

Translated from Spanish

(a) Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, 17 June 1925;

(b) Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity, 26 November 1968;

(c) The Amendment to the 10 October 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (with Protocols I, II and III) which was adopted in Geneva on 21 December 2001;

(d) Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects), 28 November 2003;

(e) Draft revisions of the Penal Code of Costa Rica aimed at strengthening the provisions criminalizing war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.

Also on the agenda of the Legislative Assembly will be the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court.

At the United Nations in New York and Geneva the State of Costa Rica has enthusiastically supported work on the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law, the Convention on Enforced Disappearances and a significant number of resolutions and initiatives which aim to strengthen and reaffirm the value of international

3. To promote, encourage and support the dissemination of international humanitarian law in State institutions and society at large;

4. To attend meetings, seminars and international conferences on international humanitarian law;

5. To promote and collaborate with the national academic authorities in the inclusion in curriculums of international humanitarian law;

6. To suggest and promote action likely to contribute to the application of and respect for international humanitarian law.

CRCIHL has identified areas in which to carry out the functions determined not only by Executive Decree but also derived from the endeavours for which the body has gradually assumed responsibility under the norms and principles that guide it.

Set forth below are the areas of work which have been established:

1. The adaptation of domestic legislation to conform with conventions and treaties on international humanitarian law (presentation of legislative or other proposals);

2. The dissemination of and instruction in international humanitarian law;

3. The provision of training in international humanitarian law to the police force, universities, the general public, legislators and related bodies;

4. The capacity-building of the Committee;

5. The protection of cultural property in time of war;

6. The provision of advice to the Executive Branch, on its own initiative or as requested;

7. The undertaking of political lobbying in favour of pending international humanitarian law initiatives and action likely to promote implementation of, education in and respect for such law.

Among the work undertaken by CRCIHL, the following may be mentioned:

1. Publication in March 2006 of the book entitled "Women and war", [...] with the sponsorship of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);*

2. Numerous courses, round tables, forums and training seminars in international humanitarian law aimed at specialized audiences and the general public, supplemented by human rights perspectives and refugee rights;

3. Capacity-building in various issues for Committee staff, undertaken by members and ICRC, and periodic updates of relevant questions;

4. Interchanges with other international humanitarian law committees in the region, with ICRC support and with other international organizations accredited in

6. Provision of advice to the Ministry of External Relations on specific issues related to international humanitarian law and contribution to the approval of draft legislation (international instruments, OAS and United Nations draft resolutions, legislative priorities);

7. Intensive lobbying of various factions in the Legislative Assembly with a view to enhancing the bill on war crimes and the addition of a chapter on crimes against humanity. Presentation of the draft to the Commission on Human Rights.