

*Statement by Norway at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Review Conference on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development*

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To Norway there are in particular **three** issues that we focus on in our follow-up to commitments related to the Geneva Declaration and the Oslo Commitments on Armed Violence:

**Firstly;** a primary objective is to further improve our understanding of armed violence, how it impacts on people, across gender and age, communities and states. Political recognition combined with a facts based approach must form the basis for any response to armed violence whether national or multilateral.

With the Geneva Declaration and the Oslo Commitments states have committed to measuring and monitoring the incidence and impact of armed violence nationally. To this end we have produced a report on the incidence and responses to armed violence in Norway. Our national report confirms that as most countries Norway is affected by armed violence and various responses have been and will be developed.

**Secondly;** In addressing armed violence it is key to look at the **effects** – what are the humanitarian and developmental consequences? We need to actively include victims and survivors in **all** aspects of our work.

Through the Outcome Document states fully commit to recognize and ensure the rights of the victims. The Oslo Commitments established the policy concept of *the rights of victims of armed violence*, and provides a platform for a wide recognition of the rights of victims and survivors of armed violence, building on the rights-based approach to victim assistance already established by the Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Thirdly;** Armed violence is a cross cutting issue and has to be on our agenda when we address security, human rights, rule of law, international weapons trade, public health policies, socio-economic development etc. We will continue to work with others to raise the humanitarian consequences of armed violence in all relevant international processes.

The main responsibility for addressing armed violence rests with the States. However, to address armed violence effectively, the partnership between States, the UN, international organisations and a strong civil society is of paramount importance. We strongly welcome initiatives to strengthen civil society cooperation to tackle armed violence.

Through a number of political declarations, conventions and treaties, states have committed to protect their citizens from armed violence and to ensure the rights of victims. The commitments we undertake by the Outcome Document must be followed by concrete action that makes a real difference for people and communities affected by armed violence.