IRELAND

Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare

Towards a Political Declaration to Address the Humanitarian Harm Arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas

INVITATION

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to invite you to the second consultation on Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare, to contribute to the elaboration of a Political Declaration to address the humanitarian harm arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The consultation will take place on 10 February, 2020 from 10h00 to 18h00 in Room XXI, Palais des Nations in Geneva.

I am also pleased to be able to share a draft text containing elements for a political declaration, which draws on the interventions made by delegations during the first consultation on 18 November 2019, as well the written contributions subsequently received.

The draft paper is structured into two main parts: a preamble section (Part A) and an operative section (Part B). To help guide a structured discussion, the paper is further subdivided into Part A, Section 1 which seeks to identify the problems and challenges and Section 2 detailing relevant aspects of international humanitarian law. Part B, Section 3 and 4 details a range of possible operational commitments.

The agenda for the consultation on 10 February, 2020 is closely aligned to the structure of this draft text. As such, I would encourage delegations to target interventions on specific aspects of the draft on a section by section basis, offering language for inclusion or amendment within this initial draft text.
Interpretation services in all six official UN languages will be provided throughout the consultation. Delegations are encouraged to forward any pre-prepared interventions in advance to GenevaConsultations@dfa.ie to assist the interpreters.

Registration for the consultation is open until 7 February 2020. Please 1) send an email confirming attendance to GenevaConsultations@dfa.ie and 2) if you require a badge to access the Palais des Nations, register on INDICO at the following web address https://indico.un.org/event/33095/.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank delegations once again for their positive engagement and valuable contributions during the first consultation and I look forward to welcoming you on 10 February.

Michael Gaffey,
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva

Geneva, 21 January 2020