UNGA Resolution 77/64 on “Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices”

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) continue to pose a serious threat to security and development around the world. Their use has had a severe impact on the delivery of humanitarian assistance within UN framework, especially regarding multilateral peacekeeping operations to ensure the protection of civilians. Its proliferation is responsible for producing an asymmetric advantage for terrorists, insurgent movements and rogue actors (e.g. terrorists and transnational criminals), even against technologically superior conventional forces.

In this sense, countering the threats posed by IEDs is a defying challenging that requires comprehensive approaches across policy domains, as well as effective international and regional cooperation.

Together with EU partners and NATO allies, Portugal is committed to contribute to multilateral counter-IED efforts, as well as some effective approaches for prevention, mitigation, and response.

Actions considered relevant for an improved implementation of UNGA 77/64 Resolution:

1. **Strengthening international legislation:** Support and promote the adoption of more rigorous international legislation to prevent the manufacture, possession, and use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), including measures to hold perpetrators and those who support them accountable.

2. **Information sharing and international cooperation:** Promote an effective exchange of information between UN Member States, regional organizations, and other relevant entities, in order to identify and counter IEDs manufacturing and financing networks.

3. **Capacity-building and technical assistance:** Support capacity-building programs and provide technical assistance to Member States to strengthen the ability to detect, disarm and destroy IEDs, as well as to protect civilian populations against those threats.
4. **Education and public awareness:** Promote public awareness towards the challenges of IEDs and their impacts on local communities, encouraging education on preventing, recognizing, and responding to these threats.

5. **Protection of civilians and humanitarian assistance:** Ensuring the protection of civilians affected by conflicts where IEDs are used, providing adequate humanitarian assistance, and supporting efforts to minimize the damage caused by such devices.

6. **Development of detection and disarmament technologies:** Support the research and development of innovative technologies for the detection, disarmament, and safe destruction of IEDs, aiming for the reduction of the risk upon security forces and local communities.

7. **Counter terrorism financing:** Intensify the traceability of suspicious financial assets.

8. **Rehabilitation and reintegration of combatants:** Support rehabilitation and reintegration programs for ex-combatants.

9. **Empowerment of women and girls:** Recognize the crucial role of women and girls in preventing and mitigating the impacts of IEDs, promoting their active participation on security and peace initiatives.

10. **Integrated approach to security and development:** Adopt an integrated approach that bridges security measures with sustainable development and peace-building initiatives, aiming to address the underlying causes of the use of IEDs and promoting long-term stability.

**Portugal** is fully committed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW), adopted on 10 October 1980, as well as to its Additional Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, adopted at the same time as the Convention.