Mr. President,

Brazil reiterates that IHL norms and principles are obligatory at all times and under all circumstances, particularly the notion that the choice of means and methods of warfare are not unlimited.

In this sense, one important realization when discussing EWIPA is that the restrictions on the choice of means and methods of warfare posed by IHL are inherently more strict in an urban environment. This is reflected in Brazil’s military doctrines in a straightforward manner. I would like hereby to highlight some of the principles and practices adopted by Brazil with regard to EWIPA.

When operating in an urban environment, there is a need to enhance capabilities of Intelligence, Monitoring and Reconnaissance, including the combined use of all sensors available (cyber, orbitals, aerial, terrestrial, etc.) to proceed to target identification and collateral risk assessment.

In an urban environment, and considering the possible cumulative effects of the use of explosive munitions, it is essential to consider not only the immediate risk to civilians, but also conditions of supply, environment, climatic conditions, infrastructure, including its cultural significance.

Information is necessary on specific details, including compositions of targets and nearby structures; the resistance of the materials those structures are made of; the distance between the medium impact point and civilian installations; the kinetic energy generated by the weapons used; the fragmentation envelope; and detailed data on supply infrastructure, including water, energy, and communications as well as the location of plants and transmission networks.

In this context, the fighting forces have a general obligation to use all means necessary to avoid collateral damage, including the use of special forces and intelligence operations; use of armaments with lower calibers; the use of guided munitions with lower yields, and other feasible precautions.
Additional measures to minimize the humanitarian impact of EWIPA also include: selfprotection; warning systems, evacuation; fire protection; facilities protection, health protection; health services; decontamination of remnants of war; biological, chemical, radiological and nuclear protection, as well as containment and decontamination systems of these hazards; emergency supply of water, food, shelter, energy and cash; adequate management of emergency information; and the training of and support to civil defense services.

Mr. President,

At its core, Brazil believes the fundamental issue with regard to EWIPA and the humanitarian risks posed by military operations in areas with concentrations of civilians in general relate to the level of compliance with and accountability for existing international law and principles.

Brazil supports the continuations of discussions on this topic and the exchange of information on best practices, procedures and mitigation measures among States and with international organizations, with a view to strengthening and implementing existing IHL obligations. This must be carried on in a voluntary manner and within the context of the existing normative framework, which is, if fully complied with, sufficient to deal with the humanitarian challenges posed by EWIPA.

I thank you,

[FECHA ASPAS]