



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
B U L G A R I A
T O T H E U N I T E D N A T I O N S

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New York, June 17, 2019

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, and referring to its note verbale LA/COD/2/1, dated January 7, 2019, and General Assembly resolution 73/204 of December 20, 2018, requesting Member States to submit information to the Secretary-General with focus on new developments and activities on the question of "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts" has the honor to submit the information requested in a document enclosed to the present note verbale.

Within the current reporting period, the Republic of Bulgaria established a National Committee on International Humanitarian Law. Among the main tasks of the newly established committee is to support the coordination between the different national institutions with competences in the implementation of national measures in the field of international humanitarian law.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, the assurances of its highest consideration. C. P.

Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations
New York

**Information on measures taken by the Republic of Bulgaria
to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law
(General Assembly resolution 73/204 of 20 December 2018 entitled “Status of the
Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the
protection of victims of armed conflicts”)**

In 2019 the Republic of Bulgaria established a National Committee on International Humanitarian Law (NCIHL). The Committee held its first and constitutive meeting on April 22, 2019, and was chaired by Mrs. Ekaterina Zaharieva, Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The Committee was established by the Council of Ministers (Decree No 35/27.02.2019) with the objective to ensure national implementation of IHL and other relevant international norms, to implement the State’s fundamental obligations to respect and ensure compliance with IHL and to address cross-cutting issues. Among the main tasks of the newly established committee is to support the coordination between the different national institutions with competences in the implementation of national measures in the field of international humanitarian law.

NCIHL is presided by the minister of foreign affairs, its vice-chair is the deputy minister of defense and its members are the deputy ministers of the competent ministries (interior, justice, health, culture, environment and water, education and science, economy, regional development and public works, labour and social policy), representatives of the State Agency for Refugees, the State Agency for Child Protection and the Bulgarian Red Cross as an organization with normative functions in this field. Representatives of academic circles, independent institutions such as the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria, non-governmental organizations, international organizations (such as UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and WHO) and others have an important role in the work of the National Committee.

National committees on international humanitarian law exist in 112 countries around the world and in 20 of the 28 EU Member States. They have the essential function to facilitate the national implementation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. The International Committee of the Red Cross recommends and encourages the establishment of national committees in the field of international humanitarian law.