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The ICRC further congratulates the Commission for the adoption, on second reading, of the 16 draft conclusions on the identification of customary international law, with commentaries. We commend the Special Rapporteur, Sir Michael Wood, for his dedication to the topic, and for the results achieved.

The “way in which the existence and content of rules of customary international law are to be determined” is of great importance to the ICRC, notably as concerns customary IHL. While the main IHL treaties enjoy wide – and, in the case of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, universal – support, customary IHL remains vital in the regulation of many armed conflicts today.

In 2005, mandated by the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the ICRC

published the Study on Customary International Humanitarian Law. The Study is a key ICRC instrument of the protection

the Commission has now addressed in the draft conclusions and commentaries. Again, we are pleased to note the parallels between the Study and the Commission’s approach.

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The third topic is that of “protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts”. The ICRC commends the International Law Commission for its continued commitment to the topic and looks