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Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution [73/204](#). Twenty Member States and the International Committee of the Red Cross transmitted to the Secretary-General the information requested by the Assembly in that resolution. A list of States parties to the Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005 is contained in the annex to the report.

* [A/75/150](#).



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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 13 of its resolution 73/204, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its seventy-fifth session, a comprehensive report on the status of the Additional Protocols relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts and on measures taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law, inter alia, with respect to its dissemination and full implementation at the national level, based on information received from Member States and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
2. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General, by notes verbales dated 7 January 2019 and 3 March 2020 and a letter dated 7 January 2019, invited Member States and ICRC to transmit to him, by 1 June 2020, the information requested for inclusion in the present report.
3. Information has been received from the following Member States: Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czechia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Ireland, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mali, Philippines, Qatar,¹ Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.
4. The report was prepared on the basis of information submitted by Member States and ICRC and should be read together with previous reports of the Secretary-General under this item.²
5. Summaries of the information submitted by Member States are contained in section II of the present report and a summary of the information submitted by ICRC is presented in section III. The full texts of information received for the purposes of the present report and for previous reports under this item since the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly are available on the website of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly (www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/).
6. The list of all States that are parties to the Additional Protocols of 1977 and of 2005³ to the Geneva Conventions of 1949⁴ as at 21 July 2020 is contained in the annex to the report.

II. Information received from Member States

Armenia

[Original: English]
[29 May 2020]

Armenia has ratified all the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions and, in accordance with article 90 of Additional Protocol I, has recognized the competence of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission.

Armenia reported that it attached great importance to the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as a neutral and independent organization, highlighted the successful implementation of ICRC projects to assist

¹ As the submission of Qatar was received in July 2020, it is available on the website of the Sixth Committee at www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/75/protocols.shtml.

² See, for instance, A/73/277; A/71/183 and A/71/183/Add.1; A/69/184 and A/69/184/Add.1; A/67/182 and A/67/182/Add.1; A/65/138 and A/65/138/Add.1; A/63/118 and A/63/118/Add.1; A/61/222 and A/61/222/Add.1; A/59/321; A/57/164 and A/57/164/Add.1; A/55/173, A/55/173/Corr.1, A/55/173/Corr.2 and A/55/173/Add.1; A/53/287; A/51/215, A/51/215/Corr.1 and A/51/215/Add.1; and A/49/255, A/49/255/Corr.1 and A/49/255/Add.1.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513; vol. 2404, No. 43425.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

inhabitants along its borders and encouraged the continuation of such projects. ICRC supports the efforts of the Armenian authorities to integrate international humanitarian law norms into the national legal system and the application of those norms in the Armed Forces. The teaching of international humanitarian law is also included in the curricula of Yerevan State University and other universities in Armenia.

Armenia participated in the thirty-third International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and made a number of pledges, including fostering climate-smart disaster laws and policies ensuring that the most vulnerable are reached; fostering first aid development, promotion and integration in Armenia; promoting humanitarian education for resilience; and promoting public health and social care.

The national strategy for the protection of human rights and action plan for 2020–2022 were adopted by the Government on 26 December 2019. Among the main goals of the national action plan are: to carry out training on the right to life in accordance with international standards, including for armed forces commanders, military police, investigators, prosecutors, judges, lawyers and penitentiary service employees; to raise awareness about the right to life among conscripts and servicemen; to improve personal data protection mechanisms; and to encourage women's involvement in the Armed Forces.

In March 2017, Armenia joined the Safe Schools Declaration, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening the protection of children's education and other rights during hostilities. In May 2019, Armenia participated in the third International Conference on Safe Schools. Armenia is also making efforts to raise the awareness of the Armenian authorities about the provisions of the Declaration.

Armenia acknowledges the need to protect cultural heritage from intentional destruction as an important part of the realization of international humanitarian law norms and is a party to several conventions on cultural property protection.

Armenia is a strong advocate of the prevention of genocide and has traditionally presented resolutions relating to that issue. The most recent resolution, entitled "Prevention of genocide", was unanimously adopted by the Human Rights Council in March 2018. In 2015, Armenia initiated and hosted the first Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide, bringing together prominent scholars and practitioners of genocide prevention. The third Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide took place in 2018. Armenia stated its intention to host the fourth Global Forum on 9 and 10 December 2020, on the theme "Women and Girls: Challenging the Victim Paradigm". On 13 May 2020, the Agreement between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Yerevan State University concerning the Establishment of a UNESCO Chair on Education and Prevention of Genocide and other Atrocity Crimes was signed.

In February 2019, the Government of Armenia approved the first national action plan on the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security. The national action plan takes into account the situation on the ground with a view to accelerating the political participation and economic empowerment of women in the context of peacebuilding, conflict prevention and conflict resolution. Particular focus is given to vulnerable population groups, including women from border communities, women affected by conflict and women displaced or at risk of displacement. The national action plan covers a three-year period from 2019 to 2021, following which it will be revised in accordance with its effectiveness.

In the context of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Armenia attaches importance to ensuring the active participation of women in all stages of the conflict cycle and the protection of women affected by the conflict. Armenia has

supported the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the efforts made towards equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes. The involvement of women in peacekeeping missions is among the priorities of reforms implemented by the Armenian Armed Forces. Armenia reported that non-governmental organizations, women's networks and grassroots initiatives were instrumental in women's engagement in peace- and security-related activities through supporting their involvement in reconstruction and rehabilitation activities. Since 2015, the HALO Trust has been training and employing local women in humanitarian demining missions in the affected areas of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Austria

[Original: English]
[30 April 2020]

Austria reported that it had taken several measures relating to victims of armed conflicts and the strengthening of international humanitarian law since the previous report of the Secretary-General ([A/73/277](#)).

At the thirty-third International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 2019, Austria co-hosted a side event on the theme "Protecting civilians in urban warfare" and co-sponsored two side events on the themes "Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons" and "Protection of journalists in armed conflicts". Austria supported the resolutions adopted at the Conference. In the context of the adoption of the resolution on international humanitarian law, Austria reported that it had been actively involved in the insertion of a strong reference to the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission established under article 90 of Additional Protocol I. At the Conference, Austria submitted five pledges, together with the Austrian Red Cross. It pledged to host a regional conference of the national commissions of European countries on international humanitarian law in Vienna in 2020, in close cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross. Austria also submitted a pledge on the dissemination of international humanitarian law through regular seminars on various international humanitarian law topics. Austria further submitted pledges on the following topics: explosive weapons in populated areas; humanitarian effects of nuclear weapons; and anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions.

Austria has worked for broad international engagement to address the human suffering caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and to strengthen the implementation of international humanitarian law in that regard. On 1 and 2 October 2019, an international conference was held in Vienna on the theme "Protecting civilians in urban warfare", which led to the commencement of the elaboration of a political declaration facilitated by Ireland.

Austria reported that it would continue cooperation to raise awareness and make progress on the issue of the catastrophic and unacceptable humanitarian consequences and risks of nuclear weapons and the need to attain a world free of nuclear weapons. Regarding anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions, Austria reported that it would continue cooperation to reach the objective of a mine-free and cluster munitions-free world.

