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Report of the International Law Commission

Partie III

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Chapitre XI en rapport avec les conflits armés

Chapter XI Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts

New York, le 3 novembre 2014

Déclaration de la Suisse

internationaux. En outre, le Protocole additionnel I aux Conventions de Genève prévoit une protection
internationaux,

Switzerland notes that the natural environment benefits from the general protection that international humanitarian law provides to civilian objects both in international and non-international armed conflicts. Moreover, Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions provides for special protection of the natural environment according to which it is forbidden in international armed conflicts to cause "widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment". Switzerland wonders whether the special protection accorded to the environment needs to be clarified or enhanced since each of these terms is imprecise. It further wonders whether the general rules governing the protection of civilian objects are adequate for ensuring in practice the efficient protection of the natural environment.

If no specific conventional rule protects the environment in non-international armed conflicts, customary international law provides some rules whose scope could be made more precise or expanded.

Finally, it would be interesting to clarify the role played by other bodies of law - in particular the contribution that human rights and international environmental law can make with regard to the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts.

Thank you.