

Suomen puheenvuoro EWIPA-julistuksen hyväksymistilaisuudessa

(Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas)

Dublin 18.11.2022

Mr/Mrs Chair,

This year has been challenging for the rules-based international system, and for arms control. Fundamental norms of the international system have been breached in many places, including in Ukraine by Russia.

Today's event shows the resilience and potential of the rules-based international system and **provides some hope by showing that we - the international community - are ready to continue to work for common good and joint rules.**

Finland wishes to **congratulate Ireland** for a successful outcome, and for your **leadership and balanced approach** in the negotiations.

We endorse the Political Declaration as an important instrument to further strengthen the protection of civilians. **The Declaration reaffirms our obligations under international law**, including International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. It highlights our shared obligations to end impunity where atrocities have been committed.

Finland welcomes the Declaration's **strong call for full and effective implementation of International Humanitarian Law** as a means to protect civilians and to avoid and minimize civilian harm in military operations. The legal rules exist, but the implementation remains an issue. We must continue to close the gap in compliance with International Humanitarian Law in all actions and in all environments, by all parties.

It is critical that the Declaration raises the importance of an **integrated, gender-sensitive and non-discriminatory approach**, and acknowledges the rights of persons with disabilities and their assistance. These are fundamental principles of human rights.

The declaration draws attention to the fact that explosive weapons in populated areas have a great impact not only on civilians, **but also on the environment through contamination, and to crucial civilian infrastructure, which can further aggravate civilian suffering.**

Finland is proud to join the EWIPA Political Declaration, and we call all states to join us in our efforts to take a step forward in the protection of civilians. The declaration reminds us of our collective ability to find agreement, even in difficult times.

I thank you, Mr/Mrs Chair.