The Austrian Ministry of Defence has published a compilation of legal documents on international humanitarian law, including both international treaties to which Austria is a party and Austrian laws and regulations, to serve as a key reference document, especially for legal advisers and law teachers and for the training of members of the Austrian armed forces in international humanitarian law.

Austria reported that it remained a strong supporter of the International Criminal Court and of the universality of the Rome Statute. In 2019, Austria supported the amendment to article 8 of the Rome Statute proposed by Switzerland, to include the war crime of intentionally using the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare in non-international armed conflicts.

In 2019, Austria made a financial contribution to the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011. In addition, Austria continued its financial support to other institutions such as the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court and the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Belarus

[Original: Russian]
[9 April 2020]

Belarus reaffirmed the information it had submitted in 2016 (see [A/71/183](#)) and reported that, since then, the following important events had taken place. In November 2017, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited Belarus for the first time. On 8 November 2017, an agreement between Belarus and ICRC on the status, privileges and immunities of the organization in Belarus was signed. In 2018, an ICRC office was opened in Belarus. In November 2017 and October 2019, respectively, Minsk hosted the sixth and seventh regional seminars on the implementation of international humanitarian law, organized jointly by the Ministry of Justice and ICRC.

In 2019, delegations from the Government of Belarus and the Belarusian Red Cross Society took part in the thirty-third International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Belarus organized two thematic events: an event on combating trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict and a presentation of a book. The Belarusian delegation presented information on the work of the Commission on Implementation of International Humanitarian Law, which reports to the Council of Ministers of Belarus, at a special session of the Conference devoted to voluntary reporting and sharing of good practices.

The event on combating trafficking in persons took place on 11 December 2019 and took the form of a discussion. The idea of holding the event arose from a proposal put forward by the President of Belarus, at the 2005 World Summit, for the establishment of a global partnership to combat trafficking in persons.

In 2019, a presentation of the book *Missia miloserdia: Illyustrativnaya istoria Krasnogo Kresta v Belarusi* (Mission of Mercy: an Illustrated History of the Red Cross in Belarus) by Vladimir Likhodedov was organized. The book was written at the initiative of the Belarusian Red Cross Society and published with the support of the ICRC office in Belarus and the Ministry of Information of Belarus.

To support global efforts to combat trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict, in 2019, Belarus made a voluntary contribution of 10,000 Swiss francs to the ICRC Restoring Family Links programme.

In 2017, as part of the “Youth for Peace” International Law Competition, which is intended to educate students about international humanitarian law, the Ministry of Justice of Belarus instituted a certificate of merit for the best legal argument.

In 2019, a peace studies centre was opened at the Belarusian State University in the context of the university’s cooperation with the Belarusian Red Cross Society.

Belgium

[Original: French]

[29 May 2020]

Belgium reported that the most significant legislative changes since 2018 included the Act of 5 May 2019, which amended the Act of 29 March 2004 on cooperation with the International Criminal Court and the international criminal tribunals to include a new Title VI quater on the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, and a new Title VI quinquies on the groups of experts and the investigation teams. The Act of 5 May 2019 also amended articles 136 quater and 136 quinquies of the Criminal Code to bring them into line with article 8 of the Rome Statute, as amended, as well as the Act of 30 July 1981 on the suppression of certain acts motivated by racism or xenophobia, with a view to implementing the Additional Protocol of 28 January 2003 to the European Convention on Cybercrime of 23 November 2001, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems, and the European Union Council Framework Decision of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law. Another significant legislative change was the Act of 11 July 2018 amending the Act of 29 March 2004 on cooperation with the International Criminal Court and the international criminal tribunals to include a chapter on cooperation with the Specialist Chambers for Kosovo.

Belgium has also organized a number of events, both national and international, on issues relating to international humanitarian law. Those include General Assembly side events on the reintegration of child soldiers, on strengthening respect for international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and on the actions taken by States to protect children in armed conflict, and one organized with the European Union on safeguarding the humanitarian space in the context of counter-terrorism. They also include a briefing to the Security Council on the guidelines on integrating child protection into peace negotiations and mediation processes and a conference on the challenges posed by armed conflict in urban areas. The Belgian authorities supported the organization of workshops commemorating the seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.

The Belgian authorities have also continued to work with the Belgian Red Cross to strengthen the dissemination of information on and implementation of international humanitarian law through various initiatives.

Through the Interministerial Commission for Humanitarian Law and with the collaboration of the Belgian Red Cross, the Belgian authorities prepared the final report on the implementation of the resolutions and commitments adopted at the thirty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2015.

In addition, the Belgian authorities worked closely with the Belgian Red Cross to prepare for the thirty-third International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, in particular to develop the pledges that were adopted by Belgium individually, and jointly with its national society or with the European Union and its Member States, for the next four years and to organize a side event on the success of national commissions for international humanitarian law.

Belgium also endorsed the call to action for international humanitarian law that was launched on the margins of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Original: English]

[11 June 2020]

Bosnia and Herzegovina, after the completion of a consultative process involving representatives of all levels of government and institutional mechanisms for gender equality and civil society, including various women's organizations, compiled a draft transitional justice strategy, which is still to be adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the strategy, women victims of war are not classified as a special group of war victims, but the proposed activities in all strategic areas aim to empower women victims of war to exercise their rights as part of the entire group of civilian victims of war.

In 2018, the Republika Srpska passed the Republika Srpska Law on the Protection of Victims of War Torture, covering that entity. Meanwhile, the Law on the Rights of Victims of Torture covering Bosnia and Herzegovina has not been passed yet, although it has been listed in the plan of activities of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina for several years. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina also prepared a proposal for a Bosnia and Herzegovina programme for victims of rape, sexual abuse and torture and their families (2013–2016), which was not adopted.

In order to increase the participation of women in military structures and their appointment as holders of managerial and command positions, the Ministry of Defence has carried out activities to raise awareness of gender equality.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted the 2018–2022 gender action plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the 2018–2022 action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The gender action plan contains measures aimed at developing, implementing and monitoring a programme of measures for gender mainstreaming in government institutions by priority areas; building and strengthening the system, mechanisms and instruments for achieving gender equality; and establishing and strengthening cooperation and partnerships. The action plan contains three objectives related to increased participation of women in the army, police and peacekeeping missions, including participation in decision-making; an increased level of human security through gender equality; and improvement of the conditions for and approach to the implementation of the action plan on Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#). As part of the measures taken to implement that resolution, the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina have joined the Women, Peace and Security Chiefs of Defence Network and, on the basis of that project, in March 2019, an international conference on the theme “Women, peace and security” was held in Bosnia and Herzegovina, resulting in the following outputs: the adoption of conclusions, the formation of a working group and the drafting of a comprehensive dynamic plan for the implementation of the conclusions. As a result of the implementation of the dynamic plan in May 2020, a gender review of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina was produced.

