

**Information of Ukraine pursuant to paragraph 12 of the General Assembly
resolution 79/123 of 4 December 2024 entitled «Status of the Protocols
Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the
protection of victims of armed conflicts»**

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

Ukraine is a party to the majority of international treaties in the field of international humanitarian law and has implemented all three Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions for the Protection of War Victims of 1949, integrating their provisions into national legislation through ratification and the adoption of relevant regulatory acts.

Additional Protocol I of 12 August 1949 (adopted in 1977) concerns the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and, in particular, strengthens the protection of medical personnel, prohibits the killing of prisoners of war and the misuse of the Red Cross emblem, and contains obligations regarding the search for persons who have gone missing. Additional Protocol I was ratified by Decree of the Presidium of the Verkhovna Rada of the Ukrainian SSR of 18 August 1989, No. 7960-XI.

Additional Protocol II of 12 August 1949 (adopted in 1977) concerns the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts. It was ratified by Decree of the Presidium of the Verkhovna Rada of the Ukrainian SSR of 18 August 1989, No. 7960-XI.

Additional Protocol III of 12 August 1949 (adopted in 2005) concerns the adoption of an additional distinctive emblem. It was ratified by Law of Ukraine of 22 October 2009, No. 1674-VI.

An important step towards harmonising national legislation with international law was the completion of the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 2024, which creates additional legal mechanisms for holding perpetrators accountable for the most serious violations of international humanitarian law, including war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

The ratification of the Rome Statute enables Ukraine to make full use of the instruments of the International Criminal Court in order to hold war criminals accountable for serious crimes committed in the course of the armed aggression against Ukraine.

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

Following the onset of the full-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine in 2022, the process of implementing international humanitarian law (IHL) norms into national legislation was significantly intensified and acquired a systemic character.

In particular, in the context of implementing IHL norms in Ukraine and in view of Ukraine's accession in 2015 to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, on 12 July 2018 the Law of Ukraine "On the Legal Status of Persons Missing under Special Circumstances" (hereinafter – the Law) was adopted. The Law defines the legal status of persons missing under special circumstances and provides legal regulation of social relations connected with acquiring such legal status, as well as issues of registration, search and social protection of such persons and members of their families.

In April 2022, amendments to the Law were adopted establishing the institution of the Commissioner for Persons Missing under Special Circumstances, an official of the central

executive authority responsible for implementing State policy in the area of compliance with IHL norms throughout the territory of Ukraine, who is mandated to coordinate the search for persons missing under special circumstances and resolve other related matters (Article 10 of the Law).

The Law defines the main powers of the Commissioner for Persons Missing under Special Circumstances and the functions of the Commissioner's Secretariat, including in particular:

- interaction with State authorities, relevant authorities of foreign States and international organisations regarding the search for persons missing under special circumstances;
- preparation of recommendations to State authorities on the fulfilment of Ukraine's international obligations with respect to persons missing under special circumstances;
- processing of information that may assist in the search for persons missing under special circumstances;
- communication with relatives of persons missing under special circumstances and, within the limits established by law, provision of information on the status and results of the search.

Following the entry into force on 30 September 2023 of Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 975 of 12 September 2023 “On Issues of Defining the Powers of Certain Authorities in the Sphere of Compliance with IHL Norms throughout the Territory of Ukraine”, the powers to coordinate the search for persons missing under special circumstances were assigned to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

Pursuant to the Regulation on the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the MIA is the lead authority within the system of central executive bodies responsible for formulating and implementing State policy in the sphere of IHL compliance throughout the territory of Ukraine with respect to the aforementioned powers.

To accumulate and centralise information and data on persons missing under special circumstances and to record information necessary for their effective search, a Unified Register of Persons Missing under Special Circumstances was established, the operation of which is entrusted to the MIA.

The Register currently contains information on approximately more than 90,000 persons classified as missing under special circumstances, including military personnel of the security and defence sector, civilians, and children.

