

Mr. /Madame Chair, dear colleagues,

I have the honour to introduce, the draft resolution under agenda item 81, entitled “Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts”, as contained in document A/C.6/77/L.19, on behalf of the cosponsors listed in that document.

I would like to announce that the following Member States also join in sponsoring the draft resolution: (see e-deleGATE for the latest list of additional cosponsors)

The draft resolution is based on resolution 75/138 adopted in 2020, with necessary technical updates. I will now address the following major changes which were made to the draft resolution following the informal consultations on this item.

Firstly, a new preambular paragraph 8 was introduced to welcome the important role of relevant regional fora in promoting the respect for international humanitarian law.

We have also agreed to add two new preambular paragraphs, 18 and 19, which note with appreciation two Security Council resolutions adopted in 2021 – one (resolution 2573 of 27 April 2021) on the protection of civilian objects in armed conflict, [including objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population and objects critical to the delivery of essential services to the civilian population] and one (resolution 2601 of 29 October 2021) on the protection of children affected by armed conflict and facilitating the continuation and protection of education in armed conflict. Relatedly, new preambular paragraph 26 was introduced to note with appreciation Security Council resolution (resolution 2222 of 27 May 2015) on the protection of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in situations of armed conflict.

Operative paragraph 8 was expanded to include a reference to the new publication by the International Committee of the Red Cross entitled “Bringing IHL Home Guidelines on the national implementation of international humanitarian law.

Furthermore, newly introduced operative paragraph 9 calls upon Member States to actively participate in the thirty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2024.

Operative paragraph 12 commends the International Committee of the Red Cross for organizing the fifth Universal Meeting of National Committees and Similar Entities on International Humanitarian Law in 2021.

Finally, new operative paragraph 15 is proposed to welcome the increasing trend of voluntary reporting transmitted to the Secretary-General [as requested in paragraph 12 of

resolution 75/138] by Member States and encourages them to participate in the submission process at the seventy-ninth session.

After the informal consultation on the draft resolution [held on 19 October and 1 November], I conclude that the text reflects a consensus among delegations. For this reason, I recommend that the Sixth Committee adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.