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Mr. Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The EU Guidelines on promoting compliance with IHL, adopted in 2005 and updated in 2009, serve as a tool to promote respect for IHL by third states and non-state actors. Since their adoption the EU has continued to actively promote respect for IHL through the various means at its disposal. This year, in order to present a more systematic and transparent overview of the implementation of the Guidelines, the EU has issued the first annual report on the action taken by the European Union in this regard.

universalization of the principal international humanitarian law instruments and other relevant international legal instruments by considering ratification of those instruments to which they are not yet all party and by encouraging ratification by other States.

In this context, we urge the Member States of the United Nations that have not yet done so, to

ratify all the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions

July 2019 was celebrated the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the