To ensure the implementation of the Law (in the part concerning the coordination of the search for persons missing under special circumstances and the resolution of other related matters), the following regulatory acts were adopted:

- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 29 April 2022, No. 511 “On Certain Issues of the Implementation of the Law of Ukraine ‘On the Legal Status of Persons Missing under Special Circumstances’” (which approved the Regulation on the Commissioner for Persons Missing under Special Circumstances and the Procedure for the Establishment and Operation of Search Groups);
- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 975 of 12 September 2023 “On Issues of Defining the Powers of Certain Authorities in the Sphere of Compliance with IHL Norms throughout the Territory of Ukraine”;
- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 25 September 2025, No. 1214 “On the Implementation of a Pilot Project on the Identification of Bodies (Remains) of

Persons Who Died as a Result of the Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine Using Biometric Data”;

- Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine of 29 August 2022, No. 535 “On Approving the Regulation on the Unified Register of Persons Missing under Special Circumstances”, registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 1 September 2022, No. 998/38334;
- Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine of 19 April 2023, No. 323 “On Approving the Procedure for the Collection and Storage of Biological Material from Military Personnel, Police Officers and Rank-and-File and Senior Staff of Civil Protection Services”, registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 12 May 2023, No. 799/39855;
- Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine of 23 April 2024, No. 260 “On Approving the Operational Procedure of the Commissioner’s Telephone Hotline for Persons Missing under Special Circumstances”, registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 7 May 2024, No. 664/42009.

With a view to adapting Ukraine’s national legislation to the realities of wartime and implementing IHL standards, the Law of Ukraine of 9 July 2022 “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Regarding the Clarification of the Powers of Civil Protection Entities and the Implementation of IHL Norms in the Field of Civil Protection” was adopted.

To ensure its implementation, the following regulatory acts were adopted:

- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 21 October 2022, No. 1199 “On Approving the Procedure for Marking, during a Special Period, Buildings and Structures and Vehicles Subject to IHL Norms with the Relevant Distinctive Signs (Emblems)”;
- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 8 October 2022, No. 1142 “On Approving the Procedure for Issuing, during a Special Period, to Persons Serving in Civil Protection or Working in Civil Protection Management and Forces, Certificates and Distinctive Signs (Emblems) of Civil Defence (Civil Protection) Personnel”;
- Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine of 24 May 2023, No. 426 “On Approving the Methodology for Identifying the List of Installations or Structures Containing Dangerous Forces, as well as Civil Protection Facilities Classified as Objects of International Humanitarian Law, and Their Marking with Relevant Distinctive Signs (Emblems)”, registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 29 June 2023, No. 1089/40145.

In addition, on 23 March 2017, by Order of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine No. 164, the Instruction on the Procedure for Implementing IHL Norms in the Armed Forces of Ukraine was approved. Among other things, the Instruction defines mechanisms for the protection of civilians, the treatment of prisoners of war, restrictions on methods of warfare and accountability for war crimes.

With a view to ensuring the rights of prisoners of war in accordance with IHL norms, Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 5 April 2022, No. 413 approved the “Procedure for Holding Prisoners of War”.

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 7 June 2022, No. 721 also approved the “Procedure for Implementing Measures Relating to the Treatment of Prisoners of War during a Special Period”.

An important step in the implementation of IHL in Ukraine was the adoption in February 2026 of the Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Regarding the

Regulation of Issues of Conducting Evacuation, Placement and Life Support of Evacuated Persons, and Ensuring the Protection of Children Located in Settlements Situated in Areas of Active and Potential Military (Combat) Operations”.

By Directive of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 228-r of 17 March 2022, a State enterprise was officially designated to perform the functions of the National Information Bureau (NIB) for the collection and consolidation of data on prisoners of war, persons killed, missing and unlawfully detained in connection with the armed aggression. The NIB operates in fulfilment of Ukraine’s international obligations under the Geneva Conventions for the Protection of War Victims of 1949.

With a view to fulfilling Ukraine’s obligations in the field of IHL, Directive of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 31 May 2022, No. 434-r “On Issues of Implementing the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949” was adopted.

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

Regarding initiatives to promote respect for the 1949 Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols and other relevant instruments, in the context of the fulfilment of tasks assigned to the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine and the MIA in the field of higher education, the study of IHL norms is an important element of military educational training.

At higher educational institutions with specific study conditions falling within the management sphere of the Ministry of Defence, the MIA and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, students acquire knowledge of IHL within dedicated educational components (disciplines) of their curricula.

The Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, with the support of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, prepared a Voluntary Report in the Field of International Humanitarian Law (the Voluntary Report), covering all key IHL issues. The document was prepared in Ukrainian and English. The English version is available at: <https://mfa.gov.ua/storage/app/sites/1/voluntary-report-mod-in-ihl-0fae15454a.pdf>.

