official Conference - Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel

08:00–09:00      Registration for the Conference

09:00–10:00      Opening session with high-level participants

The session will consist of introductory remarks by high-level participants, and other key actors, focusing on the continued relevance of the Declaration and the humanitarian impacts of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, including lived experiences and testimonies from relevant contexts. The opening session will set the stage for the Conference by highlighting the urgent need to strengthen the protection of civilians from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

#### Speakers:

- **Andreas Kravik**  
State Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway
- **Tine Mørch Smith**  
Director General, Department for Multilateral Affairs, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Ambassador Noel White**





Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations in Geneva

- **Mélanie Régimbal**  
Chief of Service of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs - Geneva
- **Marwa Almbaed**  
Student of Occupational Therapy, Survivor and Self-Advocate from Syria
- **Dr. Younis Al-Khatib**  
President of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS)
- **Radhya al-Mutawakel**  
Representative for the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW)
- **Svitlana Avramenko**  
Head of War-related Threat Awareness Department, Ukrainian Red Cross Society

#### 10:00-11:30      Session 1: Military policies and practises

The session will focus on the commitments in the Declaration pertaining to the adoption, review and implementation of policies and practices by states aimed at strengthening the protection of civilians and avoiding civilian harm (primarily commitments 3.1.–3.4.). Participants will have the opportunity to share examples of steps being taken at the national level to review and revise existing policies and practices, or to adopt new ones, and will share lessons learned and good practices that support the implementation of the Declaration. This may include relevant operational experiences, from both states and humanitarian organisations, and measures undertaken to prevent and mitigate civilian harm, as well as the development of rules of engagement, operational or tactical directives, and other policy initiatives relevant to the Declaration. The session will also be an opportunity to provide information about meetings and workshops with military experts held since the endorsing ceremony in Dublin in 2022.

#### **Speakers:**

- **Rear Admiral Bjørn-Erik Marthinsen**  
Deputy of the Norwegian Defence Staff
- **Arnold Kammel**  
Secretary General of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence
- **Wendy MacClinchy (moderator)**  
Director of the United Nations program at Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)



- **Ltcol Peter de Bock MA EMSD**  
Senior Policy Advisor on Protection of Civilians, Directorate of International Affairs, The Netherlands Ministry of Defence
- **Dan Stigall**  
Director for Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response Policy, Office of the United States Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Irregular Warfare and Counterterrorism, Special Operations & Low-Intensity Conflict
- **Laurent Gisel**  
Head of the Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit, Legal Division of the ICRC
- **Diana Castillo**  
Director of International Relations, Colombian Ministry of Defence
- **Laura Boillot**  
Director, Article 36

### **Statements from the podium**

Guiding questions for thematic statements:

- What concrete steps are being taken by your state to ensure that the armed forces implement the EWIPA Declaration?
- What national policies, training and practices do states and their armed forces need to review, develop and improve in order to better protect civilians in armed conflict involving the use of explosive weapons in populated areas?
- How should states and their armed forces determine when it is appropriate to restrict and/or refrain from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas to avoid civilian harm, and how can this be incorporated into policy and implemented operationally?
- What national military policies and practices are needed to adequately foresee the direct and indirect effects of the use of explosive weapons on civilians and civilian objects?

11.30-12.00      Coffee break

12.00-13:30      Session 2: Understanding direct and indirect effects

The session will focus on the direct and indirect effects arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and the centrality of data collection in understanding



these effects (primarily commitments 3.4., 4.2.–4.3.). The aim is to initiate a discussion on how direct and indirect effects are understood, what the long-term consequences might be, and how this can be factored into the planning and execution of military operations. The session will look at approaches to establishing mechanisms to collect data on civilian harm from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. It will also provide an arena for sharing findings from recent data collection efforts and elaborating on how mechanisms of data collection can be used to improve the tracking of and responses to civilian harm. The session will also address opportunities and challenges relating to the sharing of data on direct and indirect effects.

### **Speakers:**

- **Robin Geiss (moderator)**  
Director, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- **Ambassador Ammar Hijazi**  
Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine
- **Simon Walker**  
Chief, Rule of Law and Democracy Section, The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- **Katherine Young**  
Research and Monitoring Manager, Explosive Weapons Monitor
- **Ezequiel Heffes**  
Director, Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

### **Statements from the podium**

Guiding questions for thematic statements:

- What types of data are needed to understand the direct and indirect effects of military operations involving the use of explosive weapons on civilians and civilian objects in populated areas?
- What mechanisms to collect and share data on [direct and indirect effects of] the use of explosive weapons in populated areas already exist, or are being adapted or established by states and their armed forces, and how can this data be used to shape operational and institutional learning?



