

Translated from Arabic

National Committee on International Humanitarian Law

State of Qatar

Memorandum concerning General Assembly resolution 73/204 of 20 December 2019, entitled 'Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts'

The National Committee on International Humanitarian Law presents its compliments and has the honour to provide the following reply concerning paragraphs 13 and 14 of the General Assembly UHVROXWLRQ RI 'HFHPEHU HQWLWOHG 36WDWXV &RQYHQWLRQV RI DQG UHODWLQJ WR WKHAsSubj HFWLR paragraph 15. Qatar has no objection to the use of a questionnaire drafted by Member States, with the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and, as appropriate, in consultation with the Secretary-General, the matter is left to the consideration and approval of the Ministry

1. The 1925 Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare
2. The 1949

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Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and in relation to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II).

6. Qatar has accepted the jurisdiction of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission established pursuant to Protocol I of 8 June 1977 additional to the Geneva Conventions.

7. The 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

8. The 1980 Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol II) additional to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

9. The 1980 Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III) additional to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

10. The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child

11. The 1992 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

12. The 1995 Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) additional to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

13. The 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

14. The 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

15. The 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

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16. The 2003 Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) additional to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

17. Qatar acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by virtue of Decree No. 40 (2018) and Decree No. 41 (2018) respectively.

## II. National laws

Qatari laws contain provisions related to the national implementation of international humanitarian law, including the following. Provisions on judicial guarantees appears in several laws most notably the Permanent Constitution of the State of Qatar (2004) No. 10 (2003) on the judiciary,





International Crescent. That proposal was adopted at the thirtieth meeting of the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent. Similarly, pursuant to a Qatari proposal, a National International Humanitarian Law Day is observed by the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The date was chosen to commemorate the instructions given by the Caliph Abu Bakr to the Muslim general Usama bin Zayd before the latter set out to wage war against Byzantium in A.D. 634. That was the first time in history that instructions were given to troops about humanitarian behaviour in time of war. The forty-second session of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, held in Kuwait in May 2015, adopted a resolution approving 9 May as International Day of International Humanitarian Law and the Islamic Sharia.

#### IV. Governmental process on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law

Since the launch of the intergovernmental process on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law following the adoption by the thirty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (December 2015) of resolution 2 entitled "Strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law", Qatar has been taking part in meetings on the subject. For that purpose, it has been represented by members of the National Centre for International Humanitarian Law and by staff of the Permanent Mission in Geneva. Qatar participated

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part in the thirtythird International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva from 9 to 12 December 2019, whose objective was to improve the lives of people affected by armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies.

Qatar was one of some 130 States that participated in the Vienna Conference on Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare, whose objective was to develop a political declaration to strengthen the protection of civilians from explosive weapons in populated areas. Qatar participated in the two informal rounds of negotiations held in November 2019 and February 2020 in Geneva and chaired by Ireland.

#### V. Election of the candidate of Qatar for membership of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Mission

Abdullah Rashid al-Nuaymi, Chair of the International Aid and Development Committee of the Qatar Red Crescent and candidate of Qatar for membership of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission for the 2021-2022 term, was successful in the elections conducted during the diplomatic conference of States parties to the 1977 Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol

The Education Above All Foundation was established by virtue of a founding document issued in Doha in 2008. It is a private nonprofit institution established by Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser Al-Misnad.

The preamble to the founding document cites several international instruments that enshrine the right to education, including Geneva Convention IV relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, particularly articles 24, 50, 94 and 108 thereof, and the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly article 28 thereof. Both Conventions are a source of international humanitarian law.

As is made clear in the preamble to its founding document and in the statute thereof, Education Above All was established in response to, and in order to promote, the final statement of the conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the protection of guidelines for education situations of emergency held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 30 October to 1 November 2008.

The headquarters and registered office of the Foundation is in Doha. Under its statute the Foundation is entitled to establish branches or offices in other countries abroad.

The purpose of the Foundation is to protect and promote the right to education in areas involved in or vulnerable to crises, conflict or war. It endeavours to achieve its objectives through a number of means set forth in article 2 of its statute, as amended. Those objectives include conducting studies, organizing conferences and running awareness-raising programmes in order to improve awareness in society and at the international level of the threats posed to the right to education by crises, conflicts and wars; monitoring and documenting all violations that affect the education system in crises, conflicts and wars; fostering national and international legal mechanisms to defend the right to education, prevent violations thereof and prosecute and hold accountable those responsible; strengthening cooperation and partnership with national and international organizations and associations for the protection of the right to education in areas affected by crises, conflicts and wars and promoting education with a view to disseminating a culture of peaceful solutions consistent with human rights and international law.

- National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons

This standing committee was established pursuant to Cabinet Decision No. 26 (2004). Its headquarters are at the Ministry of Defence. Its chair and members are representatives of the



Ministry. It comprises representatives of various ministries and agencies and its functions include

specialist trainers in international humanitarian law, in cooperation with the regional delegation of ICRC to the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

- National Committee on International Humanitarian Law

## Introduction

The National Committee on International Humanitarian Law was established pursuant to

‡ Palestinian National Committee on International Humanitarian Law

‡ Omani Committee on International Humanitarian Law

- A website and a range of social media accounts are being created for the National Committee. Work has reached an advanced stage. The purpose of the website will be to reach all audiences interested in law by organizing activities and programmes in the area of international humanitarian law.

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