

*Translated from Spanish*

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The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to its communication of 21 January 2015, in which it sought information for the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/120, adopted on 10 December 2014, entitled “Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts”.

In that regard, the Mission of Cuba transmits the following comments:

The four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977 retain their full validity and serve as the pillars of international humanitarian law for the protection of victims of armed conflicts. More than an international legal obligation, full compliance with these instruments is an ethical and moral imperative in the conduct of hostilities and military operations.

Cuba signed the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 on the very day they were adopted and ratified them on 15 April 1954. It acceded to Additional Protocols I and II of 1977 in 1982 and 1999, respectively. In the conduct of its external relations and domestic policy, Cuba has complied fully with these instruments and has invariably adhered to its obligations arising therefrom.

International efforts aimed at strengthening compliance with these instruments by States and other actors must be compatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and with the provisions of the instruments themselves.

In that regard, the exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the application of these instruments at the national level should be promoted. Similarly, programmes promoting international cooperation and the transfer of resources, technologies and know-how to developing countries should be encouraged, in order to build national capacities for the dissemination and application of and compliance with international humanitarian law instruments.



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H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Secretary-General

United Nations

New York

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