

51/155. Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/44 of 8 December 1977, 34/51 of 23 November 1979, 37/116 of 16 December 1982, 39/77 of 13 December 1984, 41/72 of 3 December 1986, 43/161 of 9 December 1988, 45/38 of 28 November 1990, 47/30 of 25 November 1992 and 49/48 of 9 December 1994,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General¹ on the status of the Protocols² Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949³ and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts,

Convinced of the continuing value of established humanitarian rules relating to armed conflicts and the need to respect and ensure respect for these rules in all circumstances within the scope of the relevant international instruments, pending the earliest possible termination of such conflicts,

Recalling the possibility of making use of the International Fact-Finding Commission in relation to an armed conflict, pursuant to article 90 of Protocol I,

Stressing the need for consolidating the existing body of international humanitarian law through its universal acceptance and the need for wide dissemination and full implementation of such law at the national level,

Mindful of the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross in offering protection to the victims of armed conflicts,

Noting with appreciation the continuing efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to promote and disseminate knowledge of the two additional Protocols,

Noting that the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent was held at Geneva from 3 to 7 December 1995,

1. *Appreciates* the virtually universal acceptance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949³ and the increasingly wide acceptance of the two additional Protocols of 1977;²

2. *Appeals* to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the additional Protocols at the earliest possible date;

3. *Calls upon* all States that are already parties to Protocol I, or those States not parties, on becoming parties to Protocol I, to make the declaration provided for under article 90 of that Protocol;

4. *Calls upon* all States parties to the additional Protocols to ensure their wide dissemination and full implementation;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent endorsed the Final Declaration of the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims,⁴ adopted on 1 September 1993, which reaffirms the necessity of making the implementation of international humanitarian law more effective;

6. *Notes* that the Twenty-sixth International Conference also endorsed the recommendations elaborated by an intergovernmental group of experts which aim at translating the Final Declaration into concrete measures, including the recommendation that the depositary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 organize periodic meetings of States parties to these Conventions to consider general problems regarding the application of international humanitarian law;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the status of the additional Protocols based on information received from Member States;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts".

*85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996*

51/156. Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,⁵

Conscious of the need to develop and strengthen friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Convinced that respect for the principles and rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations is a basic prerequisite for the normal conduct of relations among States and for the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Dismayed by the recent acts of violence against diplomatic and consular representatives, as well as against representatives of international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations, which have endangered or taken innocent lives and seriously impeded the normal work of such representatives and officials,

Concerned at the failure to respect the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives,

¹ A/51/215 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

⁴ A/48/742, annex.

⁵ A/51/257 and Add.1.

Recalling that, without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, it is the duty of all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State,

Recalling also that diplomatic and consular premises must not be used in any manner incompatible with the diplomatic or consular functions,

Emphasizing the duty of States to take all appropriate measures as required by international law, including measures of a preventive nature, and to bring offenders to justice,

Welcoming measures already taken by States to this end in conformity with their international obligations,

Convinced that the role of the United Nations, which includes the reporting procedures established under General Assembly resolution 35/168 of 15 December 1980 and further elaborated in later Assembly resolutions, is important in promoting efforts to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;⁵

2. *Strongly condemns* acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as against missions and representatives of international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations, and emphasizes that such acts can never be justified;

3. *Urges* States to strictly observe, implement and enforce the principles and rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations and, in particular, to ensure, in conformity with their international obligations, the protection, security and safety of the missions, representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above officially present in territories under their jurisdiction, including practical measures to prohibit in their territories illegal activities of persons, groups and organizations that encourage, instigate, organize or engage in the perpetration of acts against the security and safety of such missions, representatives and officials;

4. *Also urges* States to take all necessary measures at the national and international levels to prevent any acts of violence against the missions, representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above and to bring offenders to justice;

5. *Recommends* that States should cooperate closely through, *inter alia*, contacts between the diplomatic and consular missions and the receiving State with regard to practical measures designed to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives and with regard to the exchange of information on the circumstances of all serious violations thereof;

6. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures, in accordance with international law, at the national and international levels to prevent any abuse of diplomatic or

consular privileges and immunities, in particular serious abuses, including those involving acts of violence;

7. *Recommends* that States should cooperate closely with the State in whose territory abuses of diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities may have occurred, including by exchanging information and providing assistance to its judicial authorities in order to bring offenders to justice;

8. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the instruments relevant to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives;

9. *Also calls upon* States, in cases where a dispute arises in connection with a violation of their international obligations concerning the protection of the missions or the security of the representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above, to make use of the means for the peaceful settlement of disputes, including the good offices of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General, when he deems it appropriate, to offer his good offices to the States directly concerned;

10. *Requests* all States to report to the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 42/154 of 7 December 1987;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue a report on the item, in accordance with paragraph 12 of resolution 42/154, containing also an analytical summary of the reports received under paragraph 10 above, on an annual basis, as well as to proceed with his other tasks pursuant to the same resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives".

85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/157. United Nations Decade of International Law

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/23 of 17 November 1989, by which it declared the period 1990-1999 the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Recalling also that the main purposes of the Decade, according to resolution 44/23, should be, *inter alia*:

(a) To promote acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law;

(b) To promote means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice;

(c) To encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification;