



REPORT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

ON THE

STATUS OF THE PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS
OF 1949 AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF ARMED
CONFLICTS

Ljubljana, 22 May 2026

In the period 2024–2026, the Permanent Coordination Group for International Humanitarian Law (hereinafter the Slovenian national IHL committee) monitored the implementation of, and respect for, international humanitarian law, particularly the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols. The Committee remains actively engaged in these efforts and continues to perform these duties as part of its ongoing work.

As a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) (2024–2025), Slovenia reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to upholding international law, including international humanitarian law (hereinafter IHL) and the fundamental principles of humanity. Namely, Slovenia directed its efforts towards strengthening the protection of civilians, particularly women and children, as well as water infrastructure within the framework of the Global Alliance for Water Security in Armed Conflicts. Furthermore, Slovenia provided funding for numerous new humanitarian projects.

The report was drafted in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 79/123 of 4 December 2024 (Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts).

As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (2024–2025), Slovenia consistently promoted compliance with IHL at the international and national levels and has continued these activities in 2026. Slovenia's numerous and diverse activities at the multilateral, regional and domestic levels demonstrate its deep commitment to respect for IHL. These activities, aimed at strengthening global compliance with IHL, included the following.

First, on 11 and 12 June 2024, the Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (MFEA) of Slovenia **organised the international IHL conference "Strengthening the Protection of Civilians: Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflict"**. The conference addressed pressing IHL issues, including challenges related to the protection of civilian infrastructure, such as interpretation of the fundamental principles and rules of IHL and the reverberating effects of damage to civilian infrastructure. The event brought together more than 80 participants from academia and international organisations, and legal advisors for international law from the ministries of foreign affairs of EU Member States, NGOs, national IHL committees and national societies of the Red Cross.

Second, at the 34th Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 28 to 31 October 2024, Slovenia actively participated in the committees responsible for drafting resolutions, and contributed to the adoption of five resolutions. Slovenia was **also a co-organiser of the side-event "The Protection of Children during Armed Conflicts"** and delivered numerous statements and interventions during the conference.

Third, in light of the increasing number of armed conflicts and consequent violations of IHL, Slovenia was delighted to **join the ICRC's Global Initiative to Galvanise Political Commitment to IHL in March 2025**. At present, 108 States from all regions of the world participate in the initiative. Within this framework, **Slovenia actively participates in three workstreams: protection of civilian infrastructure, national IHL committees and new technologies**.

As co-chair of the workstream on the protection of civilian infrastructure, Slovenia highlighted the crucial importance of involving legal advisers and technical experts in military planning to minimise collateral damage resulting from such operations. Slovenia also emphasised the importance of disseminating IHL knowledge within the Slovenian Armed Forces, respecting precautionary obligations and promoting protected zones in order to enhance the protection of civilians. Slovenia also condemned the misuse and destruction of civilian infrastructure and expressed its support for the outcome document on protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Within the workstream on national IHL committees, the Slovenian national IHL committee shared its perspectives, good practices, and lessons learned with other national IHL committees. It also emphasised the importance of monitoring the effectiveness of such committees through the promotion of official translations of IHL instruments, support for ratification processes, the organisation of training sessions and international workshops, contributions to national IHL legislation and participation in international resolutions and policy documents. Slovenia also supported the outcome document on national IHL committees.

Slovenia also participated in the workstream on ICT and new technologies, where it stressed the importance of ensuring awareness of IHL rules among civilians involved in ICT activities during armed conflict, particularly emphasising that children must not directly participate in hostilities, including through ICT-related activities. Slovenia also supported recommendations concerning the protection of civilian ICT products and services, as well as safeguards for specially protected persons, objects and activities. Slovenia considers the ICRC's Global Initiative to be an excellent tool for states seeking to enhance IHL through diplomacy and advocacy.

