



Elements for a political declaration
Vienna Conference on the Protection of Civilians in Urban Warfare
1-2 October 2019

The International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW), in line with the call of the UN Secretary-General, strongly supports the urgent development of a political declaration to reduce the harms caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

The development of an international political declaration can help to set a stronger international standard of behaviour, serving as a tool to drive forward positive policies and practice at a national level and building a community of positive practice.

We encourage States to speak in the “Way Forward” session of the Vienna Conference to support the development of a political declaration, highlighting the following broad elements of content:

A declaration should include a description of the different impacts, including:

- Civilian deaths and physical injury
- Physical impairment, psychological trauma (and social discrimination and economic deprivation often faced by victims and survivors)
- Destruction of housing, water and sanitation, health, energy, education, transport infrastructure, and interruption of associated services
- Displacement and denial of return
- Environmental degradation
- Denial of humanitarian access
- Contamination of territory with explosive remnants of war
- Costs for reconstruction and recovery

A political declaration should commit States to:

- Develop operational policies and procedures that will stop the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas
- Share positive practice and experiences
- Recognise the rights of victims and affected communities and provide assistance
- Support and undertake data gathering
- Enable humanitarian and protection measures
- Build a community of practice, including through regular meetings to discuss the issue and progress towards reducing harm.

States who have expressed their support for a political declaration on explosive weapons:

Angola ^{*+}	Finland ⁺	Morocco
Antigua and Barbuda [^]	Georgia ⁺	New Zealand ⁺
Argentina ^{^+}	Germany ⁺	Nigeria [*]
Austria ⁺	Ghana [*]	Norway ⁺
Bangladesh ⁺	Guatemala ^{^+}	North Macedonia ⁺
Barbados [^]	Guyana [^]	Panama [^]
Belize [^]	Haiti [^]	Paraguay [^]
Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁺	Honduras [^]	Peru ^{^+}
Botswana [*]	Iceland ⁺	Portugal ⁺
Brazil ^{^+}	Indonesia ⁺	Samoa ⁺
Bulgaria ⁺	Ireland ⁺	San Marino ⁺
Cameroon [*]	Islamic Republic of Iran ⁺	Senegal [*]
Central African Republic ^{*+}	Italy ⁺	Serbia ⁺
Chile ^{^+}	Jamaica [^]	Slovenia ⁺
Colombia [^]	Kenya [*]	Somalia [*]
Congo [*]	Liechtenstein ⁺	Spain ⁺
Costa Rica ^{^+}	Liberia [*]	Sri Lanka ⁺
Croatia ⁺	Luxembourg ⁺	St Kitts and Nevis [^]
Cyprus ⁺	Madagascar ^{*+}	St Vincent and the Grenadines [^]
Czech Republic ⁺	Malaysia ⁺	Sweden ⁺
Dominican Republic [^]	Mali [*]	Switzerland ⁺
Ecuador [^]	Malta ⁺	Togo [*]
El Salvador ^{^+}	Mexico ^{^+}	Uganda ^{*+}
Ethiopia [*]	Moldova ⁺	Ukraine ⁺
	Monaco ⁺	Uruguay [^]
	Montenegro ⁺	Zambia ^{*+}
	Mozambique ^{*+}	Zimbabwe [*]

* States who expressed support via the Maputo Communiqué

[^] States who expressed support via the Santiago Communiqué

⁺ States who expressed support via the Irish-led joint statement at the UN General Assembly's 2018 First Committee