



SIXTH COMMITTEE

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by

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Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and
relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Agenda Item 83

15 October 2018

United Nations, New York

Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to
the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Ever since its independence, the State of Israel has needed to contend with security threats and acts of war and terrorism from both States and non-state actors. From the outset and throughout the last 70 years, Israel has always been committed to the principles of the Laws of Armed Conflict, and is dedicated to studying and carefully implementing the law, while facing difficult dilemmas that arise from the means and methods of warfare directed at its citizens by terrorist organizations. While Israel, among other States, has expressed reservations regarding attempts to classify some of the key provisions of the Additional Protocols as customary, we maintain that the promotion of compliance with the Laws of Armed Conflict constitutes a matter of the highest importance.

The challenges of contemporary armed conflict, including asymmetric warfare, are becoming more urgent, and are a matter of shared concern for many States. Many non-state adversaries do not consider themselves bound by the Laws of Armed Conflict and systematically abuse its rules, relying upon States' adherence to international law and exploiting the fact

hostilities in the backdrop, at times even deciding to change or even halt military activities. The extent of judicial review over the IDF's activity is internationally recognized and unique.

Mr. Chairperson,

The State of Israel would also like to address the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)'s ongoing efforts to publish updated interpretations of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. Israel recognizes that these Commentaries represent an impressive effort by the ICRC to highlight changes that have transpired in armed conflicts over the past half-century and to ensure the continued relevance of the Laws of Armed Conflict within the contemporary context.

At the same time, Israel believes that the two Commentaries published thus far on the First and Second Geneva Conventions, raise some serious concerns, with respect to both the methodology of the commentary in reaching conclusions about the law and the substantive positions included in them, which at times fail to accurately reflect the state of the law.

With a view to addressing these concerns, and as the work on the project continues, the State of Israel would like to stress the importance of consulting with States, receiving their input and providing greater weight to their positions, interpretations and views, given the States

the globe, and look forward to working together with the members of this committee to strengthen the application of the Laws of Armed Conflict worldwide.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.