



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement of the United States of America
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Agenda Item 82: Status of the Protocols Additional to the

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Thank you Mr. Chairman. The United States has long been a strong proponent of the development and implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL), which we often also refer to as the law of war or the law of armed

conflict. We recognize the vital importance of compliance with its requirements during armed conflict. Accordingly, the United States continues to ensure that all of our military operations comply with IHL, as well as all other applicable

principles set forth in Article 75 as applicable to any individual it detains in an

principles as well.

Proper implementation of IHL obligations is critical to reducing the risk to civilians and civilian objects during armed conflict. As we have seen in recent conflicts, it is a tragic reality of war that egregious harm to civilians can occur even when parties comply with their obligations under IHL. Thus, it is all the more

... C.I.L. ... weapons that are not subject to this special

policy review process receive a legal review in accordance with DoD policy.
Conducting legal reviews of weapons is a practical measure that all States can take
to support their compliance with IHL.

... State Practice: States can further improve

In sum, conducting weapons reviews, sharing State practice under appropriate

modalities, and providing the ICRC with notice of and access to detainees are three practical and non-politicized ways that States can enhance their implementation of