



## Regional Meeting on Protecting Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas

Santiago, Chile  
5-6 December 2018

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### AGENDA

#### Day 1. Wednesday, 5 December 2018

09.00-10.00 Registration and coffee

10.00-10.45 **Opening**

**Moderator:** Amb. E Armin Andereya

Director of International and Human Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Chile

**Speakers:**

Ms. Carolina Valdivia Torres

*Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chile*

Ms. Anne Héry

*Director of Advocacy and Institutional Relations, Humanity and Inclusion*

Dr. Eirini Giorgou

*Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*

Mr. Jesús Martínez

*Director, Red de Sobrevivientes y Personas con Discapacidad*

10.45-11.15 Technical break / group photo

11.15-13.00 Session 1. **Background on the issue and where we are now**

*Session 1 will provide an overview of the issue of explosive weapons in populated areas, as well as the broad process of work on the issue. It will introduce the humanitarian impacts resulting from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, experienced in a variety of contexts, and the growing*

*number of actors concerned about this pattern of harm. It will provide an update on the efforts being undertaken to address this issue of grave humanitarian concern, and map the current international policy landscape. It will lay out the aims of this regional initiative, and draw on experiences from the Maputo conference. This session will also lay out the objectives for this meeting.*

Key questions:

1. What do we mean when we talk about ‘explosive weapons in populated areas’?
2. What has the UN Secretary-General said about the issue, and how have states responded?
3. How did discussions unfold in 2017 at Maputo, Mozambique, and what do we hope to achieve at this regional meeting?

**Moderator:** Amb. E Armin Andereya  
*Director of International and Human Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile*

**Speakers:**

Ms. Laura Boillot  
*Coordinator, International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW)*

Dr. Simon Bagshaw  
*Senior Policy Officer, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)*

Ms. Paola Ramirez  
*Deputy Director General for Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control, Directorate General for the UN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico*

Mr. Jaime Chissano  
*Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations in Geneva*

**Discussion, and general statements**

An opportunity for participants to provide general updates and views on the protection of civilians from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

13.00-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-15.00 Session 2: **Humanitarian concerns over the use of explosive weapons in populated areas**

*Session 2 will provide an overview of the direct harms that result from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, with a particular focus on the disproportionate impact on civilians, including death, injury and trauma. It will also look at efforts that can be undertaken to reduce the risk to civilians from explosive weapons, ensure assistance to affected communities, and uphold the rights of victims.*

Key questions:

1. What are the key humanitarian concerns and challenges when explosive weapons are used in populated areas? Is it the same for all types of explosive weapons?
2. How can civilians be protected from explosive violence?

3. How can victims and survivors of explosive violence be effectively assisted?

**Moderator:** Ms. Marcela Zamora Ovares  
Disarmament and Non-proliferation Officer, Directorate of External Policy, *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica*

**Speakers:**  
Humanitarian harm from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas  
*Ms. Alma Taslidžan Al Osta, Protection of Civilians and Disarmament Advocacy Manager, Humanity and Inclusion*

Civilian protection measures  
*Mr. Rasmus Sandvoll Weschke, Advisor on Conflict Preparedness and Protection, Norwegian People's Aid*

Recommendations for assistance to victims  
*Mrs. Delis Palacios Herron, Leader of the Victims Association of Bojayá, Choco*

15.00-15.50 Session 3. **Humanitarian concerns continued: systemic and reverberating harms**

*Session 3 will look at the broader impact of explosive weapon use in populated areas, and the impact on affected communities including the destruction of private property and critical infrastructure. It will also look at the risks presented to civilians from explosive remnants of war and explosive ordnance. It will highlight concerns over the long-term impacts, including cumulative impact, and explore how the use of explosive weapons in towns and cities is a driver of displacement.*

Key questions:

1. What is the broader impact of explosive weapons when they are used in populated areas, including the impact on critical infrastructure and civilian services?
2. What is the impact of explosive remnants of war on civilians, and how does it affect life after the conflict has ended or moved on?
3. How does the use of explosive weapons connect with other challenges such as forced displacement and contamination of land?

**Moderator:** Mr. Cesar Jaramillo  
*Executive Director, Project Ploughshares*

**Speakers:**  
Reverberating effects and displacement  
*Ms. Anna de Courcy Wheeler, Advisor, Article 36*

Contamination of land from explosive remnants of war  
*Mr. Camilo Serna, Deputy Director, Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas*

15.50-16.50 **Working group discussion & report back**

Participants will break into working groups to discuss their understanding of how explosive weapons use affects individuals and communities, and how such effects could be addressed. There will be an opportunity for Rapporteurs from the group discussions to report back on key issues of interest and concern.

16:50 An appeal from the youth

17.00 Closes

19.30 Evening reception

**Day 2. Thursday 6 December 2018**

09.00-10.30 Session 4: **Understanding and restricting explosive weapons with wide area effects**

*Session 4 will look at types of explosive weapons that exist and are currently in use. These include aircraft bombs, artillery shells, missile and rocket warheads, mortar bombs, grenades and improvised explosive devices. It will look in particular at concerns over explosive weapons with wide area effects, and the risks that these present to civilians, as well as efforts better constrain the use of explosive weapons to better protect civilians.*

Key questions:

1. What are the characteristics and effects of explosive weapons, and what risks do they present to the civilian population?
2. What factors produce 'wide area effects'?
3. What approaches can, and have been, taken by militaries at both the general and operational level to avoid and mitigate humanitarian harm from explosive weapons? What limitations are there?

**Moderator:** Anna de Courcy Wheeler  
*Advisor, Article 36*

**Speakers:**

Characteristics and effects of explosive weapons  
*Ms. Roos Boer, Program Lead - Humanitarian Disarmament, PAX*

Military policy and practice to strengthen the protection of civilians  
*Dr. Simon Bagshaw, Senior Policy Advisor, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)*

Working with militaries  
*Ms. Sahr Muhammedally, Middle East and Asia Director, Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)*

**Discussion**

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.00 Session 5. **A response: developing stronger standards to protect civilians**

*Session 5 will look at how explosive weapons are regulated in international law and policy, what constraints are placed on the use of explosive weapons, and how civilians are protected against the effects of explosive weapons. It will also provide an update on efforts to develop an international commitment in the form of a political declaration.*

Key questions:

1. Does International Humanitarian Law (IHL) adequately address the problems posed by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas?
2. What action has thus far been taken at a political level to develop standards to better protect civilians?
3. What is the function of a political declaration? What commitments should a political declaration contain in order to prevent harm and provide better protection to civilians experiencing armed conflict?

**Moderator:** Ms. Paola Ramirez

*Deputy Director General for Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control, Directorate General for the UN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico*

**Speakers:**

Explosive weapons and the law

*Dr. Eirini Giorgou, Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*

A political declaration on explosive weapons

*Mr. Dermot Fitzpatrick, Embassy of Ireland to Argentina*

Civil society's call for a declaration to prevent harm

*Ms. Laura Boillot, Coordinator, International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW)*

**12.00-13.00 Working group discussion**

Participants will break into regional working groups to discuss how different states are thinking of responding to the harm caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and how they might contribute to efforts to develop a political declaration.

**13.00-14.00 Lunch**

**14.00-15.00 Adoption of communiqué and close of meeting**

*Meeting summary, including the communiqué, and a discussion of next steps. There will also be an opportunity for representatives to share feedback from the working group discussion*

**Moderator:** Amb. E Armin Andereya

*Director of International and Human Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile*