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Chair,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Australia, Canada and my own country, New Zealand.

At the outset, we affirm our strong commitment to the implementation of, and compliance with, international humanitarian law (IHL).

We make this statement at a time when armed conflict continues to have a devastating impact across many regions and populations. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the effect of armed conflict on civilians. This current global health crisis compounds the effects of armed conflict on the health and livelihoods of civilian populations, but also underscores the importance of the protection for health and medical efforts that IHL contains.

That many contemporary armed conflicts continue during this pandemic reinforces the importance of respect for, and adherence to IHL. The Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 remain an essential component of IHL, which aimsa

All States must take responsibility for the implement