



S T A T E M E N T

by

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

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(check against delivery)

Madam / Mr. Chair,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the EU and its Member States and I wish to add a few comments in my national capacity.

At the outset, allow me to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on the status of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions. We also express our appreciation to the Member States and the International Committee of Red Cross for their inputs.

Slovakia is a State Party to all four Geneva Conventions and its three Additional Protocols, as well as an Endorsing State of the Safe Schools Declaration and The Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas. Since its establishment in 2001, our national Committee on International Humanitarian Law has been continuously meeting with a long-term objective to ensure full implementation, promotion, and dissemination of rules of international humanitarian law at domestic level in line with the most up-to-date standards. In February 2024, Slovakia also signed the Ljubljana-Hague Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes and Other International Crimes. These are only a few manifestations of my country's deep commitment to full and unconditional respect of international humanitarian law. Most recently, we also welcome the outcomes of the thirty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent held in Geneva last week.

Madam / Mr. Chair,

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. Yet, we are witnessing a continuous rise of armed conflicts around the world and a dangerous trend of disregard for the norms and principles of international humanitarian law.

It is crucial that all parties to an armed conflict strictly comply with the rules of international humanitarian law in all circumstances. We firmly believe that it is our shared responsibility to reaffirm our global commitment to the protection of victims of armed conflicts and demand accountability for all violations of the international humanitarian law no matter where or by whom committed.

I thank you.