

**Attachment to the Verbal Note 90.2.5.6/ AS 1372 of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations**

**National contribution on measures taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law**

A. Activities of Greece as an elected member in the United Nations' Security Council for the term 2025-2026

Greece has always been and continues to be an ardent supporter of International Humanitarian Law. Two of the basic pillars of Greece's membership as an elected member in the United Nations' Security Council for the 2025-2026 term are "Women, peace and security" and "Children and armed conflict", underlining the utmost importance of humanitarian issues/issues of International Humanitarian Law for Greece as well as its determination to put them at the spotlight of the international community.

In this vein, Greece, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of May 2025, convened on 22 May 2025 the mandated, annual Security Council Open Debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict on the theme "Protecting civilians in armed conflict: addressing emerging threats, ensuring safety of civilians, humanitarian and UN personnel, journalists and media professionals, enhancing accountability mechanisms". The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. George Gerapetritis. Speakers included UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Tom Fletcher, UN Under-Secretary General and UN Women Executive Director, Ms. Sima Bahous, and ICRC President, Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric. The Open Debate provided a platform to UN Member States, international organizations and civil society to share their views on challenges related to the protection of civilians in armed conflict as well as an opportunity to Member States to reaffirm their commitment to upholding International Humanitarian Law. In the framework of the Open Debate, two Joint Media Stakeouts were organized, one on "Safeguarding the basics on the protection of civilians in armed conflict" and one on "Climate, Peace and Security and the Protection of Civilians".

B. Protection of Cultural Property in the event of armed conflict – Greek Military Manual on the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of armed conflict

Greece, being a fervent advocate of the protection of cultural property at all times, including in the event of armed conflict, is a Contracting Party to all relevant international legal instruments and a firm supporter of all relevant initiatives. Among the initiatives of Greece's Presidency of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, established pursuant to the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention, was the elaboration of a Military Manual dedicated to the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, under the auspices of UNESCO and in collaboration with the International Institute for Humanitarian Law. The Military Manual,

published in 2016, is considered as a useful guidance to the military forces of the States Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols, as well as to the military forces of all UNESCO Member States.

In 2021, Greece published the Greek Military Manual on the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of armed conflict. This Manual is based on the UNESCO Military Manual and aims at disseminating the international standards, norms and principles contained therein to the Greek military forces. The Greek Military Manual follows the structure and contents of the UNESCO Military Manual but is enriched with a Photographic Annex, containing photographic documents of the protection of the antiquities of the National Archaeological Museum of Athens during the Second World War.

C. Participation in the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as well as in the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law

Greece is a constant supporter of the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross and participates regularly in its activities. Most recently, Greece actively participated in the 34<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and welcomed the resolutions that were adopted at the conference, including Resolution 1: Building a universal culture of compliance with international humanitarian law.

In this context, Greece has officially adhered, in 2025, to the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law, a joint initiative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Brazil, the People's Republic of China, France, Jordan, Kazakhstan and South Africa. Greece actively participates in all seven workstreams of the Initiative and contributes substantially to its successful outcome.

D. Soft law documents on international humanitarian law

As already stated in document A/67/182 (25.7.2012), Greece is a Party to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols as well as to the vast majority of international legally binding instruments of international humanitarian law.

Greece has also endorsed various soft law documents on international humanitarian law. Three of the most recent examples are the endorsement, in 2022, of the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas as well as the Political Declaration on Conflict – Related Sexual Violence, and in 2025 the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel.

E. Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law at the domestic level – Training of armed forces

As already stated in document A/67/182 (25.7.2012), in what concerns the training of armed forces, IHL is taught in the Greek Military Training Academies. IHL is also an integral part of the promotion of training of officers of the armed forces. Training is also provided for military personnel in the pre-deployment phase of peacekeeping operations. Furthermore, members of the armed forces often participate in national and international training seminars and conferences on international humanitarian law.

To cite some recent examples, the Hellenic Army War College organized, from 13 to 17 October 2025, a training entitled “Modern Leadership in the Context of the Law of Armed Conflict and OSINT” covering, inter alia, the subject “International Law of armed conflict – legal challenges in current conflict areas”. International Humanitarian Law will also be taught during the upcoming training “Modern Leadership in the Context of the Law of Armed Conflict and OSINT”, scheduled for October 2026. Furthermore, the Hellenic Supreme Joint War College organized, in collaboration with the Law Faculty of the University of Thessaloniki, a two-day conference (8-9.5.2025), on the issue of “Protection of Cultural Property during Armed Conflict”. Additionally, the Multinational Peace Support Operations’ Training Center in Kilkis organizes every year a one week Training on International Humanitarian Law, with the participation of both Greek and foreign military officials, the latest edition of which took place from 9 to 13 February 2026.