When laws and delegated legislation are drafted or amended, they are brought into line with the Law on Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 16/03, 102/09, 32/10 – consolidated text).

Bulgaria

[Original: English]
[17 June 2019]

In 2019, the Republic of Bulgaria established a national committee on international humanitarian law. The committee held its first, constitutive meeting on 22 April 2019, chaired by Ekaterina Zaharieva, Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria. The committee was established by the Council of Ministers (Decree No. 35/27.02.2019) with the objective of ensuring national implementation of international humanitarian law and of other relevant international norms, in order to implement the State's fundamental obligations to respect and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law and to address cross-cutting issues. Among the main tasks of the newly established committee is supporting coordination between the different national institutions with competence in the implementation of national measures in the field of international humanitarian law. The committee is chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Its Vice-Chair is the Deputy Minister of Defence and its members are the deputy ministers of the competent ministries, representatives of the State Agency for Refugees, the State Agency for Child Protection and the Bulgarian Red Cross. Representatives of academia, independent institutions such as the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and others also play an important role in the work of the committee. Bulgaria stressed that national committees on international humanitarian law had the essential function of facilitating the national implementation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

Czechia

[Original: English]
[8 June 2020]

Czechia ratified the three amendments to article 8 of the Rome Statute in 2020. Czechia also adopted the action plan of Czechia for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security and of related resolutions adopted from 2017 to 2020.

In 2019, Czechia reviewed its national law concerning criminalization of sexual and gender-based violence during times of armed conflict or in the aftermath of disasters and other emergencies. Czechia is a contracting party to many international humanitarian law treaties whose provisions prohibit acts of sexual violence. Czechia reported that obligations emerging from such treaties had been fully implemented in national law. The Czech Criminal Procedure Code also enables the effective investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence. The Act on Victims of Crimes offers protection and necessary assistance (legal, psychological and financial) to the victims.

Czechia, together with the National Red Cross Society (the Czech Red Cross), has continued to work on the promotion of international humanitarian law and the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law in the State administration, the armed forces, the police and the integrated rescue system, mainly through the national committee on international humanitarian law, chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The national committee meets regularly to discuss the implementation of the international humanitarian law obligations of Czechia and to raise awareness of international humanitarian law principles. The national committee organized a seminar on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict in 2018 and a seminar on the provision of humanitarian assistance and the

safety of humanitarian personnel in 2019 and published and disseminated a manual on the use of the emblem of the Red Cross in Czechia.

The Ministry of Defence, in cooperation with the Czech Red Cross, has continued to organize annually the military exercise “Jus in Bello”, focusing specifically on the practical application of international humanitarian law in the field.

Since January 2019, Czechia has been providing a grant related to international humanitarian law issues to the Institute of International Relations in Prague. One of the main aims of the grant is to support the analysis of different national legal frameworks for the regulation of private military and security companies during an armed conflict and the preparation of a draft ethical code of conduct for private military and security companies.

In 2017, Czechia nominated Villa Tugendhat for enhanced protection under the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. In 2018, the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization decided to include Villa Tugendhat in the List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection. In November 2019, Czechia was re-elected as a member of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

Czechia also actively participated in the thirty-third International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2019.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[27 May 2020]

Ecuador ratified the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 on 11 August 1954 and Protocols I and II on 10 April 1979; it signed Protocol III on 8 December 2005. Ecuador reported that it complied with all established international humanitarian rules relating to armed conflict.

Regarding the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission, the Joint Command of the Ecuadorian Armed Forces recommends giving ad hoc consent in order to ensure compliance with the fundamental guarantees to which victims of armed conflict are entitled, and proceeding in accordance with Protocol I.

Ecuador has also ratified other related instruments on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and on the rights of the child and the involvement of children in armed conflict.

Ecuador has incorporated the principle of respect for international humanitarian law into its constitutional and legal order. It disseminates that principle among members of the armed forces and also emphasizes the fact that violations of international humanitarian law are crimes under the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code (part IV on specific offences, chapter 1 on serious violations of human rights and crimes under international humanitarian law).

In relation to the thirty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2015, the Ministry of National Defence submitted reports on the fulfilment of pledges on sexual violence in armed conflicts and other emergencies and on the strengthening of the protection of education during armed conflict, as well as a number of other reports. For the thirty-third International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2019, Ecuador took the lead on a joint pledge with Peru

and joined the sponsors of a proposal made by Austria. As at April 2020, Ecuador had made three voluntary pledges for the period 2019–2023.

The Ecuadorian National Commission for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law was established by Executive Decree No. 1741 of 16 August 2006. The Commission, which held its most recent session on 19 February 2020, meets regularly and has set up mechanisms to promote dissemination, such as the annual Mariscal Antonio José de Sucre courses on international humanitarian law. The eleventh course was held in 2019. During the final months of 2019 and part of 2020, the Commission worked on the revision of the draft regulations on the use of the emblem of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The Directorate of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law of the Joint Command of the Armed Forces of Ecuador recommends that the Ministry of National Defence coordinate efforts to work with various government bodies to address the issue of the protection of victims of armed conflict, culminating in the drafting and submission of protocols for the proper treatment and protection of victims of armed conflict that can be applied nationwide.

Ecuador notes that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is a visionary agenda for 2030 for women's empowerment and that States parties have an obligation to comply with paragraph 25 of General Assembly resolution [72/147](#).

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]

[1 June 2020]

El Salvador reiterated the information it had submitted previously (see [A/65/138](#), [A/67/182](#), [A/69/184](#), [A/71/183](#) and [A/73/277](#)).

The Inter-Agency Committee on International Humanitarian Law has carried out several activities related to international humanitarian law, including training for personnel of the armed forces, other State institutions and university students; commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, and of the twenty-second anniversary of the creation of the Inter-Agency Committee; production of a manual on international humanitarian law for the armed forces of El Salvador; dissemination of printed materials on international humanitarian law; and updating of the Inter-Agency Committee's website with topics related to international humanitarian law.

In terms of normative efforts, the Inter-Agency Committee has prepared a preliminary draft of a special law against war crimes and crimes against humanity, which refers to, inter alia, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols.

In the context of the thirty-third International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Inter-Agency Committee is working on four pledges that will provide an international humanitarian law road map, with a view to the involvement of more State institutions.

El Salvador has continued to mark cultural property with the Blue Shield to indicate the need for its protection in the event of an armed conflict. Currently, with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 44 properties are protected in times of peace; the latest to be marked was the Luis Alfaro Durán Museum and Library of the Central Reserve Bank.

Lastly, El Salvador highlighted the value that training in international humanitarian law has had as part of the training provided to police and military appointees prior to their deployment in peacekeeping operations.

Germany

[Original: English]
[26 May 2020]

Germany has been a party to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 since 1954 and to Protocols I and II since 1991. Furthermore, Germany has made a declaration pursuant to article 90 of Protocol I recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission. Germany ratified Protocol III in 2009.

In 2019, Germany honoured the seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions with an expert panel discussion co-organized with the German Red Cross.

