



**United Nations General Assembly | Sixth Committee**

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

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*(check against delivery)*

Madam/Mister Chair,

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his most recent report on the status of implementation of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva's Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims in armed conflicts.

Brazil is a party to all the main instruments of international humanitarian law, including the four Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols. On the limitation of means and methods of war, Brazil has taken significant steps to promote the proscription of all weapons of mass destruction. One of these steps was our active participation in the negotiation that led to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which Brazil was the first State to sign, in September 2017.

Brazil has always attached great importance to fostering a culture of respect to international humanitarian law not only in international fora, but also in its territory and among its national institutions. That is why the Brazilian government promoted the dissemination and implementation of IHL-related instruments into domestic law and military practice. For instance, the Brazilian Armed Forces are, at all levels, professionally trained in the application of these rules. This includes special courses to officials deployed in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Brazil also remains firmly committed to alleviating the suffering of people displaced by armed conflict and political instability who seek safety within our borders. In Brazil, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, without any kind of discrimination, have full access to public services, including health and vaccination. The COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges it presented have not affected our efforts to protect and assist refugees and migrants in general.

Since 2018, over 770,000 Venezuelan migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have received assistance from "Operation Welcome". Around 400 Venezuelans, mostly women and children, still cross the border to our country every day, and more than 375,000 Venezuelans have decided to stay in Brazil. The interiorization strategy has become the dynamic core of the Operation. It benefited around 85,000 Venezuelans who have resettled in more than 880 Brazilian cities until last August.

The Brazilian government has also granted more than 6.000 humanitarian visas to Afghan citizens and has been coordinating efforts with UNHCR and IOM with a view to strengthening local capacities for receiving Afghan refugees.

Madam/Mister Chair,

Humanitarian response and promotion of human rights is one of the seven priorities established by Brazil for its 2022-2023 term in the United Nations Security Council. Brazil is aware of its responsibilities as a member of the Security Council and advocates for strict compliance with international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law. We also call for steadfast adherence to the UN Charter and its rules pertaining to the use of force. In this vein, we firmly condemn instances of abusive invocation of article 51, which must be interpreted in a restrictive manner.

In the Security Council, we stand up for more focus on Chapter VI than Chapter VII of the UN Charter, bearing in mind that prevention, mediation and peacebuilding offer peaceful solutions, preventing crises from escalating to conflicts. Moreover, we are adamant about the need to ensure the protection of civilians and humanitarian access

when conflict breaks out, since humane, neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action should face no hurdles whatever the circumstances.

Humanitarian principles must always guide the design of the UN sanctions regimes, which, if ill-devised, can disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations, hamper the work of humanitarian agents and worsen food security crises. Humanitarian carve-outs are necessary in the adoption of multilateral sanctions and should be regulated in such a manner as to permit its implementation by Member States.

Brazil has been constructively engaged in the discussions for a political declaration on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and congratulates Ireland's leadership in this regard. Brazil also calls for worldwide implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration and of Security Council resolutions 2601 (2021), on the protection of education during armed conflict, 2286 (2016) on the protection of medical personnel and facilities and 2573 (2021) on the protection of civilian infrastructure.

Madam/Mister Chair,

Respect to international humanitarian law is key to the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. The international community must shield humanitarian assistance from politicization. The Secretary-General's appeal for a global ceasefire in March 2020 at the onset of the COVID pandemic and the recent Black Sea Grain Initiative are examples of how it is possible to set political difference aside for saving lives.

In any case, International Humanitarian Law is crucial, but not enough to fully protect civilians. A safer world requires a less militarized international order and a renewed commitment to multilateralism.

Thank you.

