



February 2024

Invitation to respond to State survey on the implementation of *the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas*

The first international review conference on the implementation of [\*The Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas\*](#) will be hosted by Norway in Oslo on 22-24 April 2024. Ahead of the conference, the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW) is conducting a survey to review national efforts made by states to disseminate and implement the Declaration since it was adopted in Dublin.

INEW is an international network of civil society organisations that calls for immediate action to prevent human suffering from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Through its research initiative, the Explosive Weapons Monitor, INEW is tracking universalisation and implementation of the Declaration.

The enclosed survey focuses on states' efforts toward national dissemination of the Declaration, as well as their review of, updates to and development of policies, laws, doctrine, and changes to practise, in line with the commitments set out in the Declaration.

A response on behalf of your government to this survey as an endorsing state will contribute to your country's efforts to uphold the commitments set out in the Declaration, in particular its adoption and effective implementation. This includes regularly reviewing, exchanging and compiling in a collaborative spirit good policies and practices.

We would very much appreciate your response by **9 March 2024**, by email, letter or by completing our online survey form here: <https://forms.gle/2t2vQKPMmgnQwXMGA>

Responding to the survey

Please respond to the survey to the best of your ability, and/or share it with the person(s) best positioned to respond in your government. When responding, please consider the core commitments of the Declaration, including:

- Strengthening the protection of civilians from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.



- Setting out when, and how, to restrict or refrain from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, in order to avoid civilian harm.
- Stipulating how to take into account the direct and indirect/reverberating effects on civilians and civilian objects in the planning of military operations and the execution of attacks in populated areas.
- Establishing processes for collecting and sharing data on the use and effects of explosive weapons in populated areas.
- Ensuring the provision of assistance to conflict-affected populations, and respond to the direct and indirect/reverberating effects of the use of explosive weapons.

Your response will enable the Explosive Weapons Monitor to accurately report and highlight your state's progress towards disseminating and implementing the commitments set out in the Declaration.

Alternatively, we would be happy to speak directly if that is preferable to you. If so, please find contact details below.

#### Use and publication of survey responses

The survey has been shared with all states that have endorsed the Declaration. The information collected through the survey will be included in a report published by the Explosive Weapons Monitor ahead of the Oslo Conference. Survey results will be synthesised in the report to identify actions taken by states towards implementing the Declaration and to highlight examples of good practice. If required, we can share draft sections of the report that reference your state ahead of publication, if you inform us by **9 March**.

#### Contact information

If you have any questions, or would prefer to speak to us directly, you can get in touch with:

- [Camilla Molyneux](#), Researcher and Project Lead, Explosive Weapons Monitor and Article 36, [camilla@article36.org](mailto:camilla@article36.org)
- [Katherine Young](#), Research and Monitoring Manager, Explosive Weapons Monitor, [katherine@article36.org](mailto:katherine@article36.org)
- [Laura Boillot](#), Director, Article 36 and Coordinator for INEW, [laura@article36.org](mailto:laura@article36.org)

Kind regards,

Camilla Molyneux  
Researcher and Project Lead, Explosive Weapons Monitor and Article 36  
[camilla@article36.org](mailto:camilla@article36.org)