The German Committee on International Humanitarian Law advises the Government on matters relating to the implementation, development and dissemination of international humanitarian law.

The Federal Ministry of Defence is responsible for the implementation of the norms of international humanitarian law within the German armed forces. As provided for by the law governing the legal status of soldiers, instruction in international humanitarian law and in other international regulations, agreements and commitments constitutes part of the training programmes for all military personnel in the German armed forces. Under *Zentrale Dienstvorschrift (ZDv) 241/1* (Humanitarian Law in Armed Conflicts – Manual), soldiers and civilian employees at all command levels have access to the pertinent rules of international humanitarian law as interpreted by the Federal Ministry of Defence.

Germany actively supports the International Criminal Court and, in 2002, legislative measures concerning the implementation of the Rome Statute were incorporated into German domestic law. Amendments to domestic criminal law concerning vertical cooperation between Germany and the International Criminal Court are contained in a separate code (*Gesetz über die Zusammenarbeit mit dem Internationalen Strafgerichtshof*), under which, to the extent possible, all measures of judicial cooperation available between States are conceded to the Court. Furthermore, a special penal code on crimes under international criminal law (*Völkerstrafgesetzbuch*) has been adopted, which penalizes crimes in domestic law that fall within the jurisdiction of the Court, such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Germany is involved in fighting the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and the use of anti-personnel landmines. As a party to the Ottawa Convention, Germany does not produce or export anti-personnel landmines and has also signed and implemented a number of international agreements regarding small arms and light weapons.

Germany is engaged in a number of multilateral forums to work out multilateral guidance to ensure that future weapons systems using new and emerging technologies are developed and used only in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

In 2016 the Federal Foreign Office, the Ministry of Defence and the German Red Cross published and broadly distributed the third edition of the collection of documents on international humanitarian law, containing documents of central importance to international humanitarian law in English and German.

Ireland

[Original: English]
[15 May 2020]

In 2018, Ireland ratified the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and acceded to its related 1999 Second Protocol.

On 24 October 2019, the President of Ireland delivered the keynote address at a joint Government/Irish Red Cross conference to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. Ireland reported that the event, also addressed by the Attorney General of Ireland, had been a high-profile opportunity to disseminate the Geneva Conventions and their Protocols to society.

The national committee of Ireland on international humanitarian law meets regularly under the chairmanship of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The national committee provides an effective means of promoting wider knowledge of international humanitarian law within the State system. The national committee most recently met on 13 November 2019, ahead of the thirty-third International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[9 June 2020]

Lebanon reiterated the information it had submitted previously (see [A/73/277](#), [A/69/184](#), [A/67/182](#), [A/65/138/Add.1](#), and [A/61/222](#)). The Directorate of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights of the Lebanese Army is being developed and enhanced. A training manual on international humanitarian law has been put together in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and circulated. International humanitarian law has been added to the military training curriculum for all ranks as a basic, stand-alone subject. Publications on emblems that must be respected have been distributed to units on active duty and a handbook on the principles of military conduct in the field, including the key principles and rules of international humanitarian law, has been issued to every member of the Lebanese Armed Forces. A number of training courses on international humanitarian law have been organized for officers and other ranks. Training activities have also been held for students of private and national universities.

The post of international humanitarian law adviser has been created at all levels (army command, units on active duty, etc.), in accordance with article 82 of Protocol I, and is assigned the task of providing legal advice during the planning and execution of military operations. Operational measures have been put in place in accordance with the country's obligation to ensure the protection of cultural objects. Instructions have been issued and measures taken to ensure that the provisions of 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 and three of its annexed protocols are implemented. A system has been set up to monitor violations of international humanitarian law and to hold perpetrators to account; they are subject to professional and judicial sanctions depending on the jurisdiction.

All military units have been provided with the rules of international humanitarian law, coupled with internal instructions that require their strict application in the course of military operations. A constructive dialogue was held in Beirut with ICRC on events in the Aarsal area and measures taken by the Lebanese Army to ensure that the units that participate in operations there abide by the relevant

provisions of international humanitarian law. A regional workshop on the theme of protecting cultural property in times of armed conflict was held for female military personnel from Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon to foster respect for people's culture and heritage among members of the armed forces. Some articles of the general military code relating to respect for international humanitarian law have been amended with a view to boosting protection for groups, such as children, women and prisoners, covered by such law.

Lithuania

[Original: English]
[27 May 2020]

Lithuania reiterated the information it had submitted previously (see [A/71/183](#)). The Republic of Lithuania is a party to all major instruments of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

The Lithuanian national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) was adopted in 2011. The national action plan is an important tool in raising awareness of equal opportunities for women to take part in preventing conflicts and rebuilding peace and to involve women in decision-making at all levels and in peacekeeping operations and missions in both the civilian and military fields. The national action plan also provides for the training of experts taking part in operations and missions on women's rights and other matters related to the resolution. Currently, consultations with relevant State institutions are being conducted with a view to updating and improving the national action plan.

An action plan for 2015–2017 has been drawn up by the Minister of National Defence for the implementation of the national programme on equal opportunities for women and men 2015–2021 approved by the Government. The subject of gender equality (including Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#)) has been incorporated into the education programmes of all levels of military personnel. Under the Statute of Military Discipline, sexual harassment is considered a gross violation of military discipline and is punishable by disciplinary measures. Since 2010, gender perspectives have been integrated into military planning processes at the tactical and operational levels, as well as in all exercises conducted by the Lithuanian Armed Forces.

The legislation of the Republic of Lithuania in relation to national defence provides for gender equality in the national defence system. Lithuania reported that there were no gender-based limitations with respect to military service. In 2019, women accounted for 11.5 per cent of Lithuanian military personnel. In 2019, 33.3 per cent of female military officers and 11.8 per cent of female civil servants occupied decision-making positions in the Ministry of National Defence, and 7.5 per cent in the Lithuanian Armed Forces. There were no cases of exploitation and abuse perpetrated by Lithuanian peacekeepers in 2019.

On 15 November 2017 the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania signed the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers. Lithuania is also supportive of the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians. On 9 September 2017, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Secretary-General signed the voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse.

In relation to the promotion by Lithuania of 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, in 2019, approximately 20 hectares of polluted territories were checked and cleaned up and 4,275 pieces of

different types of explosive ordnance were found. From 2008 to the end of 2019, a Lithuanian Armed Forces explosive ordnance disposal company checked and cleaned up over 873 hectares of polluted territories and found over 24,775 pieces of different types of explosive ordnance.

In 2017, the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania approved the initiative to expand the scope of the International Criminal Court (article 8).

Mali

[Original: French]

[1 June 2020]

With regard to measures taken on the dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law within the Malian Defence and Security Forces, the Code of Conduct of the Forces contains a statement that they are bound by the rules of international humanitarian law, in particular the obligation to respect, protect and assist the civilian population (article 7), the principle of refraining from the use of force and firearms to disperse illegal but non-violent gatherings (article 22), the prohibition of violence to life and person (article 25) and the prohibition of murder and inhuman and degrading treatment (article 30). Under Directive No. 653/CEMGA/S-CEM/OPS/DOMP-DIH of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of 24 August 2010, instruction in international humanitarian law must be provided in all training programmes for the Forces.

