

## Draft Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from Humanitarian Harm arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas

### Part A: Preamble

#### Section 1

- 1.2. Explosive weapons with wide area effects can have a devastating impact on civilians and civilian objects in populated areas. Beyond immediate deaths and injuries, civilian populations can be exposed to severe and long-lasting reverberating effects. These occur in particular when critical civilian infrastructure is damaged or destroyed, such as hospitals, energy networks, and water and sanitation systems. The destruction of housing, schools, ~~and~~ agricultural areas, grazing land as well as cultural heritage sites further aggravates civilian suffering. Urban warfare can also result in psychological and psychosocial harm to civilians.
- 1.3. These effects can have a negative impact on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and can result in the displacement of people within and across borders. Following urban armed conflict, explosive remnants of war can impede the return of displaced persons and cause casualties long after hostilities have ~~ended~~ ceased.

#### Section 2

- 2.4. We welcome the work of United Nations Security Council to strengthen the protection of civilians during armed conflict and to strengthen compliance with International Humanitarian Law, and recall to that end ~~UNSC~~ United Nations Security Council Resolutions on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts, including Resolution 1265 (1999), 1894 (2009) and 2417 (2018).

### Part B: Operative Section

#### Section 4

- 4.1. Strengthen international cooperation and assistance among armed forces with respect to exchanges of technical information and tactical doctrine in order to develop a community of good practice to enhance the protection of civilians. As a starting point, a working group of interested parties could agree ~~on~~ a toolbox of good practice, which could form the basis for structured military-to-military exchanges, workshops, and seminars.