

Translated from Spanish

STATUS OF THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949 RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICT

Report of the Republic of El Salvador pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/120

The Republic of El Salvador submits the present report pursuant to resolution 69/120, wherein Member States were requested to submit information to the Secretary-General on the status of the Additional Protocols as well as on measures taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law, inter alia, with respect to its dissemination and full implementation at the national level.

At the national level, in 1997 El Salvador established the Inter-agency Committee on International Humanitarian Law (CIDIH-ES), which is an advisory body to the Government on measures for implementation and dissemination of international conventions on international humanitarian law, as well as national or international legal instruments in that area, in particular the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols of 1977.

During 2015 and 2016 the Inter-agency Committee carried out the following activities in the area of international humanitarian law:

- Training was provided to 643 members of the military through learning modules on the following topics: international humanitarian law, protective emblems, the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols and the Hague Convention of 1954 on Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and Additional Protocols. In addition, several more training programmes are planned for this year.

- A technical status report on the 43 cultural properties with protective emblems recognized at the national level was prepared.

- A reform of the section of the Penal Code regarding war crimes is being drafted.

In addition, one of the major advances in this area during the reporting period was the establishment of a national committee for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions adopted on the subject of women, peace and security.

This Committee was established by Executive Order No. 74 in 2014. Its main purpose is to propose policies and norms to ensure compliance with resolutions related to the topic of “women, peace and security” in the Republic of El Salvador. Among its functions, it promotes the increased representation of women at all levels of decision-making in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution.

The Committee structure includes representatives of 17 government, academic and civil society organizations. Its members were sworn in on 12 November 2014 and have already undertaken various activities, including development of a road map that will result in a plan of action to ensure compliance with the various resolutions.

All these activities reflect the support of the Republic of El Salvador for resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions, as well as its commitment to its various obligations arising from the norms of international humanitarian law.

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