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