

**PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
MISSION PERMANENTE DE L'AUTRICHE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES**

No. New-York-ÖV/RECHT/0224/2014

The Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the Secretary-General's request in Note LA/COD/2 of 4 January 2013 referring to General Assembly resolution 67/93 of 14 December 2012 entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts", has the honour to submit the information set out in the attachment to this Note Verbale.

The Permanent Mission of Austria 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, 16 May 2014

To the  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
Office of Legal Affairs  
Codification Division  
2 United Nations Plaza, 5th floor  
New York



## **Attachment**

“On 21 November 2012, the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs together with the Austrian national committee organised a seminar entitled „Nuclear Weapons - The Sword of Damocles: The Humanitarian Dimension of Nuclear Disarmament“.

On 6 December 2013, the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs together with the Austrian national committee organised a seminar on the legal challenges of the use unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) for civilian and military purposes.

In January 2014, the possibility of the issuing of ID cards for journalists was introduced in Austrian legislation in implementation of Art. 79 para. 3 of Additional Protocol I.

Austria actively participates in the initiative of Switzerland and the International Committee of the Red Cross on the strengthening of IHL implementation mechanisms based on resolution 1 of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference in 2011.

On 21 – 22 February 2014, Austria co-hosted with Norway in Vienna a regional workshop for Europe on reclaiming the protection of civilians under international humanitarian law (IHL) on concrete recommendations on how to improve the respect for international humanitarian law by the parties to conflict.

At the 2012 Preparatory Committee of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Austria was co-author in a cross-regional group of 16 States of a joint declaration/statement on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, which inter alia highlighted that: “(...) in addition to the grave humanitarian concerns, the use of nuclear weapons also raises important legal issues. Nuclear weapons are unique because of their destructive capacity and because of their uncontrollable effects in space and time. All rules of international humanitarian law apply fully to nuclear weapons; those rules notably include the rules of distinction, proportionality and precaution, as well as the prohibition to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering and the prohibition to cause widespread, severe and long-term damage to the environment. (...)” Several more cross-regional joint declarations on this issue have been prepared by this group, most recently for the First Committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2013, which was supported by 125 States.”