

Translated from French

Contribution of the Kingdom of Belgium to the report requested in paragraph 13 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/204 of 20 December 2018

In response to the note verbale from the Secretary-General of the United Nations of 7 January 2019 concerning the status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, the Kingdom of Belgium would first like to refer to its previous contributions of 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018, which supplement the comprehensive report of 2008 (A/63/118).

Since 2018, the most significant legislative changes to be noted are:

- The Act of 5 May 2019<sup>1</sup> amending:
  - x The Act of 29 March 2004 on cooperation with the International Criminal Court and the international criminal tribunals to include a new Title VI<sup>quater</sup> on the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, and a new Title VI<sup>quinquies</sup> on the groups of experts and the investigation teams.
  - x Articles 136<sup>quater</sup> and 136<sup>quinquies</sup> of the Criminal Code to bring them into line with article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as amended on the initiative of Belgium - by the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 14 December 2017.
  - x T

xenophobia by means of criminal law.

- The Act of 11 July 2018 amending the Act of 29 March 2004 on cooperation with the International Criminal Court and the international criminal trials to include a chapter on cooperation with the Specialist Chambers for Kosovo.

Belgium has also organized a number of events, both national and international, on issues relating to international humanitarian law

- United Nations General Assembly side events
  - x A high-level event on the reintegration of child soldiers, jointly with Virginia Gamba, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, held on 24 September 2018 and attended by Her Majesty Queen Mathilde in her capacity as Sustainable Development Goals Advocate
  - x An event on strengthening respect for international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians in armed conflict, held on 26 September 2018, in partnership with the European Union and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
  - x A high-



and promotion, dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law; protection of children in armed conflict; protection of health care; protection of the emblem; training of judges; protection of cultural property; confidence building in humanitarian assistance; risk reduction and confidence building measures in the field of nuclear arms and the responsible transfer of weapons.

- At the Conference, organize a side event on the success of national commissions for international humanitarian law, in partnership with ICRC, the national commission of Indonesia and the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

Lastly, Belgium also endorsed the call to action for international humanitarian law that was launched on the margins of the seventy-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

---