



Statement by H.E. Mr. Amadeu da Conceição, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations at Geneva Consultations on Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare

Geneva, 10th February 2019

Mr. Chair,

Dear colleagues,

At the outset, we wish to thank Ireland for convening the second informal consultations on Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare.

We highly appreciate the efforts H.E. Ambassador Michael Gaffey and his hardworking team have dedicated in gathering the elements of a political Declaration on the subject matter.

We also want to thank Ireland for having encapsulated part of our submissions, during the first consultations, last November, in the text of elements of a political declaration at hand.

Mr. Chair

We find the compiled elements as a very good working basis. We are, indeed, in the right direction and we stand the chance to meeting our aspirational goal to conclude the consultations.

To our understanding, the International Humanitarian Law should be the corner stone of the Political Declaration. Therefore, we are happy that the text has done justice, for IHL has been properly reflected therein.

Since I will be taking leave on you, to attend to other engagements, allow me, Mr. Chair, to offer our additional inputs, on what we deem it should be the 3 sections of the declaration, namely preamble, operative section and follow up mechanism.

Preamble

On the preamble, a part from the elements that have been reflected we find important the recognition of the following:

- Reports by UNSG on the matter;
- Joint appeal by the UNSG and ICRC on the avoidance of the use of EWIPA;
- Outcomes of the first ever World Humanitarian Summit, related to the protection of civilians in violent conflicts;
- Maputo and Santiago do Chile regional seminars' outcomes on the issue;
- International, regional and sub-regional initiatives, including frameworks and mechanisms on the protection of civilians;
- Safe School Declaration;
- International, regional and sub-regional policies, best practices and experiences on the protection of civilian;
- Principles of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, of leave no one behind and inclusion;
- Identification of relevant SDG's goal to the Declaration, inter alia Goal 16 on the Promotion of Peaceful, Inclusive and Sustainable Societies.

As for the **Operative Section**, we suggest the following additions, as political commitments:

- Caring of internally and externally **displaced** civilians, on account of the use of EWIPA;
- Para 4.2 on data collection disaggregated by sex and age, should also encompass type of impairment, as to facilitate the design of disability - tailored assistance to the victims;

- Assistance to the victims of the use of EWIPA should also include psychological support, which is to say to go beyond Psycho –social and rehabilitation support;
- Para 4.3, of the text of elements, on victims assistance, should be expanded beyond persons with disability, as to include other vulnerable groups, such as elderly, children and women;
- A commitment on undertaking prevention and risk education on the use of EWIPA, as a mitigation strategy, where and whenever necessary;
- Other commitment relates to the **strengthening of prevention of Diversion** of explosive weapons in the export and import chain, as diversion has been identified as one of the main sources of arms supply to non – states actors.
- Finally, we think it should be helpful to embark, in due course, on an exercise of conceiving indicators that, overtime, would help to track progress and hindrances in the implementation of the Declaration.

Follow up Mechanism of the Declaration

We propose that the implementation review of the Declaration should be undertaken every two years. The review should aim at identifying progresses, but also challenges, and discuss strategies to overcome them, amongst other emerging issues.

To conclude, Mr Chair, we wish to reiterate Mozambique’s political commitment to the process that will lead to the adoption of the political declaration, in support of the United Nations Secretary General disarmament agenda.

We thank you