The Voluntary Report was successfully presented to the international community at one of the largest humanitarian forums, the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Geneva, 28–31 October 2024). The Ministry of Defence, together with the Foreign Ministries of the United Kingdom and Italy and the National Red Cross Societies of the United Kingdom, Italy and Ukraine, co-organised a side thematic event “Voluntary Reports on the National Implementation of IHL”.

The State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) developed Guidelines on the Application of IHL Norms by SESU Bodies and Units, which include information on the approximate list of key multilateral international treaties, laws and other regulatory acts of Ukraine on IHL. The information is available at:

<https://dsns.gov.ua/upload/6/5/1/5/6/0/0HAOrIbbwT2HfKMAOmQAXJx5H1IAtbma4RqbNRUW.docx>

The National Guard of Ukraine (NGU) developed a Serviceperson’s Guide on the Application of IHL, which was presented in 2025. For the training of future officers at higher military educational institutions of the NGU, the curricula include relevant IHL disciplines. At NGU training centres, during the training of enlisted, non-commissioned and senior non-commissioned officers, IHL classes are also conducted.

One of the primary forms of implementing the norms and requirements relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts is the criminalisation of relevant offences in national criminal legislation, including: “Crime of Aggression” (Article 437 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (hereinafter – the CCU)), “War Crimes” (Article 438 CCU), “Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction” (Article 439 CCU), etc. (Section XX “Criminal Offences against Peace, the Security of Humanity and the International Legal Order”).

The criminalisation of IHL violations remains primarily concentrated in the Criminal Code of Ukraine, in particular in the provisions on war crimes and crimes against peace, the security of humanity and the international legal order. At the same time, since 2022 significant legislative changes have been made aimed at adapting the criminal and criminal procedural legislation to the conditions of martial law and the needs of the effective prosecution of international crimes.

In particular, in 2022–2024 a number of laws were adopted which:

- regulated the legal status of prisoners of war and the procedure for their treatment in accordance with the norms of the Geneva Conventions (in particular, Law of Ukraine No. 2158-IX of 24 March 2022);
- introduced amendments to the criminal, criminal procedural and penal enforcement legislation regarding the specifics of military service and liability under martial law (in particular, Laws No. 3633-IX and No. 3687-IX of 2024);
- improved approaches to criminal liability for military offences under martial law, including through the clarification of offence elements and procedural mechanisms (Law of Ukraine No. 3902-IX of 20 August 2024).

As part of other measures for the implementation and dissemination of IHL norms, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in 2025 prepared and presented a Special Report on the Situation in the Territories of Ukraine Temporarily Occupied by the Russian Federation.

This Report is the result of a systematic analysis of the experience of the occupation of part of Ukraine’s territory, in particular the identification of common patterns of action and policies of the Russian Federation applied both before and after the occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which were subsequently extended to other temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

The Report systematises and analyses the practices of mass and systemic human rights violations employed by the aggressor State as an instrument for establishing and maintaining control over occupied territories, and examines the mechanisms of repression and persecution of the civilian population, including acts of violence, forced displacement, unlawful detention, filtration measures, imposition of citizenship and other practices contrary to IHL norms.

Particular attention is paid to the analysis of the aggressor’s policies aimed at changing the identity of the population, destroying the Ukrainian cultural, educational and information space, as well as assessing the response measures of the State of Ukraine and the international community to such violations.

The preparation and public presentation of this Report contribute to raising awareness of IHL norms, documenting their violations, and forming an evidentiary basis for holding perpetrators accountable at the national and international levels. The Report was also transmitted to the competent State authorities for their information and use in their work, in particular in the formulation of State policy, the preparation of analytical materials and the taking of responsive measures in the field of human rights protection and IHL compliance.

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

An analysis of national case-law regarding the application of the aforementioned instruments indicates that Ukrainian courts administer justice in cases involving war crimes guided by the principle of the direct applicability of IHL norms. The primary legal characterisation of acts is made under Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (violations of the laws and customs of war / war crimes), which is a blanket provision making direct reference to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

Furthermore, court decisions in cases concerning violations of the laws and customs of war are publicly available, in which courts refer to the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols in the legal assessment of the relevant circumstances of criminal proceedings. In a number of decisions, courts invoke IHL provisions on the protection of the civilian population, the prohibition of ill-treatment, the taking of hostages and the use of civilians as shields for military objectives.

