

The Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the latter's note LA/COD/2 dated 29 February 2008 regarding General Assembly resolution 61/30 of 4 December 2006 entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts", hereby has the honour to submit information from the Norwegian Government as requested in paragraph 11 of the resolution.

Accession to International Humanitarian Law conventions

Norway has ratified all three Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions.

Norway has ratified the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its First Protocol. Norway is in the process of ratification of the Second Protocol of 1999.

Norway initiated and participated actively in the process leading to the recent adoption of a convention prohibiting the use, development, producing, otherwise acquiring, stockpiling, retaining or transferring of cluster munitions.

Implementation of International Humanitarian Law

Norway adopted new penal provisions regarding genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in March 2008. The definitions of the crimes in chapter 16 of the Penal Code 2005 are based on the Statutes of the International Criminal Court, but the new provisions also include acts considered as war crimes under customary international law or treaty law that are not included in article 8 of the Rome Statutes.

These crimes will in principle be subject to universal jurisdiction, to the extent that this is permitted under international law.

Persons found guilty of genocide, crimes against humanity and serious war crimes are liable to a maximum of 30 years in prison. Criminal responsibility for these acts is not subject to prescription. The provisions entered into force on 7 March 2008, but will also apply to acts committed prior to this date if the acts were punishable under the law in force at the time they were committed and considered as genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes under international law. However, in these cases the maximum penalty applicable is determined by the law in force at the time the acts were committed.

Training, education and dissemination of International Humanitarian Law

Starting on 1 October 2006, all personnel in the Armed Forces are obliged to complete an e-learning course in IHL with a final test on their knowledge. In addition, all officers have to complete the e-learning course part II focusing on IHL and command responsibility.

From 1 January 2008 a new joint curriculum on basic soldier training provide for 4 hours of standardised class room training in IHL for each soldier. The training includes means and methods of combat, including training on the treatment of protected persons and objects, Rules of Engagement and self-defence.

All soldiers with university admission certification are, from January this year, offered an IHL course of 8 hours giving them 5 credit points.

In addition to this theoretical training, military exercises, general and mission specific, on all levels, include specific IHL issues to be solved during the exercise. This IHL training will enable the personnel to use theory on practical case solving in the field.

Training in IHL is furthermore part of the training at the War Colleges and the Staff College.

The Norwegian Ministry of Defence co-operate closely with the Norwegian Red Cross on theoretical education, and they also participate in military exercises, playing the role of the local red cross/crescent society or the ICRC.

The Norwegian Government is supporting the ICC's legal tools programme which aims to rationalise the way individuals and organisations work with serious human rights violations and international crimes. The goal is to

increase the quality of such work flows and to seek to increase general access to international criminal law information.

The Government of Norway and the Norwegian Red Cross promote the Norwegian version of the *Exploring Humanitarian Law* (EHL) programme, originally developed by the ICRC, in schools, and will provide teachers with this tool to teach international humanitarian law to increase the awareness of the general public, and young people in particular, of the principles and rules of international humanitarian law.

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs re-established the Norwegian National Committee on International Humanitarian law in 2003. Members of the Committee are representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice, the Norwegian Armed Forces, the Norwegian Red Cross and the University of Oslo. The Committee is a permanent organ for contact and coordination of discussions of questions relating to International humanitarian law. The Committee meets on a regular basis to discuss and coordinate issues regarding International humanitarian law. Representatives from government agencies, NGOs and civil society, as well as bodies such as the ICRC, may be invited as appropriate on an ad hoc basis to attend meetings of the Committee.

The Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurance of its highest consideration.

New York, 2 June 2008