



United Kingdom Mission  
to the United Nations

One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza

Mr Chairman,

The United Kingdom welcomes the report of the Secretary General on the status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts. The United Kingdom aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

The United Kingdom believes that International Humanitarian Law protects innocent victims from the devastating impact of armed conflicts. It is tragic that these laws of war are increasingly ignored, both by state and non-state groups, most notably in Syria where the consequences have been horrific. We call for better implementation of, and better compliance with, the existing framework. Both States and non-state groups, alike, must be held accountable whenever International Humanitarian Law is breached.

The United Kingdom welcomes the outcome of the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva in December 2015, including the adoption of resolutions on Strengthening Compliance with IHL, Health Care in Danger, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and the Safety and Security of Humanitarian Volunteers. We also welcome follow up to the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul.

The International Red Committee of the Red Cross plays a crucial role in the international system. The United Kingdom pays tribute to the ICRC, the British Red Cross and the wider Red Cross and Red Crescent movement for the courageous work they do to provide assistance to the most vulnerable of people, in the most dangerous of environments. Their emblems, which are established under International Humanitarian Law, are symbols of neutral protection. It is therefore a matter of grave concern that these emblems are