The application of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols by national courts takes place in the context of criminal proceedings concerning war crimes under Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (hereinafter – CCU). Between 24 February and 22 April 2026, 564 criminal proceedings concerning war crimes were submitted to courts of first instance, of which 188 were examined. In appellate proceedings, 48 criminal proceedings were reviewed, with 44 first instance verdicts upheld and 4 modified. The Supreme Court conducted cassation review of 3 criminal proceedings under Article 438 CCU, and 1 criminal proceeding was examined by the Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court.

In its Resolution of 28 February 2024 in case No. 415/2182/20, the Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court addressed arguments by the defence that the accused's actions could not be qualified under Article 438 CCU on the grounds that, as of 2014, Ukraine had not officially declared a state of war and Russia's actions against Ukraine had not been officially recognised as aggression by a UN Security Council resolution. The Grand Chamber confirmed that, under ratified international legal instruments, the existence of an international armed conflict is established by the very fact of the use of force, regardless of any formal declaration or recognition of a state of war by either party. The Grand Chamber further confirmed that Geneva Convention (IV) applies not only in cases of declared war but in any armed conflict that may arise between two or more contracting parties, even if the state of war is not recognised by one of them. The Grand Chamber accordingly concluded that Geneva Convention (IV) norms applied to the territory of Lysychansk at the time the offences were committed, extending to members of the armed forces of the Russian Federation as well as members of unlawful armed formations and representatives of the occupation administration acting on behalf of and/or in the interests of the occupying Power.

In that same case, the Grand Chamber also confirmed the qualification of the convicted persons' actions under Article 438 CCU, noting that the victims – who had not participated in hostilities and had not offered armed resistance to the occupiers – were protected civilians within the meaning of Article 4 of Geneva Convention (IV) and Article 50 of Protocol I. The convicted persons were found to have violated Article 51 of Geneva Convention (IV) (prohibition of compelling civilians in occupied territories to perform work related to military operations), Article 31 (prohibition of physical or moral coercion), and Article 32 (prohibition of acts causing physical suffering, including corporal punishment and brutal treatment). The forced abduction and detention of victims against their will was characterised as unlawful imprisonment of protected persons constituting a serious violation of Geneva Convention (IV) within the meaning of Article 147 thereof.

In its Resolution of 7 April 2026 in case No. 939/1435/22, the Supreme Court confirmed the qualification of the accused's actions under Article 438(1) CCU. The Court noted that Ukraine, as the successor to the rights and obligations of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic under international treaties of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Law of Ukraine of 12 September 1991, No. 1543-XII), ratified the Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Geneva Convention IV, 1949) on 3 July 1954, and Additional Protocol I on 18 August 1989. The Supreme Court confirmed that protected persons under Convention IV and Protocol I are those who, at any time and in any circumstances, find themselves, in the event of conflict or occupation, in the hands of a party to the conflict or an occupying Power of which they are not nationals. The Court recalled that the occupying Power bears responsibility for the conduct of its representatives towards those persons (Article 29 of Geneva Convention IV), and that a combatant who violates the norms of international humanitarian law applicable in an armed conflict – including by committing acts of brutal treatment against the civilian population under protection, giving orders to commit such acts or committing other violations of the laws and customs of war – incurs individual criminal liability.

In its Resolution of 28 February 2024 in case No. 753/14148/21, the Supreme Court addressed the compulsory conscription of Ukrainian civilians residing in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine into the armed forces of the Russian Federation. The Court confirmed that, pursuant to Article 4 of Geneva Convention (IV), protected persons are those who are not nationals of the occupying Power in whose hands they find themselves. Accordingly, the civilian population of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol has been under the protection of Geneva Convention (IV) since the day of their temporary occupation by the Russian Federation. Under Article 51(1) of Geneva Convention (IV), the occupying Power may not compel protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces; any pressure or propaganda aimed at securing voluntary enlistment is prohibited. The Supreme Court thus confirmed that compulsion directed at military service encompasses not only direct physical or psychological coercion but any form of pressure or propaganda. The court found that the convicted individual, in his capacity as “senior assistant military commissar” and “military commissar,” implemented the state policy of the Russian Federation in the military sphere on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and that his actions were correctly qualified under Article 438(1) CCU.

