

*Check against delivery*

Environmental degradation during and after armed conflicts has a direct impact on human health, lives and livelihood. We are of the opinion that these issues must be discussed together with the protection of the “natural environment”.

In the context of the Report, I would like to refer to the Draft principle 4 “Measures to enhance the protection of the environment”, which, *inter alia*, goes in line with the Resolution on protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict. This resolution was initiated by Ukraine and adopted at the Second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

We stress the importance of practical implementation by all States of the relevant international law to reduce conflict-related environmental impacts.

Turning to the humanitarian angle of the issue, the environmental impact of conflicts remains significant.