- How can data collection on direct and indirect effects be supported by different actors, including efforts by the UN, ICRC, and relevant civil society organisations to collect data in order to improve the understanding of effects and shape policies to prevent, minimise and respond to civilian harm?

13:30- 14:30      Lunch

14:30–16:00      Session 3: Assisting conflict-affected communities

The session will present the perspectives of communities affected by explosive weapons in populated areas and focus on the humanitarian-centred aspects of the Declaration (primarily commitments 3.5., 4.4., 4.5. and 4.6). The discussion will centre on the different types of assistance needed by affected communities, both during and after conflict, and steps that can be taken to protect civilians and facilitate and maintain humanitarian access. It will also emphasise the importance of supporting the work of humanitarian organisations in providing assistance and protection, including clearance of contaminated areas, risk education and victim assistance, and call attention to the gendered impacts of explosive weapons. Conflict-affected countries and communities and humanitarian organisations will be encouraged to share their experiences.

**Speakers:**

- **Dina Abou Samra (moderator)**  
Protection Advisor in the Policy Advice and Planning Section, The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- **Ambassador Julien Thöni**  
Ambassador (Disarmament and Multilateral Affairs), Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in Geneva
- **Alma Taslidzan**  
Disarmament and Protection of Civilians Manager, Humanity & Inclusion
- **Hazel de Wet**  
Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Programmes, The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- **Alonso Martínez Ruiz**  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations in Geneva



## Statements from the podium

Guiding questions for thematic statements:

- What types of assistance do victims of explosive weapons and conflict-affected communities need, both during and after conflict?
- What actions are needed to support and/or facilitate humanitarian access to populations affected by explosive weapons and what steps are already being taken?
- How can states support the work of the UN, ICRC and civil society organisations in assisting and protecting the victims of explosive weapons and communities affected by armed conflict?

16:00–16.30      Coffee break

16:30–18:00      Closing session with high-level participants:  
The way forward and universalisation

The closing session will provide an opportunity to direct attention to the work ahead, discuss efforts to secure broader support for the Declaration and present a set of goals to further strengthen implementation. The Chair's proposed 'Way Forward' outlining suggestions for how to further institutionalise and implement the Declaration will be distributed in advance of the Conference. Norway, as host country, will outline ways of advancing the work relating to the Declaration, with particular focus on commitments 4.7–4.8.

## Speakers:

- **Anne Beathe Tvinnereim**  
Minister of International Development, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Alejandro Solano Ortiz**  
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica
- **Caoimhe Udom**  
Deputy Director, Disarmament & Non-Proliferation, Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Juliana Helou van der Berg**  
Political Affairs Officer (UNODA)



## **Additional information**

Each session will be introduced by a group of speakers who will focus on implementation measures and activities carried out since the signing of the Declaration in Dublin in November 2022. The aim is to inform participants about the current implementation status of the Declaration, including best practices and lessons learned, with input from states, the United Nations, the ICRC, other relevant international organisations and civil society organisations.

The overall aim of the Conference, and reflecting commitment 4.7 of the Declaration, is to review in a collaborative spirit the implementation of the Declaration, including through an exchange of good policies and practices, and by identifying any relevant additional measures that may need to be taken. The Conference will also provide an opportunity to address emerging concepts and terminology.

**Delegations are encouraged to deliver thematic statements and engage in substantive exchanges during sessions one, two and three. Delegates will be invited up to the stage to deliver their statement after the panel discussions in each session. Please see the guiding questions for each thematic session above. Kindly note that thematic statements should not exceed three minutes. Delegations must have pre-registered their interest to speak by writing to [speakers.ewipa2024@mfa.no](mailto:speakers.ewipa2024@mfa.no) before 18 April 2024.**

The aim is to have interventions focusing on tangible and action-oriented implementation measures and/or exchanges aimed at fostering cooperation and the sharing of best practices.

