

The submission of information of the Republic of Poland for future report of the Secretary General on the status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts in accordance with Resolution 79/123 adopted by the UN General Assembly on 4 December 2024 (paragraph 13)

This template questionnaire has been drafted pursuant to Resolution 77/107 (paragraph 16) adopted by the UN General Assembly on 7 December 2022 so as to help facilitate the submission of information by Member States for future reports of the Secretary General on the status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts.

Template Questionnaire

Please set out briefly any new developments or activities undertaken in the following areas:

- I. Ratifications or Accessions to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, their Additional Protocols and other relevant international humanitarian law (IHL) treaties

Not applicable

- II. Adoption of national legislation to implement the above-mentioned instruments

Numerous governmental bodies, public authorities, citizens and private entities are designated to play the important role in civil defense system, including issuance of warnings, evacuation, management of shelters, management of blackout, rescue, medical services, detection and marking of danger zones, firefighting and other emergency situations and armed conflicts. The whole system of protection of civilian population and civil defence was drafted in order to reflect the provisions of Additional Protocol I, in particular its Article 61, and was established in a single legal act, namely the Act of 5 December 2024 on Population Protection and Civil Defence.

The design of the civil protection system was based primarily on already established structures in order to optimally utilize existing resources and to ensure that these structures are compatible with the standards of international humanitarian law. This approach included, in particular, the potential of the State Fire Service, Volunteer Fire Departments, local government, crisis management structures, the emergency notification system, the State Emergency Medical Services, and non-governmental organizations. The civil protection tasks described in the above-mentioned Act in a manner

consistent with the Additional Protocol I include measures aimed at preparing public administration bodies to carry out duties related to civil protection (in peacetime) and civil defence (in wartime), as well as to the occurrence of emergency situations. The Act regulates, i.a.: matters related to planning of warning systems and the establishment of civil protection facilities for residents, rules of operation and organization of civil defence, and the methods of appointing civil defence personnel.

III. Adoption of other measures of implementation and for the dissemination of IHL

Topics of IHL have been included in the core curricula of general education for primary and secondary schools, as well as disseminated through the curricula of the majority of civilian and military universities in Poland. All military personnel of the Polish Armed Forces receive instructions and training on IHL issues as part of the framework of:

- military and postgraduate studies, defence policy studies, operational-tactical studies, operational-strategic studies and qualification courses dedicated for candidates for professional officers, officers, military commanders and legal advisors organized by relevant Military Universities and Academies and Officer's Schools;
- lectures, trainings, special and qualification courses for officers, non-commissioned officers, privates, volunteers for preparatory service and civilian personnel in training centres of all armed services and in all military units;
- the routine process of improving professional qualifications of military personnel conducted by superiors and legal advisors in all military units;
- military exercises which require taking into account specific rules of the IHL norms and regulations.

Training on IHL and protection of cultural heritage is an essential component of the preparation process for personnel deployed on the peacekeeping and stabilization missions. All missions' members are obliged to attend such training before deployment. Additionally, all soldiers and personnel deployed to the peacekeeping and stabilization missions take part in periodic training on IHL.

Poland has also consistently supported the activities of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC), which was created in 1991. In 2024 Poland accepted the offer of good offices made by the IHFFC in respect of the incident of 1 April 2024 in the Gaza Strip, when seven people working with the United States-based NGO World Central Kitchen, including a Polish citizen, were killed as a result of Israeli Defence Forces' fire. In this regard Poland and the IHFFC on 20 June 2024 signed a Memorandum of Understanding, to lay down the details of the goods offices to be provided by the IHFFC. A confidential report of the IHFFC was submitted to Poland on 18 October 2024.

IV. Domestic case-law relating to the above-mentioned instruments

Not applicable

V. Activities carried out by national commissions or committees to support the implementation or dissemination of IHL

On May 20-21, 2025 2nd Regional Conference of European National IHL Committees, organised jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Polish Red Cross took place in Warsaw. The meeting was attended by over 110 participants representing 33 states (including EU member states and candidate states, EFTA states and the United Kingdom). Delegates included representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs, national defence, justice, national committees of the Red Cross and diplomatic missions. The two-day Conference was divided into 5 thematic blocks covering the most important and current challenges in the field of IHL. The in-depth discussions, also held within dedicated working groups, concerned, among others: the follow-up to the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent; the operationalizing key IHL obligations and the role of National IHL Committees; the International Humanitarian Fact Finding Commission; humanitarian exemptions in sanction regimes; protection of the medical mission and of the Red Cross / Red Crescent emblem; the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law.

VI. Other relevant initiatives to promote respect for the 1949 Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols and other relevant instruments.

Not applicable