The guidelines on international humanitarian law developed by the Ministry of Defence and Veterans' Affairs, with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), contribute to the training of the Forces. An ICRC booklet for combatants on the rules for behaviour in combat has also been distributed to the Forces. Legal advisers are deployed to the Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces and the operational chiefs, and military police officers are integrated into combat units as part of the introduction of judicial procedures in the theatres of operations. Malian law establishes 18 years as the minimum age of recruitment into the Forces, thus precluding any possibility of recruiting child soldiers. Women enjoy the same rights as men and have access to senior positions.

With regard to assistance and protection, there are designated gender-based violence focal points at several levels within the Forces; ICRC has access at all times to detainees; and children associated with armed forces or armed groups are offered special protection in accordance with a 2013 protocol between the Government and the United Nations system. In the context of child protection, Mali mentioned Act No. 2018-011 of 12 February 2018 on the National Office for Wards in the Republic of Mali, which is responsible for wards of the State and wards of the nation. Under the General Statute of Military Personnel, the beneficiaries of military personnel killed in operations or during official missions receive substantial benefits. Those wounded in war are provided with State care.

With regard to punishment, the Malian Criminal Code covers war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Article 32 of the Code establishes that there is no statute of limitations for such crimes. The Military Justice Code sets out punishments for looting and the unlawful use of the emblem and other distinctive signs. A specialized judicial unit for combating terrorism, money-laundering and international drug trafficking is in operation, with domestic jurisdiction over investigations into terrorism, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Mali suggested that greater support from the international community for the efforts of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel would make it possible to effectively combat terrorism and forms of human trafficking in the Sahel region.

Philippines

[Original: English]
[1 June 2020]

The Philippines reported that it complied with the Additional Protocols through the following instruments: for Protocol II, Republic Act No. 11188, the Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act (2019) and Republic Act No. 10821, the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act (2016); and, for Protocol III, Republic Act No. 10530, the Red Cross and Other Emblems Act (2013).

The Philippines reported that key government measures to strengthen the implementation of international humanitarian law included the development of a process flow chart in connection with Republic Act No. 11188 on rescued children; the development of a monitoring, reporting and response system for grave child rights violations in situations of armed conflict; the adoption of Administrative Order 84, series of 2002, on Procedures in the Handling and Treatment of Children Involved in Armed Conflict (to align with Republic Act No. 11188); the development of a flow chart in relation to Republic Act No. 9344, the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006, as amended, and Republic Act No. 11188, particularly on children involved in armed conflict and who had committed acts that would make them criminally liable under local laws; the provision of assistance in 2019 to 1,747 former rebels by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, known as Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan; and the issuance by the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Council for the Welfare of Children of Joint Memorandum Circular 2020-001 on Reiteration of Protocols on Reaching Out to Children, including those in Street Situations, in Need of Special Protection, Children at Risk, and Children in Conflict with the Law during the Enhanced Community Quarantine during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Human Rights Office of the Philippine Navy has conducted advocacy lectures on international humanitarian law in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Commission on Human Rights. The Philippine Public Safety College has included human rights, with an emphasis on international humanitarian law, as a mandatory subject in the course curriculum being offered to public safety officers.

The Philippine Army has taken several measures to strengthen the Additional Protocols. In 2010, it activated the Army Human Rights Office. In 2017, it published a handbook as a guide for soldiers on human rights, international humanitarian law and the rule of law and distributed pocket-size leaflets for soldiers in Mindanao. It has also institutionalized the international humanitarian law module for basic soldiery to promote courses for both officers and enlisted personnel.

The Philippine National Police has taken several measures to strengthen the Additional Protocols. Its School for Investigation and Detective Development in the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management has included the provisions of Republic Act No. 9851 in one of the modules of the basic course and criminal investigation course for investigation officers. The Philippine National Police Human Rights Affairs Office is a member of the technical working group for the crafting of the international humanitarian law manual, which is a project spearheaded by the Philippine Judicial Academy of the Supreme Court in partnership with ICRC.

Sweden

[Original: English]

[1 June 2020]

Sweden has been a party to the first and second Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions since 1979 and has reported continuously on the implementation and development of international humanitarian law to the Secretary-General since 1994, most recently in 2016 (see [A/71/183/Add.1](#)). The following information supplements previous reports.

Sweden works to promote cooperation between national and international actors to initiate national prosecutions for violations of international humanitarian law when possible and co-hosted a joint ministerial and expert meeting for that purpose in 2018.

Sweden has, since 2008, had permanent entities within its judicial authorities investigating and prosecuting crimes against the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law. Through cases at the national level, Sweden has taken part in establishing new jurisprudence relating to international humanitarian law. In investigations at the national level, victims of armed conflicts are entitled to legal counsel financed by public means. Additional measures are taken in relation to victims of sexual and gender-based crimes in armed conflict, in order to safeguard their rights in judicial procedures. Moreover, the Swedish judicial authorities regularly undergo training in international humanitarian law. Since 2015, the Swedish judicial authorities have appointed investigators and prosecutors to investigate and prosecute sexual and gender-based war crimes committed by Da'esh in Syria and Iraq.

In April 2018, the Swedish public authority Folke Bernadotte Academy conducted the civil-military exercise Viking 18 together with the Swedish Armed Forces. One of the focus areas of the exercise was the protection of civilians. The Academy has also supported the United Nations in developing a handbook on protection of civilians in peace operations.

Sweden has ratified the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, depositing its instrument of ratification on 10 November 2017, and the Protocol entered into force with respect to Sweden on 10 February 2018. A minor amendment related to property was made to the Swedish Act on criminal responsibility for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (2014:406) to align it with the obligations under the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention.

Sweden is a State party to both the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty and has provided support to several initiatives of various organizations on mine action programmes.

Sweden welcomed the second implementation report on the European Union guidelines on the promotion of compliance with international humanitarian law, presented in 2019.

In June 2016, Sweden was elected a non-permanent member of the Security Council for 2017 and 2018, during which period its priorities included humanitarian access, the protection of medical personnel, and integrating a gender perspective on international humanitarian law.

Sweden participated in the thirty-third International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2019; it welcomed the adoption of the resolutions of the conference and joined ten pledges, including a number related to international humanitarian law. Sweden is reviewing the action plans to examine how it can implement the resolutions and pledges at the national level ahead of the next conference in 2023.

Sweden has joined the call for action to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law and principled humanitarian action, pledging to take concrete steps to implement practical measures at the national level.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has participated in several initiatives with the aim of protecting humanitarian and medical personnel. Sweden is financing a study conducted by the International Committee of the Red Cross on the protection of medical personnel in armed conflict, the results of which will be presented in the second half of 2020.

