



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

by Mr. Fabio Cannizzaro

Counsellor

Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

at the Sixth Committee

on the Agenda item 81:

‘Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts’

United Nations

New York

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±CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ±

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

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

The Candidate Countries North Macedonia , Montenegro , Serbia , Albania , Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Bosnia and Herzegovina , as well as San Marino align themselves with this statement.

Mr./Madam Chair,

We thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/79/174) and all the Member States and the International Committee of the Red Cross that provided relevant information. We commend in particular the ICRC and all those humanitarian organisations, which are unwavering in their commitment to strengthening the implementation of International Humanitarian Law and delivering humanitarian assistance to the many affected by armed conflicts. We recognise the extremely difficult conditions in which they act, every day, and we pay tribute to them.

This is a time of unprecedented humanitarian needs and a critical moment in our history. As conflicts proliferate and become more complex, international humanitarian law is increasingly disregarded.

We are deeply concerned at the brutality of warfare in current conflicts in which IHL rules, including the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution, are not respected. This has appalling consequences for civilian populations and infrastructure, and a disproportionate impact on women and girls. We underscore the obligation to distinguish between civilians and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives, as well as to refrain from attacks on

civilians and civilian objects. The EU reiterates terrberau-24(ba-30(.)8(n)-24(j)15(enhn8s)2

The EU and its Member States remain committed to using all available mechanisms at national, regional, and international levels to ensure respect for IHL. This includes efforts to build close cooperation with regional organisations, to enhance and uphold t

Information and Communication technology (ICT) related measures against civilians and civilian infrastructure in the context of armed conflicts.

Mr./Madam Chair,

On their 75th anniversary, the EU and its Member States call on all States parties to the Geneva Convention to put their differences aside and to reaffirm their commitment to IHL and the humanitarian principles.

We also call on remaining states that uphold the humanitarian principles to ratify the Additional Protocols and underscore that most provisions contained therein have attained the status of customary international law.

Thank you.