



29 September, 2017

Ref. Regional Meeting on Protecting Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas, Maputo - Mozambique, 27 - 28 November 2017

We have the honor to write to Your Excellency in regards to the subject matter.

The use of explosive weapons in populated areas has been identified as a significant cause of harm to civilians in conflicts around the world. Data indicate that approximately 92% of those reported killed and injured when explosive weapons are used in populated areas are civilians. Beyond those killed and injured, an even greater number of civilians are affected as a result of damage to essential infrastructure. Many more civilians are driven from their homes and displaced, and suffer from psychological distress.

Recognizing this pattern of harm, UN Secretary-General has called on states to avoid the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects and to engage constructively in efforts to develop a political declaration to address the harm caused by explosive weapons in populated areas.

Together with the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW), Handicap International is actively raising awareness among States on the humanitarian harm resulting from the use of explosive weapons and steps to provide greater protection to civilians in armed conflict through the development of stronger international standards and the strengthening of national policies and practices.

With the view of building support towards providing greater protection to civilians in conflict, this meeting will be aimed at engaging African States on this issue.

It is against this backdrop that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique and Handicap International have the honor to invite your Government

to designate a representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or Ministry of Defense to attend this important meeting, not later than **23rd October 2017**.

*Request for limited number of sponsorships is open until **20th of October**. Please write to the following email address in case your delegation requires sponsorship:*
Eve GASTINEAU [*egastineau@handicap-international.org*](mailto:egastineau@handicap-international.org)

Accept, your Excellency, the assurances of our highest considerations.

Ministry Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Oldemiro Júlio Marques Baloi
Minister

Handicap International Federation
Manuel Patrouillard
General Director