

*Translated from French*

Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Belgium to the United Nations

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The Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to refer to the report requested in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 67/93 of 14 December 2012 on the status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed confl(i)o--2(onv)1 100.82 5

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**Information from Belgium for the report requested in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 67/93 of 14 December 2012**

With respect to the report requested in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 67/93 of 14 December 2012 on the status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, Belgium wishes to refer to the information it provided in 2008,<sup>1</sup> which consolidated and supplemented its previous reports on this issue and highlighted Belgium's active support, in particular, for:

The development of international humanitarian law, especially in the area of limiting or

Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III), adopted in Geneva on 8 December 2005. As a result of this legislative amendment, Belgium is in a position to ratify Protocol III;

The Act of 29 March 2004 on cooperation with the International Criminal Court and the international criminal tribunals was amended by the Act of 26 March 2014 strengthening measures for cooperation with international criminal jurisdictions, inter alia in respect of the protection of witnesses and interim release;

The Royal Decree of 23 August 2014 establishing the Belgian Task Force for International Criminal Justice, which formalizes coordination among all the national authorities involved in supporting, implementing or developing international criminal justice, entered into force on 15 September 2014.

Regarding cooperation with international criminal jurisdictions, Belgium and the International Criminal Court have concluded an agreement on the interim release of detainees in Belgian territory pursuant to rulings handed down by the Court.

The Belgian Ministry of Defence has taken a number of measures to further integrate international humanitarian law into its chain of operations and personnel training:

In 2013, the Ministry established an operational law structure (Protocol I, art. 82) consisting of legal advisers. Their mandate is to advise the different units of the Armed Forces General Staff and military commanders on legal aspects of the planning and execution of military operations.

The Ministry also instituted a military commission on the law of armed conflict, with responsibility for drawing up a list of the measures taken within the Ministry to implement the law of armed conflict and for organizing and monitoring the application of those measures.

The curriculum for cadets at the Royal Military Academy includes a course specifically focusing on international humanitarian law.