During the period 2016–2019, the Government of Sweden and the Swedish Red Cross jointly pledged to promote and encourage work and studies to further develop and apply a gender perspective in international humanitarian law while Sweden was chair of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies. Sweden also ensured that a designated criterion on conflict-related sexual violence was for the first time included in sanctions regimes. Sweden actively contributes to preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence and is the main donor to United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Switzerland

[Original: French]
[29 May 2020]

Switzerland reiterated the information it had submitted previously (see [A/73/277](#), [A/71/183](#), [A/69/184](#) and [A/67/182/Add.1](#)). In 2019, on the seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, Switzerland took the opportunity to encourage all States to take concrete measures to strengthen international humanitarian law.

At the thirty-third International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Switzerland announced the drafting of a voluntary report on the implementation of international humanitarian law, which will analyse the implementation by Switzerland of international humanitarian law at the national level. It will serve as a tool to disseminate international humanitarian law, to encourage other States to prepare a voluntary report and to foster inter-State dialogue on strengthening respect for international humanitarian law.

Switzerland, together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), co-facilitated the intergovernmental process on strengthening respect for international humanitarian law, which was discontinued because, as Switzerland reported, it appeared that a consensus in that regard would not be reached. Nevertheless, Switzerland noted that all States had reaffirmed that international humanitarian law remained the appropriate international legal framework to regulate the conduct of parties to armed conflict and that efforts to improve compliance with it continued to be necessary. Switzerland, jointly with ICRC, also organized the fifth plenary meeting of the Montreux Document Forum, which provided a platform for discussion to improve the regulation of private military and security companies.

Switzerland has worked to foster the development of the Rome Statute, in particular by supporting the adoption of several amendments concerning arms, whose ratification the Swiss Parliament has approved. In order to improve the implementation of the prohibition in Additional Protocol II, Switzerland proposed an amendment to article 8 of the Rome Statute, aimed at categorizing deliberate starvation of civilians as a method of warfare as a war crime in a non-international armed conflict, as was the case for international armed conflict. That amendment was adopted by the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in December 2019.

Switzerland provides secretariat services for the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission established by article 90 of Additional Protocol I. It took the opportunity of the seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions to promote the Commission and to encourage States that had not yet done so to recognize its competence. Switzerland is part of a group of States that initiated an open pledge submitted at the thirty-third International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the aim of which was to raise awareness of the Commission, to encourage States to recognize its competence and to make use of its investigative services and good offices in order to facilitate respect for international humanitarian law.

Turkey

[Original: English]
[27 May 2020]

Turkey has been a party to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 since 1954. Turkey is not a party to Additional Protocol I or Additional Protocol II. Turkey is a signatory of, but not a party to, Additional Protocol III.

The relevant steps and measures taken by the Turkish authorities, in addition to those contained in Turkey's previous submission (see [A/71/183](#)), include the following. Army officers with legal qualifications, who will serve as legal advisers in the relevant departments, are provided with special training on international humanitarian law before taking up their positions. Arrangements are being made to facilitate the participation of the commanders serving in the Turkish Armed Forces in the educational programmes offered on international humanitarian law. Educational institutions established under the National Defence University of Turkey provide various trainings and programmes on the topic, such as the Master's Programme on the Laws of War and Armed Conflict that has been offered by Atatürk Strategic Research Institute since the 2018/2019 academic year. The Turkish authorities also organize educational programmes on international humanitarian law that are open to international participation. In that context, the Partnership for Peace Training Centre, established within the Turkish General Staff, has continued to organize its annual course on the law of armed conflict. The last of those courses was held from 24 February to 6 March 2020, with the participation of 79 attendees from 30 different countries. The Turkish Partnership for Peace Training Centre also organized the course on gender awareness in peace support operations, held from 25 to 29 November 2019, with international participation. Regulatory and preparatory arrangements regarding the use of distinctive emblems are being undertaken and informative trainings on that topic are conducted regularly for the relevant personnel.

Turkey is also a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2000), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and the First Protocol to that Convention (1954), as well as several international conventions prohibiting or restricting the development, stockpiling or use of various weapons, among other multilateral treaties.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[29 May 2020]

In addition to reiterating the information it had provided previously (see [A/73/277](#)), Ukraine reported the following.

The Ministry of Defence issued an order dated 10 October 2018 (No. 514) confirming the amendments to its instruction on procedures for the implementation of the principles of international humanitarian law in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. In accordance with the amendments, the instruction has been made mandatory for the State special transportation service of Ukraine and the National Guard of Ukraine. Definitions of terms such as “military serviceman”, “hospital zones”, “safety zones” and others have been clarified. In 2019, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross conducted eight seminars and participated in two civil-military cooperation courses and three military observer courses; two training classes were opened; and a short video concerning international humanitarian law was recorded and distributed. Overall, from 2015 to 2019, 5,179 military servicemen participated in training seminars on international humanitarian law.

Regarding searches for missing persons, on 12 July 2018, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine on the Legal Status of Missing Persons, which entered into force on 2 August 2018. The Law determines the legal status of missing persons and regulates issues related to the identification and registration of, search for and social protection of missing persons and their families. In order to comply with the Law, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 21 August 2019 (No. 802) approved the procedure for the formation and operation of search teams; the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 10 April 2019 (No. 248-r) approved the composition of the Commission on Persons Missing in Special Circumstances; and the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 14 August 2019 (No. 726) approved the procedure for maintaining the unified register of persons missing in special circumstances.

The inter-agency commission on the application and implementation of international humanitarian law in Ukraine has met three times since its establishment in 2017. In 2018, the Commission held two extended thematic meetings, devoted to the conduct of hostilities in urban areas and to threats that mines and explosive remnants of war pose to the civilian population, respectively. In addition, it was decided to establish four working groups on the protection of victims of armed conflicts, the protection of cultural property, the dissemination of international humanitarian law and means and methods of warfare.

On 19 November 2019, Presidential Decree No. 852/2019 authorized the Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine to sign the letter of accession to the Safe Schools Declaration. In November 2019, Ukraine joined the Declaration.

The Government of Ukraine is working on a draft law on the regulation of issues related to the treatment of prisoners of war and internees during a special period. The law will introduce general requirements for national measures of implementation and define the powers and tasks of State bodies regarding the treatment of prisoners of war and internees.

The draft Law of Ukraine on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Implementation of Norms of International Criminal and International Humanitarian Law amends article 8 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine and introduces the principle of universal jurisdiction over crimes of aggression, genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. It also provides for a tool to conduct a proper legal assessment of crimes committed during an armed conflict.

In April 2020, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine on Ukraine's Accession to the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999. At the end of 2019, the draft law was submitted to the Parliament by the President of Ukraine. Once the relevant Law is signed by the President of Ukraine, the instruments of ratification

will be transferred to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Ukraine will accede to the Second Protocol.

III. Information received from the International Committee of the Red Cross

[Original: English]

[9 July 2020]

Following up on information it had submitted previously (see [A/73/277](#)), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported on the period from June 2018 to June 2020. At the time of reporting, the total numbers of States parties to Additional Protocols I, II and III were 174, 169 and 77, respectively. Seventy-six States have active declarations under article 90 of Additional Protocol I accepting the competence of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission. During the period under review, one State (the Russian Federation) withdrew its declaration under article 90 of Additional Protocol I.