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

On 26 April 2017, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted Resolution No. 329 establishing the Interdepartmental Commission on the Application and Implementation of IHL Norms in Ukraine (hereinafter – the Commission), and approving the Regulation on the Commission and its composition. The Commission is chaired by the Vice Prime Minister for Reconstruction of Ukraine – Minister for Communities and Territories Development, and includes, in particular, senior-level representatives of all key law enforcement and security ministries and agencies of Ukraine, including Deputy Ministers of Defence and of Internal Affairs, the Deputy Commander of the National Guard, the Deputy Head of the State Border Guard Service, the Deputy Head of the National Police, the Deputy Head of the SESU, the Coordination Headquarters on Prisoners of War Affairs of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

On 21 July 2000, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine also adopted Resolution No. 1157 establishing the Interdepartmental Commission on the Implementation of IHL in Ukraine. The Commission was created as an advisory body for the fulfilment of Ukraine's international legal obligations arising primarily from the Geneva Conventions for the Protection of War Victims

of 12 August 1949. The Commission's main tasks include ensuring the implementation and observance of IHL norms, coordinating the activities of ministries, other central executive authorities and civil society organisations in this area, and preparing proposals on the implementation of international treaties into Ukraine's national legislation.

Commission representatives actively participated in regional conferences of European national IHL committees in Vienna (13–14 March 2023) and Warsaw (20–21 May 2025), engaging in the exchange of experience with other relevant commissions of European States.

Since 2017, the Commission has held 17 meetings during which issues of IHL implementation into Ukrainian legislation were discussed.

Eight working groups have also been established within the Commission. Since 2017, more than 50 sessions have been held and a number of inter-agency documents of a recommendatory nature have been adopted.

In particular, the Commission includes a Working Group on IHL Dissemination, the activities of which are directed at coordinating work in the field of IHL dissemination, developing educational and informational programmes and activities, and preparing analytical and recommendatory materials on relevant issues.

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

In connection with the full-scale invasion of Ukraine's territory, a significant number of Ukrainian citizens have suffered violations of rights guaranteed by IHL norms. These include, in particular, cases of deprivation of personal liberty, unlawful detention, enforced disappearances under special circumstances on the territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, and the forced transfer of persons to the territory of the aggressor State.

Pursuant to Article 26 of the Geneva Convention, parties to a conflict must facilitate the search for and reunion of families separated by war and support the activities of organisations engaged in this endeavour, provided they are recognised by the parties and comply with relevant security measures.

Recognising the severity of this problem and the need to employ all available mechanisms to establish the fate of Ukrainian citizens who may be on the territory of the aggressor State or on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights has established communication with the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation.

Within the framework of this interaction, arrangements have been reached on the exchange of information regarding persons deprived of their liberty as a result of the armed aggression against Ukraine, as well as Ukrainian citizens considered missing under special circumstances, with a view to verifying information about their possible presence on the territory of the aggressor State or on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine.

To this end, relevant letters are regularly transmitted to the Russian side to obtain updated information on the places of detention of such persons, their state of health, and to facilitate the provision of adequate medical assistance and communication with their families.

These measures form part of the practical implementation of the provisions of Additional Protocol I and the Geneva Conventions, in particular with regard to ensuring humane treatment of persons deprived of their liberty as a result of the armed aggression, and ensuring the right of families to receive information on the fate and whereabouts of their relatives.

In August 2025, at the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the Platform for the Progressive Development of International Humanitarian Law was established, aimed at updating and strengthening IHL norms to better protect victims of war in the context of modern conflicts.

In September 2024, during the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, the World Initiative to Strengthen Political Support for International Humanitarian Law was proclaimed. The main work focuses on seven thematic areas: best practices in the prevention of IHL violations; national IHL committees; peace and IHL; protection of civilian infrastructure; protection of hospitals; information and communication technologies; and naval warfare. Ukraine acceded on 12 June 2025 and actively participates in the consultations of the World Initiative to Strengthen Political Support for International Humanitarian Law.

Within the framework of the World Initiative, representatives of the Ukrainian delegation conduct substantive work aimed, in particular, at protecting the rights of Ukrainian children and addressing modern security challenges. During the second round of consultations, the importance of continuing joint efforts to find effective mechanisms to ensure strict compliance with IHL by both parties to the conflict was emphasized, taking into account the specific features of modern hybrid warfare.

Representatives of the Ukrainian delegation provided detailed presentations to the international community on the problem of the weaponization of children, which is today reaching alarming proportions through their remote recruitment. It was emphasized that this covert form of recruitment, the subsequent participation of children in armed conflicts and the commission of terrorist acts or other serious crimes by their hands remain inadequately regulated by existing IHL norms, which requires an immediate response from the international community.