

**Draft Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas**

**Canada's Written Submission to the Consultation Process**

22 April 2022

- Canada greatly appreciates Ireland's efforts to place the protection of civilians at the centre of its UN Security Council tenure, and to highlight its importance through this consultation process.
- Canada continues to support the development of a Political Declaration that is civilian-centred.
- The devastation caused by armed conflict in Ukraine, including the siege of cities and the employment of indiscriminate means and methods of warfare, has highlighted the fundamental requirement for parties to conflict to comply with international humanitarian law, particularly the rules governing the conduct of hostilities.
- Section 4.6 provides for regular meetings to review the implementation of the Declaration. Canada strongly supports such exchanges of best practice insofar as they are structured as non-politicized military-to-military discussions. Canada endorses the participation of the United Nations, the ICRC and other humanitarian and civil society organizations in these exchanges.
- Canada looks forward to continuing our collaborative work to increase the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

**SPECIFIC LANGUAGE PROPOSALS**

Recalling Canada's previous language proposals, including for paragraph 1.2 ("indiscriminate use", "effects" and "harm") and paragraph 2.3, Canada can accept the proposal of "which some have referred to as 'reverberating effects'" in paragraph 1.2 and any of the following proposals for paragraph 3.3:

*3.3 Ensure that our armed forces adopt and implement a range of policies and practices to avoid civilian harm, including by restricting or refraining from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas in accordance with International Humanitarian Law.*

*3.3 Ensure that our armed forces adopt and implement a range of policies and practices to avoid civilian harm, including by restricting or refraining from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas where required by international law.*

*3.3 Ensure that our armed forces adopt and implement a range of policies and practices to help avoid civilian harm, including where feasible by restricting or refraining from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas when their use may be expected to cause harm to civilians or civilian objects.*

## Projet de déclaration politique sur le renforcement de la protection des civils contre les conséquences humanitaires découlant de l'utilisation d'armes explosives dans les zones peuplées

### Communication écrite du Canada dans le cadre du processus de consultation

22 avril 2022

- Le Canada est fort reconnaissant à l'Irlande des efforts qu'elle déploie pour placer la protection des civils au centre de son mandat au Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies et pour en souligner l'importance par le biais de ce processus de consultation.
- Le Canada continue d'appuyer l'élaboration d'une déclaration politique qui soit axée sur les civils.
- La dévastation causée par le conflit armé en Ukraine, y compris le siège des villes et l'emploi de moyens et de méthodes de guerre sans discernement, a mis en évidence l'exigence fondamentale pour les parties au conflit de se conformer au droit humanitaire international, en particulier aux règles régissant la conduite des hostilités.
- L'article 4.6 prévoit des réunions régulières pour examiner la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration. Le Canada appuie fortement ces échanges de meilleures pratiques dans la mesure où ils sont structurés comme des discussions non politisées entre militaires. Le Canada approuve la participation des Nations Unies, du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge et d'autres organisations humanitaires et de la société civile à ces échanges.
- Le Canada entend bien poursuivre son travail de collaboration pour accroître la protection des civils dans les conflits armés.

### PROPOSITIONS PRÉCISES SUR LE LIBELLÉ

Dans l'esprit des libellés proposés précédemment par le Canada, notamment pour l'article 1.2 (« *indiscriminate use* », « *effects* » et « *harm* ») et l'article 2.3, le Canada peut accepter la proposition de « *which some have referred to as "reverberating effects"* » à l'article 1.2 et l'une ou l'autre des propositions suivantes pour l'article 3.3 :

*3.3 Ensure that our armed forces adopt and implement a range of policies and practices to avoid civilian harm, including by restricting or refraining from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas in accordance with International Humanitarian Law.*

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