Fourth, on 20 and 21 May 2025, **Slovenia participated in the Second Regional Conference of the European National IHL Committees**, which took place in Warsaw. The conference addressed priority topics for the region, including the protection of the medical and humanitarian missions. Slovenia highlighted the mandate, composition, challenges, the experiences of the Slovenian national IHL committee, as well as Slovenian legislation relating to the implementation of IHL obligations. On the margins of the conference, the Slovenian national IHL committee also shared its experience, expertise, good practices and lessons learned with the recently established national IHL committee of Montenegro.

Fifth, on 21 September 2025, during the High-Level Week of the United Nations General Assembly, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr Melita Gabrič, **signed the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel**. The declaration aims to strengthen the collective commitment to IHL and principled humanitarian action pursuant with UN Security Council Resolution 2730 (2024), which was also co-sponsored by Slovenia.

Sixth, on 16 October 2025, during Geneva Peace Week, **the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations in Geneva** and the Bled Strategic Forum, in cooperation with Interpeace, the ICRC and the Geneva Call, **organised a panel titled "IHL and Humanitarian Action for Peace: Protecting People, Building Futures"**. The panellists underlined the importance of respect of IHL in upholding the humanity and dignity of persons

affected by armed conflict, fostering trust and creating conditions for dialogue and sustainable peace. The panellist representing Slovenia highlighted Slovenia's efforts to keep IHL at the forefront of the discussions within the UN Security Council without allowing it to become subject to political disputes, as well as its active participation in the Global ICRC's initiative to Galvanise Political Commitment to IHL and the Global Alliance to Spare Water from Armed Conflicts.

Seventh, on 16 October 2025, **Slovenia**, Costa Rica, Switzerland and the ICRC **organised a high-level event**, at which the Progress Report of the Global Initiative to Galvanise Political Commitment to IHL was launched. The President of the ICRC, Ms M. Spoljaric, and A. Fasel, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs in Switzerland, highlighted the current challenges facing IHL and the importance of support for this initiative from State and political leaders. They described the initiative an excellent framework for developing concrete solutions to improve compliance with IHL, cooperation and dialogue.

Eight, protection of water resources and water infrastructure during armed conflict remains a key priority of Slovenia's water diplomacy. As **chair of the Group of Friends on Water and Peace** in Geneva and as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Slovenia has advocated the integration of water-related issues into conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, as well as the protection of water resources and water infrastructure during and after armed conflicts in accordance with IHL. In May 2025, **Slovenia** co-organised the UN Security Council **Arria-formula meeting** "Freshwater Resources and Related Infrastructure under Attack. Protecting Water in Armed Conflict – Protecting Civilian Lives".

Slovenia is also a **leading partner of the Global Alliance for Sparing Water from Armed Conflicts**, established in May 2024, which brings together humanitarian, development, peace and academic actors in order to strengthen compliance with international law and raise awareness of the humanitarian consequences of attacks on water systems. Within the framework of the Alliance, **Slovenia** and Switzerland supported a Geneva Water Hub workshop, held in Geneva from 26 to 27 November 2025, titled "Integrating the Foreseeable Effects of Water Service Damage and Pollution of Freshwater on Civilians and the Environment into Military Planning". The workshop underscored the need to better incorporate water-related risks into military assessments and operations in order to improve civilian protection and ensure compliance with IHL.

Ninth, in 2024–2025 **Slovenia contributed EUR 11.3 million through international humanitarian organisations to alleviate humanitarian crises** caused by conflicts and disasters. It co-financed several humanitarian projects in conflict-affected areas of Ukraine, the

Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. These humanitarian projects focused on the thematic priorities of Slovenian humanitarian aid, particularly on enhancing food security, protecting women and other vulnerable groups, and humanitarian demining.

Slovenia has maintained and strengthened its cooperation with the ICRC in the implementation of its humanitarian aid policies. In the period 2024–2026, Slovenia has contributed EUR 4.73 million to the ICRC's humanitarian response to conflicts and crises around the world, with a further EUR 180,000 EUR still in the pipeline. During this period, Slovenia contributed most significantly to the response efforts in Ukraine (EUR 1.3 million), Sudan (EUR 600,000), Yemen (EUR 500,000), Syria (EUR 420,000) and Lebanon (EUR 400,000).

