

Follow-up to UNGA Res 75/138 (“Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts”)

Submission from Georgia on new developments and activities undertaken during the reporting period June 2020 – June 2022

CCW protocol (II) on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of mines,

Promotion and Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law

6. The National IHL Commission in Georgia was created upon the Governmental Decree No. 408 on October 28, 2011¹. The National Inter-agency Coordination Commission is a permanent governmental body that coordinates the work of different governmental agencies in this field. Its aim is to effectively implement and ensure the respect of International Humanitarian Law. The Commission comprises of deputy ministers of the key ministries and representatives of the National Security Council of Georgia as well as the Parliament of Georgia. Moreover, the invited membership of the IHL Commission is open to recognized academic experts in Public International Law, IHL and International Criminal Law. The ICRC and the Georgia Red Cross Society are granted the observer's status with due regard to their mandates and expertise. In addition, representative of the Parliament of Georgia may be requested to participate in the work of the present IHL Commission. According to the Statute of the IHL Commission, the latter is working under the aegis of the Ministry of Justice and the Minister her/himself chairs the IHL Commission.
7. For the purpose of providing organizational support to the IHL Commission, a Secretariat is established under the Ministry of Justice. The secretariat is asked to:
 - 1) provide organizational-technical support to the IHL Commission;
 - 2) coordinate the IHL Commission's work on daily basis;
 - 3) support drafting of the action plans and annual reports of the IHL Commission;
 - 4) monitor the implementation of the IHL Commission's recommendations and instructions by relevant agencies;
 - 5) ensure archiving the decisions and reports prepared by the IHL Commission;
 - 6) provide other functions as entrusted to the Secretariat for the effective functioning of the IHL Commission.
8. According to the Governmental Decree No. 408, the main functions of the Commission are:
 - a) To prepare and present advisory opinions to the Government on IHL issues;
 - b) To prepare and present advisory opinions to the Government on IHL issues;
 - c) To prepare and present proposals to the Government of Georgia in order to ensure compliance of Georgian legislation with international obligations undertaken by Georgia in the field of IHL;
 - d) To promote implementation of IHL programs and various educational activities in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
 - e) To report on national achievements to the International Conference of the Red Cross, the UN Secretary General and the meetings of National Committees for

¹Document number 408, 28/10/2011 , Parliament of Georgia, available in Georgian at the official page of the Legislative Herald of Georgia at <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/1501363>

11. Dissemination of IHL through annual national competition is an activity that is included in the IHL National Action plan which is adopted for 2 year time period by the IHL Inter Agency Commission. Each year the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, in close cooperation with LEPL Training Center of Justice and International Committee of the Red Cross organizes national IHL competitions for students. Based on the statistics, the number of participants increases every year. It

12. *“Georgia v. Russia (II)”* - On 21 January 2021 the ECtHR adopted the landmark Judgment on the case of *“Georgia v. Russia (II)”*.² In its judgment the ECtHR legally established and unequivocally confirmed the fact of Russia’s occupation and effective control over Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia; Russia’s responsibility for killing, torture, ill-treatment, and arbitrary detention of Georgian civilians and military personnel, looting and burning of houses of Georgians and inhuman treatment of Georgian population *“targeted as an ethnic group”*. Russia was also found responsible, as an occupying power, for the inability of Georgian IDPs to return to their homes. On 20 January 2022 the Georgian Government

