



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Korea

Sixth Committee of the 71st Session of the General Assembly

Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts (Agenda item 81)

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Thank you Mr. Chair,

At the outset, the Government of the Republic of Korea reaffirms its strong commitment to the implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) and welcomes the report of the Secretary General on this item.

Indeed, we are now confronted with unprecedented humanitarian crises, with so many displaced persons and with so much instability as well as suffering. In this context, the Government of the Republic of Korea welcomes the adoption of resolutions at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva, December 2015. In particular, as the Resolution 2 recommends the continuation of an inclusive, State-driven intergovernmental process in order to submit the outcome of the process to the 33rd International Conference, the Republic of Korea will play a constructive role in the efforts to improve the compliance of IHL, and stand by the efforts to prevent and protect the victims of conflict and emergency situations.

Mr. Chair

We, as States Parties of the Geneva Conventions, must uphold our firm commitments under IHL. Specifically, we should remain vigilant and put forward all means to ensure that parties to armed conflicts respect international humanitarian law; that effective investigations into breaches of international humanitarian and human rights laws are carried out; that perpetrators are held accountable so that we can put an end to impunity; and that we develop concrete mechanisms to improve compliance.

Of course, we should not allow ourselves to avoid the responsibility to prevent the humanitarian suffering in the first place. To this end, we should commit ourselves to put more political efforts — more concerted and more collective — to prevent, contain, limit, and settle conflicts, and therefore, to ease the plights of the innocent civilians, including women and children.

Last but not least, we would like to highlight the important role of the ICRC in disseminating and enhancing compliance of IHL and the Korean government will continue to work together with the ICRC in its regional and international efforts to address challenges to IHL.

Thank you for your attention. /END/