

**STATEMENT OF EGYPT ON
“STATUS OF THE PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS
OF 1949 AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION
OF VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICTS”
AGENDA ITEM 79 - 20 OCTOBER 2014**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on the “Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts”.

Allow me, at the outset to associate myself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group and express gratitude to the Secretary General for his report on this issue.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt wishes to reaffirm the importance of the universal observance of the instruments of international humanitarian law, including the 1977 Additional Protocols. We express satisfaction with the number of countries that had ratified the 1977 Additional Protocols and urge the States that had not yet done so, to ratify them as soon as possible.

We in particular attach great importance to the First Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which established the bases for relations between the civilian population and the occupying power.

In this regard, we regret and condemn the breaches of international humanitarian law perpetrated by Israel in its military operations against the Gaza Strip, including the destruction of facilities of the United Nations.

The international community should ensure that such grave breaches do not recur, and should demand that Israel abide by its obligations under international law and international humanitarian law.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt supports the request presented by State of Palestine to the government of Switzerland, in its capacity as depositary of the Geneva Conventions, to convene as soon as possible the Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to examine measures, in accordance with common article 1, to ensure respect and enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, and to ensure protection for the Palestinian civilian population under occupation.

Mr. Chairman,

We commend the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the promotion and the dissemination of International Humanitarian Law in general and in particular, its work for a better understanding of and compliance to international humanitarian law and we encourage it to continue its efforts in this respect.

Yet, notwithstanding these appreciated efforts, we believe that member states' role remain crucial in promoting and complying with International Humanitarian Law and we take this opportunity to invite them to intensify their awareness-raising and training efforts with a view to promote a large dissemination of International Humanitarian Law, and particularly the 1977 Additional Protocols of the Geneva Conventions.

I thank you.