

**REPUBLIC**



**OF CYPRUS**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

1. Cyprus shares the view that explosive weapons have a devastating impact on civilians and civilian objects around the world. Their use in populated areas has been shown to cause long-term humanitarian harm, which far outlasts the conflicts in which they are used.
2. The deaths and injuries caused, as well as the destruction of houses, schools, hospitals and other critical infrastructure, means that the civilian population in severely affected over the long-term.
3. This destruction also acts as a catalyst for the displacement of people, rendering the displaced persons or refugees vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

4. Cyprus strongly supports the Political Declaration on strengthening the protection of civilians from the humanitarian consequences arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.
5. We believe that the reaffirmation of the obligations of all parties in armed conflict under applicable international law is a crucial element of the Declaration. These obligations include compliance with International Humanitarian Law under all circumstances, including of course when conducting military operations in populated areas.
6. We welcome Ireland's leadership in promoting this important Declaration and we express our gratitude to the Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for hosting this crucial adoption conference.

Dublin, 18 November, 2022