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6th Committee \J\s. ?er rJ\o l\JILS~orJ

Agenda item 80

Presentation of the draft resolution on the Status of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the Protection of victims of armed conflict

Mr Chair,

I have the honor to present on behalf of the co-sponsors the draft resolution on the Status of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the Protection of victims of armed conflict which you can find in document A/c.6/67/L.14. In addition to the co-sponsors mentioned in the document also the following member states are co-sponsors:

Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Iceland, Japan and Swaziland.

I would like express my gratitude for the cooperation of member states in the drafting of this resolution, especially in light of the recent natural disaster that hit New York in the most intensive period of our work in the sixth committee as well as in the rest of the UN. I sincerely hope all colleagues are fine by now, even though I know that some are still without heating.

A first draft of the resolution was sent to all delegations by e-mail and fax as well as posted in the sixth committee e-room a few weeks ago. Delegations have been in contact with the co-sponsors and

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At this conference all states parties to the Geneva Conventions as well as the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement meets to discuss humanitarian issues.

Page 2 a new preamble paragraph 15 Welcomes the launch of the initiative by Switzerland, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross, to facilitate a process aimed at exploring and identifying concrete ways and means to strengthen the application of international humanitarian law, including ensuring the effectiveness of mechanisms of compliance and reinforcing dialogue on issues of international humanitarian law,; this initiative was launched at the International Red Cross and Red Crescent conference in 2011.

The draft resolution includes two new operative paragraphs and these are also related to the Thirty-first International Conference in order to high-light the importance of the undertakings by states as well as by the Movement at this conference.

Lastly a slightly modified text is presented in paragraph 15 (previously 13) were member states are encouraged to explore how reporting could be made easier and to consider using a questionnaire drafted by member states to prepare for the next reporting period, this would of course be a voluntary optional procedure.

I would again like to extend my gratitude to delegations for their cooperative spirit and I sincerely hope that the draft presented is acceptable to all delegations. On behalf of the co-sponsors I trust that the draft resolution, like in previous years can be adopted by consensus.

I thank you Mr Chair