During the period under review, ICRC noted the following accessions and ratifications: Angola to Additional Protocol II; Madagascar, Peru, Kyrgyzstan and Lesotho to Additional Protocol III; Denmark, Madagascar and Ukraine to the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict; Benin to Amended Protocol II and Protocols IV and V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons; Mauritius to Amended Protocol II and Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons; Equatorial Guinea to the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries; Kiribati to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; Guyana, Ireland, Ecuador and Paraguay to the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression; South Sudan, the Gambia and Myanmar to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict; the Gambia, Namibia, Maldives, the Philippines and Sao Tome and Principe to the Convention on Cluster Munitions; Dominica, Mauritius and Turkmenistan to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; the Gambia, Dominica, Fiji, Norway and Oman to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; Brazil, Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Suriname, Botswana, Canada, Lebanon, Maldives, Palau and Namibia to the Arms Trade Treaty; the Central African Republic, Niue and the United Republic of Tanzania to the Biological Weapons Convention; and Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belize, the Cook Islands, Costa Rica, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, the Gambia, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Maldives, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Samoa, San Marino, South Africa, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Vanuatu to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

In 2019, at least eight countries adopted or amended 11 domestic statutes, and several countries prepared draft legislation to implement international humanitarian law and other relevant instruments. In addition, 85 new laws and examples of domestic case law were added to the public ICRC database on national international humanitarian law implementation. ICRC reported that, at the time of submission, there were 112 national committees on international humanitarian law worldwide and several others were in the process of being set up.

The thirty-third International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent took place in Geneva from 9 to 12 December 2019 and adopted resolution 1, entitled

“Bringing IHL home: a road map for better national implementation of international humanitarian law”, along with seven other resolutions. The Conference also launched the online community for national committees and similar entities on international humanitarian law.

During the period under review, ICRC published several reports, legal factsheets, checklists and other documents, including its fifth report on international humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts. In June 2020, ICRC published the updated Commentary to the Third Geneva Convention. ICRC is also drafting an international humanitarian law manual specifically addressed to judicial authorities. In September 2019, the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, together with ICRC, published the guidelines on investigating violations of international humanitarian law: law, policy, and good practice. ICRC is revising its 1994 guidelines for military manuals and instructions on the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict to promote greater respect for existing international humanitarian law rules protecting the natural environment from the effects of armed conflict. ICRC is also planning to publish updated guidelines on the protection of the environment in armed conflict during 2020. On 12 August 2019, on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, ICRC launched its digital app “IHL”, providing access to international humanitarian law treaties and customary international humanitarian law rules.

Annex

List of States parties to the Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as at 21 July 2020^a

<i>State</i>	<i>Protocol</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>
Afghanistan	I and II	10 November 2009
Albania	I and II	16 July 1993
	III	6 February 2008
Algeria ^b	I ^c and II	16 August 1989
Angola	I ^c	20 September 1984
	II	7 October 2019
Antigua and Barbuda	I and II	6 October 1986
Argentina ^b	I ^c and II ^c	26 November 1986
	III ^c	16 March 2011
Armenia	I and II	7 June 1993
	III	12 August 2011
Australia ^b	I ^c and II	21 June 1991
	III	15 July 2009
Austria ^b	I ^c and II ^c	13 August 1982
	III	3 June 2009
Bahamas	I and II	10 April 1980
Bahrain	I and II	30 October 1986
Bangladesh	I and II	8 September 1980
Barbados	I and II	19 February 1990
Belarus ^b	I and II	23 October 1989
	III	31 March 2011
Belgium ^b	I ^c and II	20 May 1986
	III	12 May 2015
Belize	I and II	29 June 1984
	III	3 April 2007
Benin	I and II	28 May 1986
Bolivia (Plurinational State of) ^b	I and II	8 December 1983
Bosnia and Herzegovina ^b	I and II	31 December 1992

<i>State</i>	<i>Protocol</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>
Botswana	I and II	23 May 1979
Brazil ^b	I and II	5 May 1992
	III	28 August 2009
Brunei Darussalam	I and II	14 October 1991
Bulgaria ^b	I and II	26 September 1989
	III	13 September 2006
Burkina Faso ^b	I and II	20 October 1987
	III	7 October 2016
Burundi	I and II	10 June 1993
Cambodia	I and II	14 January 1998
Cameroon	I and II	16 March 1984
Canada ^b	I ^c and II ^c	20 November 1990
	III ^c	26 November 2007
Cabo Verde ^b	I and II	16 March 1995
Central African Republic	I and II	17 July 1984
Chad	I and II	17 January 1997
Chile ^b	I and II	24 April 1991
	III	6 July 2009
China	I ^c and II ^c	14 September 1983
Colombia ^b	I	1 September 1993
	II	14 August 1995
Comoros	I and II	21 November 1985
Congo	I and II	10 November 1983
Cook Islands ^b	I and II	7 May 2002
	III	7 September 2011
Costa Rica ^b	I and II	15 December 1983
	III	30 June 2008
Côte d'Ivoire	I and II	20 September 1989
Croatia ^b	I and II	11 May 1992
	III	13 June 2007

<i>State</i>	<i>Protocol</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>
Cuba	I	25 November 1982
	II	23 June 1999
Cyprus ^b	I	1 June 1979
	II	18 March 1996
	III	27 November 2007
Czechia ^b	I and II	5 February 1993
	III	23 May 2007
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	I	9 March 1988
Democratic Republic of the Congo ^b	I	3 June 1982
	II	12 December 2002
Denmark ^b	I ^c and II	17 June 1982
	III	25 May 2007
Djibouti	I and II	8 April 1991
Dominica	I and II	25 April 1996
Dominican Republic	I and II	26 May 1994
	III	1 April 2009
Ecuador	I and II	10 April 1979
Egypt	I ^c and II ^c	9 October 1992
El Salvador	I and II	23 November 1978
	III	12 September 2007
Equatorial Guinea	I and II	24 July 1986
Estonia ^b	I and II	18 January 1993
	III	28 February 2008
Eswatini	I and II	2 November 1995
Ethiopia	I and II	8 April 1994
Fiji	I, II and III	30 July 2008
Finland ^b	I ^c and II	7 August 1980
	III	14 January 2009
France	I ^c	11 April 2001
	II ^c	24 February 1984
	III	17 July 2009

