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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary General of the United Nations, and with reference to the Secretary General's note LA/COD/2/1 of 5 March 2018 referring to the General Assembly resolution 71/144 of 13 December 2016 entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflict", has the honour to convey comments by the Republic of Slovenia in the attached document.

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

New York, May 29, 2018



**Secretary – General of the United Nations**  
**New York**

Enclosure

**Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of armed conflict**

**Comments by Slovenia**

**29 May 2018**

The Slovenian Armed Forces provide basic and advanced training in International Humanitarian Law at different military education levels (initial military training, non-commissioned officer school, officer candidate school, command and staff school) and before every deployment abroad. Special training has been organised for military lawyers, usually conducted abroad, and their task is to provide additional training and advice for commanders (pursuant to Governmental decision on introducing legal advisors in the Slovenian Armed Forces, No. 762-01/2001-3 of 1 July 2002).

International humanitarian law is also part of the police education programme in Slovenia. Topics related to international humanitarian law are included in the theoretical and practical parts of police education, and interrelate with topics on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has joined other ministries in raising public awareness on the needs and rights of children refugees and migrants, including with regard to international humanitarian law. In the spring of 2016, 40,000 copies of a worksheet intended for school children in Slovenia were produced with the objective to raise the awareness of fundamental rights of refugee children. Numerous panel discussions with participants from Slovenia and abroad were later held on this topic.

In 10 May 2017, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised the 3rd European R2P Focal Points meeting with the aim to exchange information, and share the experience and good practices in the implementation of the responsibility to protect. Among other topics, the participants discussed the UN Secretary-General's Annual Report on the Responsibility to Protect, were acquainted with the new R2P manual prepared by the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect based in New York, exchanged relevant experience and considered the recommendations for future action in preventing developments that might escalate into genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. At the end of the meeting, a Chair's Statement was adopted to orient European action on R2P and prevention of mass atrocity crimes, which includes recommendations and ideas for activities based on the adopted political and legal commitments relating to preventive actions. Slovenia's commitment to promoting the Responsibility to Protect is reflected in the Foreign Policy Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia adopted in 2015.

The meeting was followed by an academic conference entitled 'Responsibility to protect in theory and practice' (11–12 May 2017) organised by the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, which was attended by numerous foreign experts.

In May 2017, the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, published a book entitled *Are we 'manifestly failing' R2P?*, edited by Professor Vasilka Sancin; another book, entitled *Varstvo kulturnih dobrin v času oboroženih spopadov* (Protection of Cultural Property in Times of Armed Conflicts), presenting contributions by some of the members of Slovenian national committee on IHL (edited by Prof. Vasilka Sancin), is to be published in 2018. The Faculty of Law also regularly cooperates with the Slovenian Red Cross and Slovenian Armed Forces on various aspects of the implementation and dissemination of IHL.

The Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, annually organises, in cooperation with the ICRC and UNHCR, the All-European International Humanitarian and Refugee Law Moot Court Competition (additional information at: <http://www.pf.uni-lj.si/en/international-cooperation/all-european-international-humanitarian-and-refugee-law-moot-court-competition/>).

In June 2017, Slovenia reported on the progress made in the implementation of resolutions and pledges adopted by the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference held in Geneva between 8 and 10 December 2015. Slovenia participates in the intergovernmental process on strengthening respect for international humanitarian law based on Resolution 2 (Strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law) adopted by the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference held in Geneva between 8 and 10 December 2015.

Slovenia is a strong supporter of the ICC and its role in combating impunity for serious crimes of concern to the international community under the principle of complementarity. Slovenia was among the first states to ratify the Rome Statute and the second state to have both ratified and implemented the Kampala amendments. Slovenia's commitment to the promotion of the universality and implementation of the ICC is reflected in the Foreign Policy Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia adopted in 2015.

Slovenia continues to promote the universality and integrity of the Rome Statute at bilateral and multilateral levels as well as through its own activities. Promotion of the universality of the ICC is being implemented through the participation of the Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs in the informal ministerial Network for the International Criminal Court. This year, Slovenia will contribute towards the marking of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute by organising activities in support of the court.