



Programme and Annotated Agenda

Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare

Towards a Political Declaration to Address the Humanitarian Harm Arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas

Geneva Consultations

**18 November 2019,
Room VII, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

Delegations are invited to provide a concise intervention with the aim of identifying the challenges and the types of commitments and practical measures to feature in a Political Declaration. Written submissions are also welcome from delegations and can be sent to GenevaConsultations@dfa.ie

09.30 Arrival, Registration and Coffee

10.00 Opening of the Meeting

Welcome remarks by the Chair of the informal consultations H.E. Ambassador, Michael Gaffey, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva.

10.15 Suggested elements for a Political Declaration

Delegations are invited to provide a concise intervention, identifying a range of issues, commitments and practical measures to be included in a Political Declaration. Possible guiding elements for delegations to consider include:

- High likelihood of civilian harm and destruction of civilian objects when explosive weapons with wide area effects are used in populated areas; short and long-term humanitarian and socio-economic challenges.
- Compliance with all existing obligations in international humanitarian law, including a recognition of the continued need to take all feasible precautions in the choice of means and methods of attack with a view to avoiding, and in any event to minimising, incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects.
- The application and where necessary, the development of operational policies responsive to the challenges of protecting civilians and civilian objects during urban conflict; the sharing of good policies and practice.
- Delegations may also highlight other elements to be included in the scope of a declaration (e.g. need for improved data, victim assistance).

12.55 Concluding Remarks and Next Steps

The outcome from this preparatory consultation will feed into a draft Political Declaration.