

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS NEW YORK

New York, 10 October 2016 General Assembly, Sixth Committee

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATUS OF PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTION OF 1949 AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICT

Mr. Chairman

We are very concerned by the blatant disrespect for international humanitarian law in various parts of the world. Each and every day we hear of more violations - by States, by armed groups. Just this weekend, we have witnessed another appalling incident of gross violations of the basic rules of the law of war in Yemen, with massive loss of life. We expect that this incident will be investigated fully and in a transparent manner. This downward trend compounded by the rhetoric of politicians and other leaders clearly undermines well established rules applicable in situations of armed conflict. The erosion of the respect for international humanitarian law has reached alarming levels. We should not have to speak about attacks against aid convoys, medical facilities or schools. We should be engaged in a serious effort to advance compliance initiatives to consistently and systematically address any violations of international humanitarian law. Unfortunately, the reality looks different.

Mr. Chairman.

The Geneva Conventions are universally ratified - we call on all States who have not