

REPORT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

ON THE

STATUS OF THE PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS
OF 1949 AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF ARMED
CONFLICTS

Ljubljana, June 2016

In the 2014-2016 period, the Permanent Coordination Group for International Humanitarian Law monitored the implementation of and respect for international humanitarian law, particularly the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols.

The prominent role of international law, ~~but~~ also international humanitarian law (IHL), is also highlighted in the Declaration on the Foreign Policy of the Republic of Slovenia, adopted in 2015.

The Permanent Coordination Group for International Humanitarian Law has been particularly engaged in preparing official Slovene translations of treaties on fundamental humanitarian law (the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict).

It also focused on the drafting of documents (such as an action plan) ~~to~~ serve as guidelines for line ministries in honouring the pledges made and resolutions ~~passed~~ at international conferences and events.

This report was prepared in accordance with the UN Secretary General's letter of 14 March 2016 and UN General Assembly resolution 69/120 of 10 December 2014 (Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts).

IHL education

Training of Slovenian troops and police officers deployed in missions abroad also carried out.

Dissemination of knowledge in the field of IHL

The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the Protocol thereto done at The Hague on 14 May 1954, are fundamental treaties in international humanitarian law. Slovenia succeeded to them in 1992. Since the text of the Convention and Protocol in the Official Gazette of the FPRY, International Law Series, was published in Serbo-Croatian, the Permanent Coordination Group for International Humanitarian Law prepared the official Slovene translations. In accordance with Article 26 of the Convention, on 17 February 2016, the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Paris submitted the the official translation of the Convention and its Protocol to UNESCO.

In 2015, the Permanent Coordination Group for International Humanitarian Law established a sub-group tasked with issues relating to the implementation of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. To mark the 60 years of the Convention, the sub-group will draft a publication entitled The Protection of Cultural Property during Armed Conflict.

The four 1949 Geneva Conventions¹ succeeded to by the Republic of Slovenia in 1992 were also published in Serbo-Croatian LQ WKH *D]HWWH RI WKH 3UHVLGLXP RI WKH)HGHUDO 3HRSOHV 5HSXEOLF RI <XJRVODYLD (DU verification of Slovene texts of international instruments published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia began preparing an official translation in the Slovene language. The Expert Group includes a translator, language editor, representatives of the ministries of Defence, Health and Justice and of the Slovenian Red Cross, two international law experts from the International Law Department at the Foreign Ministry, a representative of the Faculty of Law, and external experts. The official translations are expected to be published

¹ Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field; Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea; Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War; Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

next year in a dedicated ~~volume~~ of the International Law Series. The translation will be an important contribution to the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law, as a guiding principle for the Slovenian Armed Forces and health personnel on missions abroad, and fo

Criminal Court (ICC) and the endeavours to stop mass atrocities through the Responsibility to Protect approach remain among our key foreign policy priorities.

Accountability for atrocity crimes and the promotion of the ICC's work were important themes of the conference. Rights for Peace: challenges and opportunities took place in April 2015. The eminent speakers at the conference included Ms Fatou Bensouda, ICC prosecutor.

The fight against impunity was also the theme of two panels at our 2015 Bled Strategic Forum, attended among others by Ms Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, the ICC President, and Mr Adama Dieng, the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.

Responsibility to protect (R2P)

For over a decade Slovenia has supported the implementation of the UN Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle, which is a pillar of the country's foreign policy, enshrined in the Declaration and Strategy of Slovenia's foreign policy. As a member of the Group of Friends on R2P and via the national R2P Focal Point, Slovenia promotes discussion on responsible sovereignty, the prevention of international crimes and the practical implementation of these principles. A panel at the 2015-287(pver)6(e)4(t)-3(ef15-287(to prot)-2(e)4(c)4(t)11(R2P)-onsi)-3

Children and armed conflict

Slovenia traditionally pays special attention to the issue of children and armed conflict. During the period under review, it raised the issue in its statements in various multilateral forums. It took part in the annual UN Security Council Open Debates on children and armed conflict, and co-sponsored the latest UN Security Council Resolution (2025) on children and armed conflict (2015). Slovenia is an active member of the Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict, which supports the mandate of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict in New York and Geneva. The situation of children

With the assistance of the ITF and donors, Slovenia has responded to the needs of children affected by conflict in various regions. During the 2014-2016 reporting period, Slovenia contributed 1,438,000 EUR to ITF.