

Translated from Spanish

Permanent Mission of Mexico

ONU03128

New York, 30 July 2012

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to note verbale No. LA/COD/2 in which you requested Member States to submit any information which they might deem relevant for inclusion in the report to be prepared by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/29 entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts".

The information that the Government of Mexico deems relevant for inclusion in the aforementioned report is attached.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Ambassador Luis Alfonso **de Alba**

Permanent Representative

to the United Nations

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon

Secretary-General of the United Nations

New York

Report submitted by Mexico pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/29 on the status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Mexico is a State party to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949,¹ Protocol I of 1977* relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts² and Protocol III of 2005 relating to the adoption of an additional distinctive emblem.³ Mexico is also a State party to other instruments of international humanitarian law, including, inter alia, the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the two Protocols thereto;⁴ and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5, respectively, of General Assembly resolution 65/29.

Mexico fulfils its international obligations under these treaties by engaging in a range of activities designed to disseminate international humanitarian law and promote its implementation at the national level.

Mexico established the Inter-Ministerial Commission on International Humanitarian Law (CIDIH-Mexico), the federal Government's advisory and technical body on that subject, in August 2009.

One of the Commission's major dissemination activities relating to international humanitarian law has been the organization, since 2010, of an annual national specialized course on international humanitarian law, in line with the pledges made by Mexico at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. In October 2011, the course was held for the second time and was attended by approximately 230 representatives of the executive, legislative and judicial branches, academic institutions and civil society

* *Translator's note:* The original Spanish document lists the year as 1972.

¹ Mexico ratified the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 on 29 October 1952.

² Mexico ratified Protocol I on 10 March 1983.

³ Mexico ratified Protocol III on 7 July 2008.

⁴ Mexico ratified the Convention and the first protocol on 7 May 1956; it signed the second protocol on 7 October 2003.

organizations at the national and state levels. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) collaborates with the Commission on this course, which will be held for the third time in August 2012.

The Commission also supports the harmonization of national legislation with the instruments of international humanitarian law and criminal law to which Mexico is a party. In October 2011, the Commission completed draft amendments aimed at harmonizing the definitions of offences contained in federal criminal legislation with those of international crimes set out in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol I of 1977, and other pertinent instruments of international humanitarian law. Efforts are being made to satisfy the legal requirements set out in the guidelines for drafting, revising and following up on initiatives on laws and decrees of the Federal Government; the initiative will then be submitted to the federal Government's Legal Advisory Council.

Furthermore, since the end of 2011, the Commission has been preparing draft implementing regulations on the Act Governing the Use and Protection of the Red Cross Designation and Emblem (in force since 2007).

The Commission also took part in various international meetings on the strengthening of international humanitarian law, including: (i) the regional seminar entitled "Reclaiming the Protection of Civilians under International Humanitarian Law", held on 7 and 8 November 2011 in Buenos Aires, Argentina and sponsored by the Governments of Argentina and Norway; (ii) the Regional Seminar of National Committees for International Humanitarian Law on the Protection of Cultural Property in Times of Armed Conflict, held in San Salvador, El Salvador on 1 and 2 December 2011, sponsored by ICRC; and (iii) the Special Meeting on International Humanitarian Law, organized by the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS) and held in Washington, D.C., United States of America, on 27 January 2012.

Mexico was an active participant in the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which took place from 28 November to 1 December 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland, with Ambassador Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo acting as one of the

Vice-Chairs. The Commission helped to establish Mexico's position for the Conference. At the Conference, Mexico submitted four pledges for the period 2011-2015, including, inter alia: to continue to strengthen, promote and foster respect for international humanitarian law (by means of various activities, including the national annual specialized course on international humanitarian law) and to promote the adoption of legislative measures in order to meet outstanding commitments under international humanitarian law and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Mexico also supported Switzerland's proposal on identifying ways to strengthen the implementation of international humanitarian law, a process in which Mexico is an active participant.