Please note that the programme, list of speakers and timings provided may be subject to change. For the latest information and updates on the conference programme, please refer to the conference website at [Oslo Conference 2024 — UNODA \(ewipa.org\)](https://www.unoda.org/ewipa2024)



## Protection Forum and Thematic Workshops

### 22 April                      Protection Forum

The Norwegian Red Cross and the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW) are co-hosting a **Protection Forum** on Monday 22 April, at the *Norwegian Red Cross Conference Centre* in Hausmanns gate 5, prior to the opening reception for the official Conference. Conference participants are encouraged to attend. The programme for the Protection Forum is as follows:

10:00–11:00              Registration and viewing of exhibitions

11:00–12:00              Lunch

12:00–12:15              Opening of the Protection Forum

12:15–13:45              Session 1: Civilian harm and current contexts

This session will look at current contexts where explosive weapons are being used, and the impacts on civilians and broader communities.

13:45–14:15              Coffee break

14:15–15:45              Session 2: Responding to the needs of people and communities, and closing of the Protection Forum

This session will focus on the role that civil society organisations are playing in addressing the needs of conflict affected communities.

15:45 – 16:00              INEW Appeal and Close of the Protection Forum

The full programme for the protection forum is available at the [conference website](#) and at <https://www.inew.org/events/osloprotectionforum>.



## **24 April    Thematic workshops**

As an extension of the Conference and the Protection Forum on 22–23 April, two thematic workshops will be organised on 24 April by the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW), in collaboration with international organisations and states. The workshops will take place in the same venue and will provide participants with the opportunity to engage in a more in-depth discussion on key aspects of the Declaration related to 1) military policies and practices or 2) humanitarian access and assistance. Conference participants are encouraged to attend and can select either workshop regardless of affiliation. More information about the thematic workshops can be found on the conference website: [Oslo Conference 2024 — UNODA \(ewipa.org\)](https://www.unoda.org/ewipa).

09:30–10:00      Opening of workshop in plenary

10:00–11:30      Parallel sessions

### **Workshop on military policies and practices**

This workshop session will focus on commitment 3.3. and measures that can be taken in policy and practice to avoid civilian harm by restricting or refraining from use of explosive weapons in populated areas in policy and in practice.

### **Workshop on the humanitarian impacts of explosive weapons**

This workshop session will focus on commitments 4.4 and 4.5. and measures that can be taken to provide rapid, safe and unhindered access in zones affected by use of explosive weapons, and immediate and long-term assistance to survivors and their communities.

11:30–12:00      Debrief and closing

12:00–13:00      Light lunch



# XI. ANNEX II - TROIKA OUTCOME STATEMENT

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 in Populated Areas (EWIPA Declaration)*

## Outcome statement and recommendations for the way forward

Issued by Costa Rica, Ireland and Norway

The use of explosive weapons in populated areas continues to cause severe humanitarian suffering and destruction in multiple ongoing armed conflicts, including in Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The high toll of civilian deaths and injuries, damage and devastation of critical infrastructure, forced displacement and impediments to humanitarian access and assistance, highlight the urgent need to strengthen the protection of civilians in armed conflict as envisaged in the Political Declaration on EWIPA. The full and meaningful implementation of the Declaration therefore remains an urgent priority as recognised by the United Nations Secretary-General in his 'New Agenda for Peace'.

The first follow-up conference since the adoption of the Declaration in Dublin in 2022 was held in **Oslo on 23 April 2024** and reaffirmed the relevance and importance of the Declaration. It brought together a wide range of stakeholders to review and strengthen implementation of the Declaration. The Oslo Conference took stock of endorsing states' efforts to translate commitments into tangible actions and contributed to ongoing work to promote awareness, foster cooperation and build shared understandings of priority areas, taking into account different regional experiences and approaches.

The Oslo Conference further aimed to increase the number of endorsing states and encourage the continued sharing of good policies and practices to build capacity and assist states considering endorsement. The close and active cooperation between states, international organisations and civil society organisations was recognised as a central driving force of implementation and awareness-raising and serves as a basis for endorsing states to build upon as the Declaration is further embedded within national policies and practices.

Moving forward, the continued promotion of the Declaration in national, regional and international forums is crucial for garnering more endorsements and embedding a normative framework which ensures that the Declaration's principles and standards are widely recognised and implemented. This includes highlighting the Declaration's relevance in diplomatic engagements and international meetings to reinforce the Declaration's commitments and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law. Effective implementation of the Declaration depends on national ownership, the sharing of good practices and the continuous assessment and refinement of national policies and practices as a means to reduce civilian harm.

