



Consultation on the Draft Political Declaration to Address the Humanitarian Harm Arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas

3 March 2021

Statement on Draft Political Declaration Preamble

Thank you Mr. Ambassador,

The HALO Trust aligns with the positions and recommendations expressed by INEW [the International Network on Explosive Weapons]. We will only take the floor once in the interests of brevity.

We support INEW's position because of the extensive human, economic and environmental impact caused by urban conflict. There can be no doubt that this is acute when it comes to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. HALO's programmatic experience – most recently in Libya, Yemen, Syria and Iraq – leaves in no doubt their immediate and reverberating effects and negative impact on the protection of civilians.

When cities are bombed, the consequences are immediate, dire and long-lasting.

HALO is not just here today because we are a clearance organisation. But because we committed to ensuring stronger #ActionOnConflict in policy, political commitment and aid strategy. This must span conflict, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery.

Our firm hope is that this process will lead to robust and concrete commitments to strengthen the protection of civilians from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA).

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