



Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
Review Conference
Geneva, 12 – 16 December 2016
Statement on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) by
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Mr Chairman,

I take the floor on the issue of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), which features in the draft final declaration of this Review Conference.

The increasing humanitarian harm caused by the use of IEDs is a matter of grave concern to Ireland. The use of IEDs and their proliferation represent a threat to our global efforts to promote and maintain stability, security, sustainable development, human rights, and humanitarian relief operations. Addressing the humanitarian impact of IEDs is therefore an urgent imperative.

The recent Report of the UN Secretary-General highlighted the need for united efforts and coordinated action to tackle this complex phenomenon. For this reason, Ireland joined the consensus on the recently adopted draft Resolution L.68 titled ‘Countering the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices’.

We welcome the Declaration on IEDs adopted by the Conference of High-Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II last August. This Declaration is a crucial first step in an attempt to develop and consolidate a coordinated position on IEDs. We welcome the balanced and forward-looking approach of this instrument, which accurately points out that action is needed in a variety of fora and that such action should take into account the humanitarian, political and socio-economic impacts of IEDs. Ireland aligns itself fully to the actions set out in the Declaration and is committed to working with High Contracting Parties, international organizations and civil society to achieve success in this regard. As an example of this commitment, we recently submitted our answers to the questionnaire on national counter-IED frameworks.

Mr Chairman,

IEDs have become the weapon of choice of armed non-state actors, in or outside of the context of an armed conflict. The impact on fragile states of frequent IED

attacks goes beyond the immediate casualties and has a detrimental impact on peace-building efforts and sustainable development.

A key issue of concern with regard to IEDs is their indiscriminate effects. In addition to casualties from deliberate attacks on civilians, recent data indicates that an increasing number of civilian casualties are being caused by victim operated IEDs which are effectively improvised and indiscriminate landmines. The responsibility for the harm arising from these effects is not limited to any particular category of user. States should take measures to prevent or minimise the indiscriminate effects of IEDs irrespective of the user. Moreover, states should ensure that all measures to counter the threat of IEDs, and in particular their use in the perpetration of terrorist acts, comply with applicable international law.

We look forward to further discussion, including in the context of AP II, on how we can continue our common efforts to address the issue of IEDs in a comprehensive and balanced manner, taking into account all parameters of this multi-faceted phenomenon and reflecting the principles of IHL. To this purpose, we will be proposing some language amendments to the text of the draft final declaration at a later stage.

Thank you.