\*\*\*

As the past, present and incoming Chairs of the process, Ireland, Norway and Costa Rica, offered to serve as a *Troika* to provide strategic guidance and to help oversee the

implementation and promotion of the Declaration in advance of the next international follow-up conference.

The Troika reaffirmed that efforts to implement the Declaration at the national level must continue and be reinforced to strengthen the protection of civilians and promote adherence to international humanitarian law, through the development and improvement of policies and practices, and other necessary measures, including:

- policies and practices aimed at avoiding or mitigating civilian harm by restricting or refraining from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas when such use is expected to cause harm to civilians or civilian objects;
- a thorough understanding of the direct and indirect effects of explosive weapons use, through data collection and sharing, and factoring such effects into the planning and conduct of military and security operations;
- increased assistance to victims, including people injured, survivors, families of people killed or injured, and communities affected by armed conflict.

The Troika welcomes Jordan, North Macedonia and Montenegro as states that have endorsed the Declaration since the EWIPA Dublin Conference bringing the total number of endorsing states to 86. We further welcome the active participation of states, the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW) and other civil society organisations, survivors, academic communities, and other stakeholders in implementing and promoting the Declaration.

The Troika also recognises the importance of thematic and regional meetings and workshops to raise awareness and strengthen implementation and universalisation of the Declaration. Since the Declaration was endorsed in Dublin in 2022, many such meetings have taken place, including military workshops and expert meetings convened by the Government of Austria, the ICRC, Article 36 and Airwars; a regional workshop for West African states in Togo organised by the Government of Ireland and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA); an expert workshop on data collection by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the Explosive Weapons Monitor; and various briefings and outreach events organised by states, the United Nations, the ICRC and INEW, as well as the Protection Forum organised by INEW and the Norwegian Red Cross prior to the Oslo Conference.

The Troika recognises the leading role played by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in helping to organise the work of the Declaration and to facilitate coordination among endorsing states and other relevant stakeholders.

The Troika welcomes Costa Rica's offer to host the next international conference in 2025.

\*\*\*

The following recommendations are put forward for the endorsing states to consider pursuing in the intersessional period to build on the progress achieved in Oslo and to advance the Declaration's goals.

- To identify national focal points for the Declaration and lead implementation efforts, including disseminating the Declaration and its objectives within the armed forces.
- To share regular updates on national implementation of the Declaration on a voluntary basis and respond to implementation surveys, thereby supporting efforts to monitor implementation.
- To contribute to building an active intersessional programme of work to advance implementation and universalisation of the Declaration. This could take the form of thematic and regional meetings and/or structured intergovernmental and military-to-military exchanges, including multistakeholder participation.
- To accelerate efforts to take stock of implementation and share good policies and practices, and if necessary to review, update and develop national operational policies and practices.
- To continue to foster cooperation between states and international and civil society organisations to promote awareness of the Declaration and to ensure it gains more support and attention in the years to come.
- To conduct outreach and increase engagement to encourage more states to endorse, especially from underrepresented regions, recognising the value of cross-regional support for the Declaration, and the experiences and approaches different regions bring to these efforts. High priority should be given to promoting full adherence to commitments under the Declaration by all parties to conflict.
- To share national examples of policies and practices and lessons learned on implementation, for inclusion on an online portal and information hub hosted by UNODA.

The Troika commits to working towards the implementation and realisation of these recommendations and to supporting endorsing states, and the wider international community, in their efforts to do so. This outcome document represents a collective commitment to strengthen the protection of civilians and address the humanitarian consequences arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and suggests a path forward for enhanced cooperation and action. The Troika calls upon all endorsing states and relevant stakeholders to work towards the full realisation of the Declaration's objectives.

