

New York

The Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to his note no. LA/COD/2 of 31 December 2008, referring to General Assembly resolution 63/125 of 11 December 2008 entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Convention of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts". In response to the Secretary-General's request in the aforementioned note, the Swedish Government has prepared the information provided in the annex to this note.

The Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 18 June 2010



Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations NEW YORK



Ministry for Foreign Affairs Sweden

> Information from Sweden pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/125 of 11 December 2008

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/125 of 11 December 2008 entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflict" Sweden hereby submits the following information.

- 1. 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 IHL to the UN Secretary-General in accordance with the above mentioned resolution since 1994, in the latest report from 2008. The following information supplements previous reports.
- 2. The Swedish Government has signed the third Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions and is currently in the process of preparing for ratification.
- 3. Sweden has ratified the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War of 28 November 2003, Protocol V to the 1980 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, Geneva, 10 October 1980.
- 4. The Swedish Government has signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 30 May 2008, and is currently in the process of preparing for ratification.

- 5. During the Swedish Presidency of the European Union, in the second semester of 2009, international humanitarian law was a priority and a number of initiatives and actions were taken to strengthen and mainstream IHL.
- a. To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions on the Protection of Victims of War of 1949 a conference in Brussels on "Current Challenges for International Humanitarian Law: How to enhance Respect by Non-State Actors" was organized by the Swedish Presidency of the EU together with the ICRC. The purpose of the meeting was also to enhance knowledge of IHL among decision-makers of the EU.
- b. The EU adopted Council conclusions on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law.
- c. The Council of the EU also adopted an updated version of the EU guidelines on IHL.
- 6. Sweden actively participated in and made a financial contribution to the work of a group of international experts assigned with the production of a manual on the conduct of air and missile warfare. The group concluded its work in 2009.
- 7. Sweden contributed financially to a number of IHL related activities, among those the support for the international criminal tribunals for former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone and to the International Criminal Court. The International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo and the International Humanitarian Fact Finding Commission also receive annual contributions. In 2009, Sweden also made a financial contribution to the Swedish Red Cross for the development of teaching materials in IHL.
- 8. In March 2010 the Swedish Committee on Public International Law published a report containing a compilation of treaties and other central documents relevant to situations of armed conflict, primarily international humanitarian law but including also international human rights law (Swedish Government Official Reports SOU 2010:22).