

Z-2022/14136816/34538650 –

The Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations and, with reference to the Latter's Note Verbale No. LA/COD/2/1, dated 17 January 2022, has the honour to enclose herewith Türkiye's contributions to the report of the Secretary-General to be prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/138 of 15 December 2020 entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts".

The Permanent Mission of Türkiye would also like to refer to the information provided in its Notes Verbales No. 2020/14136816/31338749, dated 27 May 2020, and No. 2016/14136816-TURKUNO DT/11030137, dated 10 June 2016.

The Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the United Nations avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl.: As stated

**CONTRIBUTION BY THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
REGARDING THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
TO BE PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 75/138 OF 15 DECEMBER 2020**

1) With regard to the status of the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, Türkiye would first of all like to reiterate the following points.

Türkiye 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.

Türkiye 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.

We note 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 various provisions of these Protocols may be considered to have reached the level of customary international law.

In addition to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, Türkiye 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.

Major international legal documents relating to international humanitarian law have been translated into Turkish and made available for the use of all military units and personnel, relevant public institutions and agencies, academic institutions including universities, and libraries. Additional reference documents and guides of an international nature as well as presentations, handbooks and other useful sources prepared by Turkish authorities are also available for military personnel of all levels through the intranet of the Turkish Armed Forces.

2) In accordance with the four Geneva Conventions and the relevant resolutions adopted in the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Turkish authorities, including in particular Turkish Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defense of Türkiye, regularly take various steps and measures to disseminate, as well as to strengthen respect for and compliance with international humanitarian law as applicable.

Information as to domestic legislation relating to international humanitarian law, as well as the steps and measures taken by Turkish authorities at the national and international level, in

addition to those contained in Türkiye's previous submissions for the Secretary-General's reports, is provided in the following paragraphs:

(a) The Law on Aliens and International Protection No. 6458, adopted by the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye in 2013, contains provisions that specifically relate to victims of armed conflicts. The said Law regulates the procedural and substantive rules with regard to aliens' entry into, stay in, and departure from Türkiye as well as the scope and implementation of the protection to be afforded to aliens that have requested protection from Türkiye. Section Four of this Law titled "Other Provisions Regarding Temporary Protection and International Protection" regulates the protection of aliens who were forced to leave their countries, who cannot return to the countries they left, and who have arrived at or crossed the borders of Türkiye.

(b) In the past years, war institutes established under the National Defense University of Türkiye as well as other educational institutions have continued to provide various trainings and programs on international humanitarian law.

(c) 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, continues to organize its course on the law of armed conflict annually, with participation from all over the world, in particular member States of NATO and PfP countries. The last iteration of this course was held on 26 April-7 May 2021 (through distance learning method online) with 65 participants from 17 different countries.

Turkish PfP Training Center has also planned to conduct the "Gender Awareness in Peace Support Operations Course" open to NATO and PfP countries in 2022.

Furthermore, as part of gender awareness courses and activities, the Center gave instructor support to the Gender Awareness Training of the Trainers (GToT) course conducted in RACVIAC – Center for Security Cooperation (Croatia) between the dates of 3-17 September 2021.

(d) Türkiye participates in all major international meetings and conferences relating to international humanitarian law topics, including particularly the meetings organized under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and closely follows the developments relating to this body of law.