<i>State</i>	<i>Protocol</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>
Gabon	I and II	8 April 1980
Gambia	I and II	12 January 1989
Georgia	I and II	14 September 1993
	III	19 March 2007
Germany ^b	I ^c and II ^c	14 February 1991
	III	17 June 2009
Ghana	I and II	28 February 1978
Greece ^b	I	31 March 1989
	II	15 February 1993
	III	26 October 2009
Grenada	I and II	23 September 1998
Guatemala	I and II	19 October 1987
	III	14 March 2008
Guinea ^b	I and II	11 July 1984
Guinea-Bissau	I and II	21 October 1986
Guyana	I and II	18 January 1988
	III	21 September 2009
Haiti	I and II	20 December 2006
Holy See	I ^c and II ^c	21 November 1985
Honduras	I and II	16 February 1995
	III	8 December 2006
Hungary ^b	I and II	12 April 1989
	III	15 November 2006
Iceland ^b	I ^c and II	10 April 1987
	III	4 August 2006
Iraq	I	1 April 2010
Ireland ^b	I ^c and II ^b	19 May 1999
Israel	III ^c	22 November 2007
Italy ^b	I ^c and II	27 February 1986
	III	29 January 2009
Jamaica	I and II	29 July 1986

<i>State</i>	<i>Protocol</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>
Japan ^b	I ^c and II	31 August 2004
Jordan	I and II	1 May 1979
Kazakhstan	I and II	5 May 1992
	III	24 June 2009
Kenya	I and II	23 February 1999
	III	28 October 2013
Kuwait ^b	I and II	17 January 1985
Kyrgyzstan	I and II	18 September 1992
	III	25 January 2019
Lao People's Democratic Republic ^b	I and II	18 November 1980
Latvia	I and II	24 December 1991
	III	2 April 2007
Lebanon	I and II	23 July 1997
Lesotho ^b	I and II	20 May 1994
	III	6 January 2020
Liberia	I and II	30 June 1988
Libya	I and II	7 June 1978
Liechtenstein ^b	I ^c and II ^c	10 August 1989
	III	24 August 2006
Lithuania ^b	I and II	13 July 2000
	III	28 November 2007
Luxembourg ^b	I and II	29 August 1989
	III	27 January 2015
Madagascar ^b	I and II	8 May 1992
	III	10 July 2018
Malawi ^b	I and II	7 October 1991
Maldives	I and II	3 September 1991
Mali ^b	I and II	8 February 1989
Malta ^b	I ^c and II ^c	17 April 1989
Mauritania	I and II	14 March 1980
Mauritius	I ^c and II ^c	22 March 1982

<i>State</i>	<i>Protocol</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>
Mexico	I	10 March 1983
	III	7 July 2008
Micronesia (Federated States of)	I and II	19 September 1995
Monaco ^b	I and II	7 January 2000
	III	12 March 2007
Mongolia ^b	I ^c and II	6 December 1995
Montenegro ^b	I and II	2 August 2006
Morocco	I ^c and II	3 June 2011
Mozambique	I	14 March 1983
	II	12 November 2002
Namibia ^b	I ^c and II ^c	18 October 1983
Nauru	I and II	27 June 2006
	III	4 December 2012
Netherlands ^b	I ^c and II ^c	26 June 1987
	III ^c	13 December 2006
New Zealand ^b	I ^c and II ^c	8 February 1988
	III	23 October 2013
Nicaragua	I and II	19 July 1999
	III	2 April 2009
Niger	I and II	8 June 1979
Nigeria	I and II	10 October 1988
North Macedonia ^b	I ^c and II	1 September 1993
	III	14 October 2008
Norway ^b	I and II	14 December 1981
	III	13 June 2006
Oman	I ^c and II ^c	29 March 1984
Palau	I and II	25 June 1996
Panama ^b	I and II	18 September 1995
	III	30 April 2012
Paraguay ^b	I and II	30 November 1990
	III	13 October 2008

<i>State</i>	<i>Protocol</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>
Peru	I and II	14 July 1989
	III	9 October 2018
Philippines	I ^c	30 March 2012
	II	11 December 1986
	III	22 August 2006
Poland ^b	I and II	23 October 1991
	III	26 October 2009
Portugal ^b	I ^c and II ^c	27 May 1992
	III	22 April 2014
Qatar ^b	I ^c	5 April 1988
	II	5 January 2005
Republic of Korea ^b	I ^c and II	15 January 1982
Republic of Moldova	I and II	24 May 1993
	III ^c	19 August 2008
Romania ^b	I and II	21 June 1990
	III	15 May 2015
Russian Federation ^b	I ^c and II ^c	29 September 1989
Rwanda ^b	I and II	19 November 1984
Saint Kitts and Nevis ^b	I and II	14 February 1986
Saint Lucia	I and II	7 October 1982
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ^b	I and II	8 April 1983
Samoa	I and II	23 August 1984
San Marino	I and II	5 April 1994
	III	22 June 2007
Sao Tome and Principe	I and II	5 July 1996
Saudi Arabia	I ^c	21 August 1987
	II	28 November 2001
Senegal	I and II	7 May 1985
Serbia ^b	I and II	16 October 2001
	III	18 August 2010
Seychelles ^b	I and II	8 November 1984

<i>State</i>	<i>Protocol</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>
Sierra Leone	I and II	21 October 1986
Singapore	III	7 July 2008
Slovakia ^b	I and II	2 April 1993
	III	30 May 2007
Slovenia ^b	I and II	26 March 1992
	III	10 March 2008
Solomon Islands	I and II	19 September 1988
South Africa	I and II	21 November 1995
South Sudan	I, II and III	25 January 2013
Spain ^c	I ^c and II	21 April 1989
	III	10 December 2010
State of Palestine	I ^c	2 April 2014
	II and III	4 January 2015
Sudan	I	7 March 2006
	II	13 July 2006
Suriname	I and II	16 December 1985
	III	25 June 2013
Sweden ^b	I ^c and II	31 August 1979
	III ^c	21 August 2014
Switzerland ^b	I and II	17 February 1982
	III ^c	14 July 2006
Syrian Arab Republic	I ^c	14 November 1983
Tajikistan ^b	I and II	13 January 1993
Timor-Leste	I and II	12 April 2005
	III	29 July 2011
Togo ^b	I and II	21 June 1984
Tonga ^b	I and II	20 January 2003
Trinidad and Tobago ^b	I and II	20 July 2001
Tunisia	I and II	9 August 1979
Turkmenistan	I and II	10 April 1992

<i>State</i>	<i>Protocol</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>
Uganda	I and II	13 March 1991
	III	21 May 2008
Ukraine ^c	I and II	25 January 1990
	III	19 January 2010
United Arab Emirates ^b	I ^c and II ^c	9 March 1983
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ^b	I ^c and II ^c	28 January 1998
	III ^c	23 October 2009
United Republic of Tanzania	I and II	15 February 1983
United States of America	III ^c	8 March 2007
Uruguay ^b	I and II	13 December 1985
	III	19 October 2012
Uzbekistan	I and II	8 October 1993
Vanuatu	I and II	28 February 1985
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	I and II	23 July 1998
Viet Nam	I	19 October 1981
Yemen	I and II	17 April 1990
Zambia	I and II	4 May 1995
Zimbabwe	I and II	19 October 1992

^a Switzerland is the depositary of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols. Information was taken from the website of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (www.dfae.admin.ch/depositaire).

^b Party which has made the declaration provided for under article 90 of Protocol I.

^c Ratification, accession or succession accompanied by a reservation and/or a declaration.