



Africa Regional Workshop on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas

AGENDA

14 – 15 April 2026

Day 1. Tuesday 14 April 2026

09:30-10:15 **Opening remarks and introductions**

Overview of the workshop's purpose and objectives, including welcoming remarks from hosts and partners, followed by a round of participant introductions.

Moderator: Theodora Williams, FOSDA

Austria – H.E. Ambassador Jürgen Heissel
Ghana National Commission on SALW –
Dr .Adam Bonaa
Article 36 – Laura Boillot

Keynote address:

Ghana – Hon. Ebenezer Okletey Terlabi,
Deputy Minister for the Interior

10:15-11:00 **Framing remarks:**

The humanitarian impact of explosive weapons in populated areas and relevance of the EWIPA Political Declaration for Africa

What are the humanitarian consequences of explosive weapon use in populated areas globally, and how does this issue relate to current challenges in African contexts?

What led to the development of the EWIPA Political Declaration, and what are the key commitments that states have made through it?

Why is engagement with the Declaration relevant for African states today, including in relation to protection of civilians, military practice, and regional cooperation?

Moderator: Julia Eberl, Austria

[ICRC video on explosive weapons in populated areas](#)

Norway – H.E. Ambassador John Mikal Kvistad
Sierra Leone – Zainab Rogers
UN ODA – Juliana Helou van der Berg
Mozambique – Rosalia João Cossa

11:00-11:30 **Coffee break and group photo**

11:30-13:00 **Session 1. Regional experiences and humanitarian impacts of explosive weapon use**

What are explosive weapons and what effects do they have? Why are

**Moderator: Emmanuel Felix Mantey,
Ghana National Commission on Small
Arms and Light Weapons**

they of particular concern when used in an urban environment? Disarmament & Arms Control – Joseph Dube

What are the direct and indirect/reverberating effects and how do civilians experience this in the short and long-term? DRC - Léon Muanji Mbuyi
Sudan - Mustafa Mohammed

What are some examples of use and impact in the region?

13:00-14:00 Lunch (provided)

14:00-15:30 Session 2. Changes to military policies and practices to strengthen the protection of civilians

Moderator: Laura Boillot, Article 36

What commitments in the Declaration are most relevant for military doctrine, planning and operational practice?

ICRC – Caroline Baudot

What policies, doctrine or operational guidance do militaries already have in place related to urban warfare and civilian protection?

Malawi – Brig. General Dan Kuwali

Somalia – Captain Mohamed Adan

How can the Declaration be used as a practical tool to strengthen operational approaches to protecting civilians?

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-17:00 Session 3. Data collection and tracking civilian harm

Moderator: Caroline Baudot, ICRC

How can collecting and sharing data on civilian harm improve understanding of the impacts of explosive weapons and inform better policies and operational responses?

UNIDIR – Barbara Morais Figueiredo

Explosive Weapons Monitor – Katherine Young

What are some examples of how this has been used in practice in the conduct of military operations?

Nigeria - Muhammad Nasir

18:00-20.00 Reception hosted at the Austrian residency

Buses depart Hotel Labadi at 18.00, and will return at 20.00

Day 2. Wednesday 15 April 2026

09:30-09:45 Introduction to day 2 and recap of day 1, any logistics

Article 36

09:45-11:00 Session 4. Assistance to conflict affected communities

Moderator: Hillary Kiboro Muchiri, ICRC

What are the needs of conflict-affected communities following explosive weapon use?

Humanity & Inclusion – Antoine Renard

What commitments in the Declaration relate to victim assistance, humanitarian access, clearance and risk education?

How can national authorities and humanitarian organisations work together to strengthen assistance and recovery efforts?

Zambia – Bobby Mudenda

Uganda – Col. Silas Kamanda

Angola – Claudio Crispim (intervention)

11:00-11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30-13:00 **Session 5. African leadership and regional engagement with the EWIPA Declaration**

How does the EWIPA Political Declaration relate to key policy, security, protection and development priorities across Africa?

What is the current status of engagement with the Declaration across the region, including national positions and recent regional initiatives?

What opportunities exist to advance engagement with the Declaration at national, sub-regional and African Union levels?

Moderator: Theodora Williams, FOSDA

Ghana National Commission on Small Arms & Light Weapons – Dr. Gyebi Asante

Morocco – Tarik Batal

ECOWAS – Danjuna Aku

African Union – Amb. Limam El Jalil Aall Brahim

13:00-14:00 **Lunch (provided)**

14:00-15:00 **Session 6. Practical steps for advancing implementation and cooperation in Africa**

What practical steps can states take to begin implementing the commitments of the EWIPA Political Declaration?

How can states, regional organisations and humanitarian actors cooperate to support implementation and share good practice?

What priorities for follow-up and regional collaboration could help sustain engagement with the Declaration in Africa?

Moderator: Laura Boillot, Article 36

ICRC – Hillary Kiboro Muchiri, ICRC

Disarmament and Arms Control – Joseph Dube

UN ODA – Juliana Helou van der Berg

15:00–15:10 **Closing remarks**

Moderator: Laura Boillot, Article 36

Ghana – H.E. Mr. Francis Danti Kotia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration

Austria – H.E. Ambassador Jürgen Heissel

15:00-15.30 **Coffee break and close**

