



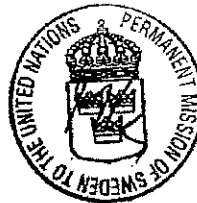
PERMANENT MISSION OF SWEDEN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York

The Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to his note no. LA/COD/2 of 5 March 2014, referring to General Assembly resolution 67/93 of 14 December 2012 entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Convention of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts". In response to the Secretary-General's request in the aforementioned note, the Swedish Government has prepared the information provided in the annex to this note.

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

New York, 16 June 2014



H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
NEW YORK



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PERMANENT MISSION OF SWEDEN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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New York

**Information from Sweden on the Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the protection of victims of armed conflict, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/93 of 14 December 2012**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/93 of 14 December 2012 entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflict", Sweden hereby submits the following information.

1. Sweden has been a party to the first and second Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions since 1979, and has reported continuously on the implementation and development of IHL to the UN Secretary General in accordance with the above mentioned resolution since 1994, in the latest report from 2012. The following information supplements previous reports.
2. A new Act on Criminal Responsibility for Genocide, Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes will enter into force on 1 July 2014. The act replaces the Genocide Act (1964:169) and the provision on international crime in the Penal Code that will cease to apply. The new act strengthens the protection against war crimes committed in non-international armed conflicts since the predominant part of the regulation concerning war crimes is applicable in international as well as non-international armed conflicts. The act also introduces crimes against humanity in Swedish legislation. Swedish courts have universal jurisdiction for the crimes covered by the new act and there is no statute of limitation as regards genocide, crimes against humanity, gross war crimes and attempts to commit these crimes.

3. Sweden has initiated its internal procedures for the ratification of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (the third Additional Protocol). A Government Bill with the legal amendments necessary for ratification has been presented, which is currently under review by the Swedish Parliament.

4. The Swedish Government signed the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on 3 June, 2013 and has initiated its internal procedures for ratification. A Government Bill has been presented, which is currently under review by the Swedish Parliament. The Swedish Government expects to ratify the ATT by mid-June 2014.

5. Sweden has initiated its internal procedures for the ratification of the Second Protocol to The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and preparations towards a Government Bill are presently taking place.

6. Sweden participated actively in the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2011 and welcomed the adoption of the resolutions of the conference.

The resolution "Strengthening legal protection for victims of armed conflict" provides a basis for strengthening international humanitarian law in two areas: to improve implementation and compliance with IHL as well as the protection of persons deprived of their liberty. Sweden is actively involved in the processes to follow-up this resolution.

The "Four-Year Action Plan for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law" highlights certain areas and proposes specific action to improve implementation of IHL. The 4-year action plan has been discussed in the Swedish national IHL Committee. A particular focus has been given to humanitarian access. Humanitarian access has also been repeatedly addressed by the Swedish Government in different fora and in diplomatic relations. Sweden has continuously brought up the need to respect humanitarian principles and safe access with relevant interlocutors, not least in the case of Syria where Sweden has been

emphasizing humanitarian access and the respect for humanitarian principles at international meetings and conferences.

The resolution "Health Care in Danger" is focused on increasing respect for the delivery of health care in armed conflicts and other emergencies. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has participated in several productive roundtable discussions organized by the Swedish Red Cross with the aim to promote 'Health Care in Danger' and to disseminate the tools developed through the project, as well as to promote engagement among the concerned community. A representative from the Ministry for Defence participated at the Health Care in Danger Workshop on Domestic Normative Frameworks for the Protection of the Provision of Health Care held in Brussels in January 2014.

The above resolutions constitute an important step for the continuous efforts to improve implementation and to discuss necessary developments of IHL and Sweden will continue to participate actively in their follow-up.

7. During the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2011, the Swedish Red Cross and the Swedish Government made a joint pledge on gender and IHL. The goal of the joint Swedish efforts is for a gender perspective to be applied on IHL – meaning that the situation for both women and men in relation to the rules of IHL should be addressed. A reference group has been formed with experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Swedish Red Cross, the Armed Forces Gender Centre and Swedish National Defence College. We have initiated a joint project to study and promote a gender perspective on IHL, and concrete case studies are currently being carried out. The issue has also been included in speeches and statements by our respective official representatives.

8. In January 2012, as part of the Nordic Defence Cooperation, the Centre for Gender in Military Operations was inaugurated in Kungsängen, Sweden. The purpose of the Centre is to integrate gender perspectives in the training and planning for military operations. The Centre has become an international hub for the training of gender advisors in civilian missions and military operations, and for the training

of civil and military personnel on their way to international missions and operations. The Centre cooperates with interested governments and organizations, including the UN, NATO and the EU. The Centre is also NATO Department Head for Gender in Military Operations, certifying all NATO training in the area.

9. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) is currently developing a new training course to disseminate knowledge of IHL to public authorities involved in the Swedish civil defense.

10. In November 2013, the Government assigned the Swedish Armed Forces with the task of developing a Manual on IHL. The Manual will be designed to meet the Swedish Armed Forces' needs at operational level and to provide guidance for military decision-making. The Manual will be modelled after the Draft IHL Manual produced as an annex to the Committee report "International Law in armed conflict - Swedish interpretation and practice" (Swedish Government Official Reports SOU 2010:72).

New York, 16 June 2014