



Sixth Committee
United Nations General Assembly 79th Session

Statement of Ireland on Agenda Item 81:

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

Delivered by James Kirk
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1. Chair,
2. Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.
3. We welcome the Secretary-General's report on the status of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions and measures taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law (IHL). The report usefully collates the information provided by States and the ICRC in accordance with the most recent resolution under

7. Ireland's National Advisory Committee on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict has also continued to meet regularly since its establishment in 2022. The National Advisory Committee is an important element in the implementation of the Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict and its Second Protocol.
8. In July 2023, Ireland published a national position paper on the application of international law to cyberspace, which affirms amongst other things that cyber operations which take place in the context of, or themselves amount to, an armed conflict are regulated by IHL.
9. Ireland continues to be a strong supporter of the International Criminal Court and of the universality of the Rome Statute. Our support has taken the form of voluntary financial contributions and cooperation with the Court in its investigations and prosecutions. Ireland also signed the Ljubljana-The Hague Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes and Other International Crimes in February 2024. A strong international criminal justice system is essential to ensuring respect for IHL and to ending a culture of impunity for the most serious international crimes.