



PHILIPPINES

**High-Level Conference to Adopt the
Political Declaration to Address Humanitarian Harm from
Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA)
18 November 2022**

Statement

Mister Chair,

At the 77th UN General Assembly earlier this year, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. called for the updating of the global governance framework to prepare us for the challenges of this century.

Such updating requires new legal and normative framework to future-proof our open, inclusive, and rules-based international order. But it also entails affirming longstanding principles that reflect the aspiration of our peoples for a just and humane international community.

The humanitarian harms posed by explosive weapons in populated areas are repugnant to global public conscience. That we can transcend our differences and come together to declare our common commitment to address these harms is a testament to the enduring spirit of multilateralism.

On behalf of my Government and of the Filipino people, I thank the Government of Ireland for its leadership.

My delegation takes pride in our contributions to the process that led to this conference, which we have supported since its inception.

My country's work on this issue reflects the spirit of our constitutional renunciation of war as an instrument of state policy, our ironclad commitment to international humanitarian law, and our firm adherence to international human rights law whose application during situations of armed conflict we continue to affirm.

Rather than creating new legal obligations, this declaration affirms the enduring validity of humanitarian principles that animate our efforts.

It also affirms the centrality of human dignity, even in situations of armed conflict. The protection of civilians and the maintenance of rapid, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access are non-negotiable principles.

It also recognizes that the impact of explosive weapons reverberates even long after the cessation of hostilities and thus behooves States to uphold the protection of victims and their centrality in our humanitarian work. It asserts the importance of comprehensive and gender-differentiated victim assistance.

This declaration recognizes the clear and present threat posed by armed non-state actors, many of whom have demonstrated no regard for the dignity of human life, using human shields and wantonly destroying civilian communities in their terrorist acts.

Mister Chair,

In closing, I wish to once again reaffirm the Philippines' commitment to enhancing the protection of civilians against the threat and reverberating impact of explosive weapons in populated areas.

Thank you.