



MINISTÉRIO DOS NEGÓCIOS ESTRANGEIROS
Direção-Geral de Política Externa

Follow-up Conference Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA)

Statement by **PORTUGAL**

Delivered by H. E. Mr. Paulo Chaves

Ambassador of Portugal to Panama

San José, 19th November 2025

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Costa Rica for the invitation and for hosting the second international follow-up conference to the adoption of the EWIPA Declaration. We also thank the organizers and all participating delegations for their ongoing commitment and advancing the objectives of the Declaration.

Portugal is a firm supporter of effective multilateralism, a key principle of the rules-based international order anchored in the United Nations Charter, in International Law and International Humanitarian Law.

Given the current challenges to the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Architecture, with a clear impact on international instruments and norms, our task is to implement strategies that safeguard its integrity, prevent its erosion and consider civilian protection, proportionality and distinction.



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For this, I would like to highlight three topics:

Firstly, Portugal reaffirms its unwavering support and commitment to the full implementation of the EWIPA Declaration as an essential instrument to protect civilians and uphold international humanitarian law.

Furthermore, Portugal, as a Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Ottawa Convention, the Cluster Munitions Convention or the Arms Trade Treaty, is traditionally active in multilateral disarmament and humanitarian fora.

Secondly, we cannot ignore the fact that the use of explosive weapons in populated areas continues to cause unacceptable harm to civilians and to the essential infrastructure upon which they depend.

On average, 90% of casualties from explosive weapons in populated areas are civilians. Their use causes severe humanitarian harm: injuries often require specialized medical and psychosocial care that is rarely available, healthcare facilities are frequently destroyed, and explosive remnants continue to threaten civilians and hinder reconstruction long after conflict ends. The widespread devastation dramatically increases post-conflict recovery costs and disrupts development, agriculture, and the return of displaced populations.



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The destruction of civilian infrastructure and housing, along with the resulting displacement, increases the risk of gender-based violence, particularly as women and girls are driven into irregular settlements and forced migration.

Thirdly, the Political Declaration is topical and provides operative and concrete actions. Hence, these follow-up conferences offer a vital opportunity to assess the progress made and reflect on the upcoming challenges. So, full implementation and universalization of the Declaration is of the utmost importance, to promote global norms and standards, facilitate cooperation and transparency, and support the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 11 and 16.

In this context, we encourage all States to endorse the Declaration.

To conclude, Portugal reaffirms its readiness to work actively with all partners to ensure that the discussions initiated in Dublin and Oslo lead to concrete and meaningful progress, reflecting our shared collective responsibility.

Thank you.