In September 2025, **Slovenia and ICRC concluded a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the period 2026–2030**. Under the MoU, **Slovenia** committed to contributing EUR 5 million during this period, in addition to its contributions to specific appeals. The MoU facilitates a smoother information exchange, strengthens the consultation process and ensures greater predictability and effectiveness of financing over the longer term.

Tenth, Slovenia has been a long-standing **supporter and promoter of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPS)**, including during its non-permanent membership of the UNSC. Slovenia upheld its commitments to women's participation as a proven strategy for sustainable peace during both of its UNSC presidencies (September 2024 and December 2025).

Slovenia also **supported regional processes and discussions relating to the WPS Agenda**. In December 2024, Slovenia organised the third regional expert event, "Women in Peace and Security Efforts – Perspectives from Southeast Europe and Ukraine", in cooperation with Norway, in Ljubljana. The event focused on the role of women's participation in peace and security efforts. The regional workshop "Integrating Arms Control and Disarmament into National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325" was organised together with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in February 2026. In 2025, Slovenia contributed for the first time to the work of the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict and continued its support in 2026.

Eleventh, as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, Slovenia has actively **supported CAAC** resolutions and debates, advocated stronger protection of children in armed conflicts and emphasised accountability for violations. Slovenia continues to support the work of the **Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict** (SRSG CAAC). It also provides financial support for other international activities relating to

children affected by armed conflict (e.g. UNICEF). In Slovenia, CAAC-related activities are concentrated in the areas of funding and humanitarian coordination, awareness-raising and education (schools, public campaigns), psychosocial expertise and training, NGO-led assistance, advocacy, research and policy development. In 2024, Slovenia directly **supported the physical and psychosocial rehabilitation** of 76 children from war-affected areas.

Twelfth, Slovenia **reiterated the importance of the effective functioning of the ICC** as a pillar of international criminal justice and the fight against impunity in general. It emphasised the need to ensure the protection of the ICC and those cooperating with it from threats, pressure and sanctions, as well as to preserve the ICC's independence and impartiality.

Slovenia regularly participates in annual meetings of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute and actively contributes to its activities. Since December 2023, Slovenia has been a member of the Bureau of the Assembly, with a mandate until the closure of the 25th session of the Assembly in 2026. In addition to having ratified all amendments to the Rome Statute of the ICC, **Slovenia participated in the preparatory work and the review of the Kampala Amendments** on aggression during the Special Session of the Assembly of States Parties in July 2024.

Slovenia has also made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund of the ICC for Victims. In 2024 and 2025, each contribution was earmarked for the benefit of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence through the Trust Fund's assistance programme in the Central African Republic. In 2026, the contribution was not earmarked in order to ensure flexibility and to allow funds to be allocated based on an assessment of where they are most needed. In 2026, Slovenia has also made a **voluntary contribution to the UN Development Programme** to support the Special Criminal Court of the Central African Republic, established to investigate and prosecute grave human rights violations and serious violations of IHL in the Central African Republic.

At the domestic level, Slovenia launched its **first Voluntary Report on the Implementation and Dissemination of Knowledge of IHL through which it reiterated its deep commitment to IHL**. The Report serves as an excellent tool for Slovenia to highlight its initiatives, legal framework, implementation measures, views, projects, best practices and activities carried out in the field of IHL between 2021 and June 2024 at both the national and international levels (available at: https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MZEZ/Prostovoljno-porocilo-MZEZ-final_ebook.pdf).

Slovenia's MFEA in cooperation with experts from the Ministry of Defence and the Government Information Security Office also **prepared a National Position on the Importance of International Law in Cyberspace** and emphasised the importance of regional cooperation, testing through exercises (such as Locked Shields) and the flexibility required to protect against cyber challenges and strengthen stability. The position emphasises that cyberspace is not a new legal domain but rather a means of influencing existing domains (land, sea, air and space); therefore, existing international rules apply directly to cyberspace (available at: https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MZEZ/Dokumenti/SI_Position-Paper_eng.pdf).