



**REPUBLIC OF POLAND**  
**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT BY

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**77<sup>TH</sup> UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**SIXTH COMMITTEE  
AGENDA ITEM 81:**

**“STATUS OF THE PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF  
1949 AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICTS”**

**NEW YORK, 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

*Mr./Madam Chair,*

Poland is firmly committed to our international humanitarian law obligations. We believe that respect for international humanitarian law must be upheld and that fighting impunity is of paramount importance. Committed violations of international humanitarian law must not go unpunished and justice must be delivered to victims.

Since launching its aggression against Ukraine, Russia has deliberately created a humanitarian catastrophe and bluntly disregarded the most fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. We hear on a daily basis reports of Russian violence against civilians in Ukraine, involving tortures, mass killings or destruction of civilian buildings. Moreover, as the President of Poland Andrzej Duda, pointed out during his speech at the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, Russia is deliberately destroying Ukraine's agriculture, depriving millions of people of their right to food and destroying the environment in breach of international humanitarian law, namely Articles 54 and 55 of the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions.

The ongoing dramatic situation in Ukraine poses important question whether the current international legal regulations constitute a sufficient response to the enormity of the damage to the environment and the world's food supply. The international community should not only be prepared to adequately respond to such detrimental activities, but also to bring their perpetrators to justice.

*Mr./Madam Chair,*

An example of good practices in implementation, development and dissemination of international humanitarian law is the Intragovernmental Commission on International Humanitarian Law, which Poland established, like several other countries, in order to ensure that international humanitarian law is implemented throughout the whole legal system.

The Commission is tasked with the dissemination of the norms of international humanitarian law and among other activities, it drafts national reports on the implementation and dissemination of international humanitarian law in Poland. Those reports reflect on the principles of special protection of certain categories of persons, such as prisoners of war, internees, repatriates and medical and

religious personnel, as well as on the principles of special protection of specific categories of locations and premises that are to be protected against the impact of hostilities, namely, cultural property, hospitals, graves and the natural environment. Poland has published four national reports since 2009 and we are now working on the fifth report, to be published before the 34. International Conference.

*Mr./Madam Chair,*

As this year marks the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1977 Additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, we must underline the obligations for member states arising from common Article 1 of the Four Geneva Conventions that States Parties are bound to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in every circumstances. Poland wishes to call upon all states to abide by their international obligations and to safeguard greater protection for victims of international and non-international armed conflicts.

*I thank you.*