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Agenda item 132

STATE OF SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS OF THE PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL  
TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949 AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION  
OF VICTIMS OF INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICTS (PROTOCOL I) AND THE  
PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF NON-INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICTS  
(PROTOCOL II)

### Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Miss Salwa Gabriel BERBERI (Sudan)

1. The items entitled "State of signatures and ratifications of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) and the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II)" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly pursuant to a request from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden (A/37/142).
2. On the recommendation of the General Committee, the General Assembly, at its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1982, decided to include this item in the agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.
3. The Sixth Committee had before it, in addition to the request for inclusion of the item in the provisional agenda (A/37/142), the report submitted by the Secretary-General (A/INF.37/2 and Add.1) pursuant to paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/51 of 23 November 1979.
4. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 18th, 19th and 51st meetings, held on 15 October and 19 November 1982. The summary records of those meetings (A/C.6/37/SR.18, 19 and 51) contain the view of representatives who spoke during the consideration of this item.

5. At the 51st meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft resolution (A/C.6/37/L.10) sponsored by Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Tunisia and Yugoslavia, later joined by Zaire.
6. At the same meeting, the Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.
7. Israel spoke in explanation of its position.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

8. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

State of signatures and ratifications of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) and the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/44 of 8 December 1977 and 34/51 of 23 November 1979,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 1/ on the state of signatures and ratifications of the two Protocols Additional to the Geneva Convention of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, 2/

Noting resolution VII of the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference, adopted in November 1981,

Convinced of the continuing value of established humanitarian rules relating to armed conflict and the need to secure the full observance of human rights in armed conflicts pending the earliest possible termination of such conflicts,

Noting the virtually universal acceptance of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 concerning the protection of victims of armed conflicts, and their binding character for all Parties,

Noting further with appreciation the continuing efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to disseminate information about the two additional Protocols,

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1/ A/34/445.

2/ A/32/144, annexes I and II.

Concerned, however, at the fact that so far only a limited number of States have signed, ratified or acceded to the two Protocols,

Mindful of the need for continued improvement of the implementation and for further expansion of the body of humanitarian rules relating to armed conflict,

1. Reiterates its call, contained in General Assembly resolution 34/51, that all States should consider without delay the matter of ratifying or acceding to the two Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts;

2. Calls on all States becoming parties to Protocol I to consider the matter of making the declaration provided for under Article 90 of that Protocol;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session a report on the status of the Protocols based on information received from Member States;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-ninth session an item entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts: report of the Secretary-General".

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