

Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

It is a pleasure for me to make a statement on behalf of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission. Established according to Article 90 of Additional Protocol I (AP I) to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the Commission is the only treaty-based organ with a mandate that specifically addresses alleged breaches of international humanitarian law. It enjoys observer status with the United Nations.

The Commission is at the disposal of all parties to armed conflicts to help them restore an attitude of respect for international humanitarian law. In recent years, the Commission has successfully developed its competence of good offices.

In 2017, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe invited the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission to address an incident in Donetsk and Luhansk in which an OSCE vehicle was hit by an explosive device. OSCE Member States took note of the report with appreciation.

In 2024, the Commission provided its good offices to the Republic of Poland by addressing an incident in the Gaza strip in which a Polish citizen working for the NGO World Central Kitchen was killed as a consequence of military activities of the Israeli Defense Forces. The report was submitted to the Government of Poland, and was met with the Government's approval.

Based on these experiences, the Commission stands ready to assist the United Nations whenever United Nations personnel serving in peacekeeping operations suffer attacks by parties to an ongoing armed conflict, as addressed by the International Law

Commission in its report. The Commission is in a position to find individually tailored approaches to good offices in such situations, with the goal of preventing serious breaches of international humanitarian law.

In its capacity as depositary of the Geneva Conventions, Switzerland will organize in the fourth quarter of 2026 the election of members of the Commission. Election of the 15 members of the Commission takes place every five years. States that have recognized the competence of the IHFFC are encouraged to consider nominating a candidate. This might also be a good opportunity for States that have not yet recognized the competence of the IHFFC to consider doing so. State Parties to AP I can make this recognition by depositing a declaration to that effect with Switzerland. Today, out of 175 State Parties to AP I, 78 have done so, the latest being Andorra and Honduras.

Thank you for your kind attention.