



PHILIPPINES

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STATEMENT

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations

Agenda Item 81: Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

6 November 2024

79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Mr. Chair,

We thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/79/174) on the status of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and the measures taken to strengthen international humanitarian law.

Our world today is facing increasingly complex and cross-cutting challenges and conflicts on almost all fronts. The need to uphold and comply with international law, in particular, international humanitarian law, has never been as urgent as now.

The Philippines is strongly committed to promoting and upholding international humanitarian law. It is party to all four (4) Geneva Conventions and all three (3) Additional Protocols.

To implement Protocol II, we enacted in 2019 Republic Act No. 11188, the Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act, which declares children as 'Zones of Peace' and mandates the government to provide them protection. We also have Republic Act No. 10821, the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act, enacted in 2016.

For Protocols I and III we have had since 2009 Republic Act No. 9851, or the Philippine Act on Crimes against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide and Other Crimes against Humanity, which incorporates many of the obligations of international humanitarian law into domestic law.

For Protocol III, we also enacted in 2013 Republic Act No. 10530, the Red Cross and Other Emblems Act.

In line with our commitment to the international treaty framework humanitarian law the Philippines ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Philippines also believes that there is a need to firm up negotiations towards a robust and future-proof legally binding instrument to address the threats of autonomous weapons systems, within the framework of the Convention on Conventional Weapons. We have affirmed that international law, including, the law of state

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responsibility, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international criminal law are all applicable in the context of the development, use, and transfer of any autonomous weapons systems.

Meanwhile, working with the International Committee of the Red Cross, we have taken practical measures such as incorporating international humanitarian law into the doctrine, field training and rules of engagement of our armed forces and law enforcement personnel.

The annual national commemoration of an International Humanitarian Law Day has been effective in disseminating and reminding us of the importance of our obligations in this regard.

On the ground, the Philippines Commission on Human Rights and the Philippine Statistics Authority have developed protocols for tracking our commitment to SDG 16.1.2 on measuring conflict related deaths per 100,000 population, working with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to build capacities in developing the data ecosystem for this SDG indicator.

As we mark the 75th year of the Geneva Conventions, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the Conventions and to promoting and supporting international humanitarian law. We also join the call on all States parties to the Geneva Conventions that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Additional Protocols.

Thank you, Mr. Chair. **END**