

Statement by the Arab Republic of Egypt

Before the Sixth Committee of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly

On Agenda Item 83:

**“Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts”**

New York, 16 October 2018

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- Allow me at the outset, to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on the issue.
- Egypt underscores its principled positions concerning international law, in particular international humanitarian law and reaffirms the continuing value of established humanitarian rules relating to the protection of victims in armed conflict and appeals to States to comply fully with the provisions of international humanitarian law, in particular as provided for in the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols.
- We are compelled to express our concern regarding the situation in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. Actions against the Palestinian people and their land, which constitute breach of international law and contrary to the law and norms of international humanitarian law, should immediately stop.
- The settlement regime, despite being widely condemned, have gone largely unchallenged by the international community. Transfer of populations into the occupied land and forcible transfer of people under occupation are violations to the Geneva Conventions and other relevant international instruments. Egypt insists on the need to translate verbal condemnations of the settlement regime into actions, to reverse the situation on the ground towards the objective of ensuring the independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine on the territories occupied in 1967.

- Moreover, we express our concern regarding the critical humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. In this regard, Egypt calls for an end to the Israeli blockade of the Strip.
- We stress that respect for international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law is key to a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We reiterate our calls on the international community and the concerned parties to revive the negotiations and the peace process based on the two- state solution and the relevant Security Council resolutions.
- Egypt encourages the promotion of respect for the obligations arising from international law, particularly international humanitarian law and welcomes the opportunity for promoting awareness through discussion and dissemination of information on the international humanitarian law relevant to the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. In this regard, we commend the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the promotion and dissemination of international humanitarian law.

Thank you.