

TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Geneva Conventions of 1949 constitute one of the main sources of international humanitarian law. Turkey has signed the four Geneva Conventions on 12 August 1949, the date when they were opened for signature, and has been party to these Conventions since 1954.

Turkey is not party to:

- The Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977;
- The Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), 8 June 1977.

Turkey is signatory, but not party to:

- The Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III), 8 December 2005.

Turkey notes that there has not been a considerable change in the ratification status of the Protocols of 1977 in the past several years, while the Conventions themselves enjoy universal acceptance. Furthermore, there are varying views among States as to whether and to what extent certain provisions of these Protocols may be considered to have reached the level of customary international law.

In accordance with the four Geneva Conventions and the relevant resolutions adopted in the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Turkish Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defense of Turkey regularly take various steps and measures to disseminate, as well as to strengthen respect for and compliance with international humanitarian law. The steps and measures taken by Turkish authorities, in addition to those contained in Turkey's submission for the Secretary-General's report of 2016, are as follows:

- (a) Army officers with legal qualifications, who will serve as legal advisers in the relevant departments, are provided special training on international humanitarian law before taking up their positions.
- (b) Arrangements are made to facilitate the participation of the commanders serving in the Turkish Armed Forces in the educational programs offered on international humanitarian law.
- (c) Educational institutions established under the National Defense University of Turkey provide various trainings and programs on this topic. The Master's Program on the Laws of War and Armed Conflict, offered by Atatürk Strategic Research Institute since the 2018-2019 academic year, is one example in this regard.
- (d) Turkish authorities also organize educational programs on international humanitarian law that are open to international participation. In this context, the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Training Centre, established within the Turkish General Staff, has continued to organize its annual course on the law of armed conflict, with participation from all over the world, in particular member

States of NATO and PfP. The last of these courses was held on 24 February-6 March 2020 with the participation of 79 attendees from 30 different countries. The Turkish PfP Training Center also organized the “Gender Awareness in Peace Support Operations Course” on 25-29 November 2019, with international participation.

(e) Regulatory and preparatory arrangements regarding the use of distinctive emblems are undertaken and informative trainings on this topic are conducted regularly for the relevant personnel.

In addition to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, Turkey is also party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2000), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and the First Protocol to the Convention (1954), as well as several international conventions prohibiting or restricting the development, stockpiling or use of various weapons, among other multilateral treaties.