

## **Ireland Intervention**

### **Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons**

#### **Nineteenth Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II**

**21 November 2017**

#### **Intervention on Agenda Item 10**

#### **Improvised Explosive Devices**

Mr. Coordinator,

As this is my delegations first time taking the floor today, please allow me to congratulate you our president and on your excellent work in this area.

I would also like to congratulate all those who made presentations this afternoon and we thank the delegations of Afghanistan, Iraq, Cameroon and Mali for their openness in updating the meeting on the current IED situation in their countries.

Mr. Coordinator,

The ever increasing humanitarian harm caused by the use of IEDs, as highlighted in each of these presentations, is a matter of grave concern to Ireland. It is clear from these presentations and numerous other reports that the use and proliferation of IEDs has continued to increase since the last meeting of High Contracting Parties, with a corresponding increase in casualties and in particular in the indiscriminate physical harm caused to civilians.

This increasing worldwide use of IEDs represents a threat to our global efforts to promote and maintain stability, security, sustainable development and humanitarian relief operations. They fundamentally undermine the international community's development, peace and security agenda.

Addressing the humanitarian impact of IEDs has never been more urgent and we welcome the recent, proactive steps taken by the international community.

We were pleased to welcome the adoption by consensus of Resolution 2370 by the Security Council in August, and the adoption by consensus of Resolution 72/15 at this year's First Committee of the

UN General Assembly and we look forward to continuing our common efforts to address the issue of IEDs with our international partners at UN and regional levels.

We remain steadfast in our support of the Political Declaration on IEDs adopted by the Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II in 2016. It is a balanced and forward-looking approach, which accurately points out that action is needed in a variety of fora, taking into account the humanitarian, political, and socio-economic impacts of IEDs.

Ireland aligns itself fully to the actions set out in the 2016 Declaration and is committed to working with you chair, and with the High Contracting Parties, international organisations and civil society to achieve tangible success in this regard.

Mr. Coordinator,

IEDs have become embedded as the weapons of choice for armed non-state actors both inside or outside the context of an armed conflict. The impact on fragile states of frequent IED attacks goes far beyond immediate casualty statistics. Their continued use has detrimental impacts on peace-building efforts and sustainable development.

Ireland's most pressing concern with regard to IEDs is with the indiscriminate effects arising from their use. In addition to targeted, deliberate, and completely illegal attacks on civilians, available data from the field continues to reflect the reality that much of the increase in civilian casualties is being caused by victim operated IEDs, which from a legal perspective are mostly improvised and indiscriminate anti-personnel landmines. The increase in pressure plate IEDs was highlighted in the excellent up-to-date presentation provided earlier by Mr Shafiq, the distinguished representative of Afghanistan. The responsibility for harm arising from these effects is not, and should not, be limited to any particular category of user. There is no right user for the use of indiscriminate weapons. Moreover, states should ensure that all measures to counter the threat from IEDs, and in particular their use in the perpetration of terrorist acts, comply with applicable international law.

We look forward to further discussion on IEDs in the context of APII, 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 multifaceted phenomenon and reflecting all principles of IHL

Thank you