Statement by Ireland on
L.68 ‘Countering the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices’

Thank you Mr Chairman.

I wish to deliver the following statement on behalf of Ireland and New Zealand.

The humanitarian harm caused by the growing use of improvised explosive devices is a matter of grave concern to Ireland and New Zealand. IEDs and their proliferation represent a significant threat to our global efforts to promote and maintain stability, security, sustainable development, human rights, and humanitarian operations.

The recent UN SG’s Report highlighted the need for united efforts and coordinated action to tackle this complex phenomenon. For this reason, Ireland and New Zealand joined the consensus on draft Resolution L.68 titled ‘Countering the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices’.

However, Ireland and New Zealand have consistently expressed the view that the key issue of concern with regard to IEDs is their indiscriminate effects. These effects are not limited to one or another user. An approach whereby emphasis is placed on one or more categories of users, as opposed to the actual weapon, does not in our view accurately address the problem. We regret that our suggestion, shared with the sponsors of the Resolution, to include a reference to the need for measures to prevent or minimise the indiscriminate effects of IEDs irrespective of their user was not reflected in the text.
Further, while acknowledging that the use of IEDs is particularly problematic—and frequent—when made in the context of terrorist attacks, we nevertheless believe that a heavy emphasis on a particular type of user (such as non-state actors and/or terrorists) risks departing from fundamental IHL concepts and principles.

In that regard Ireland and New Zealand deeply regret that earlier references to the need for counter-terrorism measures to comply with international law, including international humanitarian law, have not been included in the resolution as now tabled.

We look forward to continuing the discussion, including at the upcoming Review Conference of the Conventional Weapons Convention, 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 multi-faceted phenomenon and reflecting the principles of IHL.

Thank you.