

SWEDISH COMMENTS ON THE EWIPA DRAFT DECLARATION

We would like to thank Ireland for the draft text and to reiterate our appreciation for the way in which the consultations are being conducted.

Sweden is in general supportive of the draft text. As previously stated, it is our understanding that the purpose of the declaration is to strengthen implementation of existing IHL, and not to create new IHL obligations.

Some specific points:

- For the sake of clarity and consistency, the term "explosive weapons with wide area effects" should be used consistently in the document.

- A brief comment on the last sentence of paragraph 1.2 is that psychological and psychosocial harm to civilians can unfortunately also occur in non-urban warfare.

- Paragraph 3.3 needs to be clear in relation to existing IHL, i.e. that the commitment is a precautionary measure in line with existing IHL, facilitating its respect and implementation. Sweden therefore supports the suggestions made regarding this paragraph in the current written submission by Switzerland.

- Paragraph 4.8 indicates that states will meet periodically to review the implementation of the declaration. This appears to be somewhat far-reaching for a political declaration and could perhaps create some uncertainty as to the status of the declaration. For this reason, we would prefer its deletion or, to add "as appropriate" or a similar qualifier.