



**Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry for Foreign Affairs**

STATEMENT

delivered by

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Proliferation**

at the

**High-Level Conference to adopt the Political Declaration on Strengthening
the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising
from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA)**

Dublin

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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to join you here today on this important occasion. The conclusion of negotiations and the adoption of the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA) is a significant achievement. It is an encouraging sign that despite the deeply worrying international security environment in which we find ourselves, we were able to unite behind this crucial topic.

The Declaration marks the culmination of almost three years of open and transparent multistakeholder consultations involving UN Member States, regional and international organisations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, civil society, and others.

As a staunch defender of International Law, including International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law, Sweden is pleased to have been a part of the process leading up to the adoption of the EWIPA Declaration today. Thanks to the able and commendable stewardship of Ireland, the international community's shared commitment to protect civilians and civilian objects in armed conflict, and upholding existing International Law, has yielded concrete results.

The current Declaration is an achievement not only because of its content and purpose but also with regards to the times in which it is adopted.

Russia's unprovoked and illegal aggression against Ukraine is a stark reminder of the importance of this Declaration. Russia's use of explosive weapons and its brutal attacks on civilians and civilian objects, including playgrounds and hospitals is deeply shocking. Unfortunately, it is not an isolated case. It is the latest of a long

list of examples, including Syria and Yemen, where certain actors have shown little, or no regard, for the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

Sweden is committed to this political Declaration and convinced that it will reduce harm and save lives. We believe that it will strengthen the respect for and implementation of existing International Humanitarian Law globally and help to uphold the rules and principles that we as States are bound by. Through the Declaration Sweden will be part of a broader group ensuring that those most vulnerable get the protection they deserve.

I thank you.