

operate, the Commission needs a specific mandate given by the parties of the conflict. To date, that has not been forthcoming.

The General Assembly through Resolution A/55/148 of January 19th., 2001 called upon all States that were parties to Protocol I and those States who were not, on becoming Parties to the Protocol, to make the declaration provided under Article 90.

Since then, 18 further States have made declaration of acceptance of the competence of the International Humanitarian Fact Finding Commission, so that the total is now 76. However, there is a need for more States to join to guarantee equitable geographic representation and to enable the Commission to gain a critical mass in terms of members.

The General Assembly has called several times upon States to make use of the services of the Commission in appropriate cases. We hope that the Assembly will again express their confidence in the Commission in order to facilitate, through its services, the restoration of an attitude of respect of the International Humanitarian Law, especially the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and by joining forces with the Commission to mitigate suffering of people in conflicts.

We also hope that the Security Council will continue with its expressed intention to consider making use of the Commission.

The task of the Commission is not to blame and shame, but to investigate allegations of violations of international humanitarian law, with a view to establishing a greater respect for international humanitarian law. The Commission also offers its "good offices" which can be used to avoid further conflict escalation which can only affect detrimentally civilian populations.

The Commission would like to draw attention to the possibility that it could be complementary 4 0 o (om) 0.2 (pl) 0.200 (ry) -117.6 (4 0 o (om) 0.2 (pl) 0.200 (ry)) 0.2 (t) 5emmmmn

In the latter, the States commit themselves to investigate "violations of international humanitarian law" through, among others, "international mechanisms". The International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission is the only permanent "international mechanism" specializing in international humanitarian law that could fulfill such missions.

We are also working closely with the initiative by Switzerland and the International Committee of the Red Cross on strengthening compliance with IHL following the 31 st International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent of 2011 with a view to contributing to their efforts.

To conclude I would like to recall the readiness of the Commission to act as an instrument of the international community to enhance respect for international humanitarian law.

I thank you for your attention.