
Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations

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The Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and, in reply to his note verbale LA/COD/2 of 2 April 2012, has the honour to transmit herewith information on the measures taken by the Government of Togo pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/29 of 6 December 2010 entitled “Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts”.

The Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretary-General the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 20 June 2012

United Nations Secretariat, New York

MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED BY TOGO IN APPLICATION OF
RESOLUTION 65/29 ENTITLED "STATUS OF THE PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL
TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949 AND RELATING TO THE
PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICTS"

With regard to the protection of refugees, Togo has:

- Ratified the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees on 27 February 1962;
- Ratified the Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa on 10 April 1970;
- Ratified the 2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention) on 12 May 2011;
- Ratified the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons;
- Passed Act No. 2000-019/PR on the protection of refugees in Togo on 29 December 2000.

In terms of assistance, Togo has taken the following measures:

- established the Coordination Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés, a national refugee agency, in 1994;
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The implementation of international humanitarian law in Togo, and particularly in the Togolese armed forces, has been given special attention by the public and the military authorities. Without entering into details, some important efforts carried out by the armed forces are worthy of mention.

The Togolese armed forces have made significant headway in the implementation of international humanitarian law and high-ranking o

rescue and exchange, choice of objectives, civilian protection and the basics of managing armed conflict, inter alia, are regularly on the agenda.

Also during these military manoeuvres, free vaccination campaigns are carried out by the Togolese armed forces. Doctors from the Togolese armed forces perform surgery for members of the local civilian population in the military medical tents -- in other words, free medical treatment as well as preventive and curative medicine.

Rural roads have also been repaired by Togolese armed forces personnel. Still in the same vein of participation in social action, the Togolese armed and security forces, in collaboration with WOA-Afrique and Save the Children, have helped to organize mobile courts and to produce birth certificates for young people and children in some operational areas.

In addition, the Togolese armed and security forces always act, within their means, to help the local population:

- Roadwork by military engineers (paving the Agbalépédo neighbourhood, Lomé; building rural roads in 2012 to open up the region between Témédja (RN5) and Avété (RN1) in the Plateaux region; the construction of a centre for disaster victims in Lomé by the Togolese armed forces).
- Local reforestation operations (before, during and after the official national Arbor Day on 1 June).
- Public health campaigns in large cities.
- Vaccination and awareness raising campaigns undertaken by the public health service (AIDS, cholera, polio, tuberculosis).
- Dealing with natural disasters (flooding along the Oti River; on the banks of the Anié River; in Togblékopé, Lomé; in Agbanakin on the border with Benin; again in Lomé, in the village of Tokpli in 2010; the market fires in Barkoissi, Amlamé and Vogan; serious traffic accidents, such as the one involving a football team in Gléi).
- Medical evacuation of civilians by military air assets.

The Togolese armed forces, therefore, focuses on the key areas of prevention, protection and assistance.

The Togolese armed and security forces also take part in multinational peacekeeping operations, within the framework of the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic

take small, gradual steps towards this noble ideal, for better and healthier relations between civilians and the military in Togo.

Outlook

With regard to the dissemination of the law of armed conflict, plans are being drawn up for awareness days for the military high command and the troops.

- For the military high command, the workshops will be dedicated to reminding them of international humanitarian law, new developments and the status of ratification of international human rights instruments.
- As for the military troops, the promotion, dissemination and inclusion of international humanitarian law in regular training and preparatory sessions will continue. A project to produce a video to be used as a training aid is continuing apace; the video will soon be available to training and education centres.
- For the civilian population, open-house days organized by the Togolese armed forces in May 2011 have allowed the protagonists (civilians and soldiers) to understand and accept each other better henceforward. These activities will continue.

With regard to legal measures, policy guidelines were adopted by all those responsible for dissemination and training in international humanitarian law in Togo (civilian and military).

Measures will include:

- Revitalizing the Togolese Inter-Ministerial Committee on International Humanitarian Law as soon as possible (after it was initially established its activity has, unfortunately, waned over the years); it will need to be expanded considerably to enable the ratification of international humanitarian law treaties to be brought up to date.
- Further dissemination of the texts of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1977, inter alia, in particular by translating them into national languages.
- Supplementing military criminal legislation, so as to define war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law and ensure that they are punished, regardless of where the crimes were committed and the nationality of the perpetrator.
- Training judges, magistrates, Members of Parliament and other public officials, as well as politicians and civil society, on the principles and rules of the law of armed conflict.

At the national level:

In 1997, Togo established an Inter-Minister

Cooperation of Togo with International Humanitarian Law Treaties

Fundamental treaties

| Treaty | Signature | Ratification, Accession, Succession | Reservations, Declarations |
|--|------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Hague Convention (1907) | | | |
| Geneva Convention (1949) | | 06/01/1962 | D. art. 90 (21/11/1991) |
| Additional Protocol I (1977) | 12/12/1977 | 21/06/1984 | |
| Additional Protocol II (1977) | 12/12/1977 | 21/06/1984 | |
| Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) | | | |
| (First) Protocol (1954) | | | |
| (Second) Protocol (1999) | | | |

Treaties on the use of weapons

Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of
the Use in War of Asphyxiating,

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|---|------------|------------|--|
| Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices | | | |
| Amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (1996) | | | |
| Protocol III on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons | | 04/12/1995 | |
| Protocol IV on Blinding Laser Weapons (1995) | | | |
| Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War | | | |
| Chemical Weapons Convention (1993) | 13/01/1993 | 23/04/1997 | |
| Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (1997) | 04/12/1997 | 09/03/2000 | |

Others

Convention on the Prevention and

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|-----------------|--|
| conflict (2000) | |
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