## XII. ANNEX III - LIST OF ENDORSING STATES



### EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS

1. Albania
2. Andorra
3. Argentina
4. Australia
5. Austria
6. Belgium
7. Bosnia and Herzegovina
8. Brazil
9. Bulgaria
10. Cabo Verde
11. Cambodia
12. Canada
13. Central African Republic
14. Chile
15. Colombia
16. Comoros
17. Costa Rica
18. Cote d'Ivoire
19. Croatia
20. Cyprus
21. Czech Republic
22. Denmark
23. Dominican Republic
24. Ecuador
25. El Salvador
26. Finland
27. France
28. Georgia
29. Germany
30. Greece
31. Guatemala
32. Guyana
33. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
34. Holy See
35. Hungary
36. Iceland
37. Indonesia
38. Ireland
39. Italy
40. Japan
41. Kenya
42. Kingdom of the Netherlands
43. Kiribati
44. Kosovo
45. Kuwait
46. Laos
47. Liberia
48. Liechtenstein
49. Luxembourg
50. Madagascar
51. Malawi
52. Malaysia
53. Malta
54. Mexico
55. Maldives
56. Monaco
57. Montenegro
58. Morocco
59. New Zealand
60. North Macedonia
61. Norway
62. Palau
63. Palestine
64. Peru
65. Philippines
66. Portugal
67. Qatar
68. Republic of Korea
69. Republic of Moldova
70. Romania
71. Saint Kitts and Nevis
72. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
73. San Marino
74. Senegal
75. Serbia
76. Sierra Leone
77. Slovakia
78. Slovenia
79. Somalia
80. Spain
81. Sweden
82. Switzerland
83. Togo
84. Türkiye
85. United Kingdom
86. United States of America
87. Uruguay

## XII. ANNEX IV - LIST OF PARTICIPATING STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS



# EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS

### OSLO Conference 2024 – List of Participating States

1. Algeria
2. Angola
3. Angola
4. Argentina
5. Australia
6. Austria
7. Bangladesh
8. Belgium
9. Bosnia-  
Herzegovina
10. Brazil
11. Bulgaria
12. Cambodia
13. Canada
14. Chile
15. China
16. Colombia
17. Comoros
18. Costa Rica
19. Cote d'Ivoire
20. Croatia
21. Cuba
22. Czechia
23. Denmark
24. Dominican  
Republic
25. Egypt
26. Ethiopia
27. Finland
28. France
29. Georgia
30. Germany
31. Greece
32. Holy See
33. Hungary
34. India
35. Indonesia
36. Ireland
37. Italy
38. Japan
39. Jordan
40. Kazakhstan
41. Kosovo
42. Kuwait
43. Lao People's  
Republic
44. Liechtenstein
45. Luxembourg
46. Malawi
47. Maldives
48. Mali
49. Malta
50. Mexico
51. Monaco
52. Montenegro
53. Morocco
54. Netherlands  
(Kingdom of the)
55. New Zealand
56. North Macedonia
57. Norway
58. Pakistan
59. Palestine
60. Peru
61. Portugal
62. Qatar
63. Republic of Korea
64. Romania
65. San Marino
66. Senegal
67. Serbia
68. Sierra Leone
69. Slovakia
70. Slovenia
71. South Africa
72. Spain
73. Sweden
74. Switzerland
75. Tanzania
76. Togo
77. Tunisia
78. Türkiye
79. United Kingdom
80. United States
81. Uruguay



# EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS

## OSLO Conference 2024 – List of Participating Organizations

1. Action on Armed Violence
2. Airwars
3. Article 36
4. CIVIC
5. Conflict and Environment
6. Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
7. Diakonia IHL Centre
8. Disarmament and Arms Control
9. Education Above All Foundation
10. European Union
11. Explosive Weapons Monitor
12. Forsvar folkeretten
13. Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
14. Geneva Water Hub
15. HALO Trust
16. Harvard Law School
17. Human Rights Watch
18. Humanity and Inclusion / Handicap International (HI)
19. IANSA Women Network Nigeria
20. Insecurity Insight
21. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
22. International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW)
23. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
24. Mines Action Canada
25. Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
26. Mwatana for Human Rights
27. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
28. Norwegian Red Cross
29. Odessa Regional Organization of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society
30. PAX
31. Peace Research Institute
32. Project Ploughshares
33. Save the Children
34. The Civilian Agenda
35. Ukrainian Red Cross
36. UN - OCHA
37. UN – OHCHR
38. UNDP
39. UNICEF
40. UNIDIR
41. UNODA
42. Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict
43. We Dare to Dream CIC
44. White Helmets
45. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

## XIV. ANNEX V - WORKING PAPERS SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE

- **Article 36 and Airwars:** Military Workshop Report
- **Austria:** Vienna Military Workshop Report
- **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):** Recommendations to the Oslo Conference
- **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):** Recommendation on preventing and mitigating the indirect effects on essential services from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas
- **UNIDIR and Explosive Weapons Monitor:** Strengthening the collection of data on the indirect or reverberating effects of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas
- **United States:** Official documents related to the implementation of international humanitarian law and civilian harm mitigation and response
- **UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA):** Regional Workshop Report