

**Permanent Mission of Turkmenistan
To the United Nations**

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TKMUN/117/2010

The Permanent Mission of Turkmenistan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and in reference to the latter's note LA/COD/2 dated 9 April 2010, has the honour to transmit herewith information from the Government of Turkmenistan, for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General regarding the General Assembly resolution 63/125 of 11 December 2008 entitled "Status of Protocols Additional to the Geneva Convention of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts".

The Permanent Mission of Turkmenistan to the United Nations avails itself of

Translated from Russian

Annex 2

Information provided by the Government of Turkmenistan on General Assembly resolution 63/125 of 11 December 2008 entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Convention of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts"

Upon obtaining independence and the status of permanent neutrality, Turkmenistan adopted the Declaration on international obligations in the field of human rights and freedoms and the Declaration on the foreign policy course of Turkmenistan in the twenty-first century based on permanent neutrality and the principles of peaceableness, good-neighbourliness and democracy, and thereby set its independent course towards resolving humanitarian issues.

The international community has witnessed the radical, broad-ranging reforms carried out by the President of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. The current period of the country's development is characterized by transformation in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres. The reforms, introduced under the direct leadership of the head of State, have promoted progressive renewal of the entire social and political system and recognition of the authority of neutral Turkmenistan by the entire world community.

The constructive foreign policy maintained by the President of Turkmenistan is a key and reliable factor in ensuring that Turkmenistan will successfully implement the international obligations it has assumed in the field of human rights.

Turkmenistan recognizes the key importance of the generally 1

– the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain

for the benefit of cadets, students and teachers, as well as specialists from interested ministries and departments.

At present serious efforts are underway to include the bases of international humanitarian law in the programmes of educational establishments. The educational programme of the Turkmen State Medical Institute, for instance, now includes topics relating to international humanitarian law, in particular the role, tasks, rights and obligations of medical staff in situations of armed conflict.

One of the important activities of the National Red Crescent Society is to raise the level of knowledge among the population by issuing annual reports, informational bulletins, booklets and textbooks.

As examples, one can cite booklets such as *War and the Law* and *The Emblems of the International Red Crescent and Red Cross Movement* and the textbook *Rights and Obligations of Medical Personnel in Armed Conflict*, which have been issued in the national language and in Russian.

All of the multi-faceted humanitarian work of the National Society is based on the Strategy of the National Society for 2007 - 2010 and the strategy of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) a constructive dialogue has been engaged in Turkmenistan on current issues of humanitarian law.

On 23 February 2010 a three-day forum was held involving the leaders of the national societies of Central Asian countries.

The meeting was organized by the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan with the support of the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Central Asia.

Participants in the forum included representatives of the ICRC area office in Central Asia, the ICRC regional delegation, the regional delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Central Asia and leaders of the national societies of five States in the region: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The forum summed up the joint work of the ICRC in 2009, exchanged experiences, indicated areas for future cooperation and set priorities for work on various issues.

In order to establish the legal status of the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan and regulate the social relationships associated with the National Society's humanitarian work in Turkmenistan and abroad, including the form of its cooperation with State bodies and the management of the National Society along with the Presidential Turkmen National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, a draft Act is being prepared on the National Red Crescent Society.

Furthermore, with the help of experts from ICRC, work is underway on draft Regulations for an interdepartmental working group on implementation of international humanitarian law and on developing an educational programme for the study of international humanitarian law in the educational institutions of the country.

On 18 January 2010 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, the Presidential Turkmen National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights and the ICRC organized a round table on the legal bases and practical measures for implementing the norms of international law in the national legislation of Turkmenistan with the participation of representatives of Parliament, various ministries and departments, higher educational institutions and the mass media.
