

United Nations General Assembly | Sixth Committee

Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts (Agenda item 81)

October 17th, 2022

(check against deliver

Brazil is a party to all the main instruments of international humanitarian law, including the four Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols. On the limitation of means and methods of war, Brazil has taken significant steps to promote the proscription of all weapons of mass destruction. One of these steps was our active participation in the negotiation that led to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which Brazil was the first State to sign, in September 2017.

Brazil has always attached great importance to fostering a culture of respect to international humanitarian law not only in international fora, but also in its territory and among its national institutions. That is why the Brazilian government promoted the dissemination and implementation of IHL-related instruments into domestic law and military practice. For instance, the Brazilian Armed Forces are, at all levels,

when conflict breaks out, since humane, neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action should face no hurdles whatever the circumstances.

Humanitarian principles must always guide the design of the UN sanctions regimes, which, if ill-devised, can disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations, hamper the work of humanitarian agents and worsen food security crises. Humanitarian carve-outs are necessary in the adoption of multilateral sanctions and should be regulated in such a manner as to permit its implementation by Member States.

Brazil has been constructively engaged in the discussions for a political declaration on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and congratulates Ireland's leadership in this regard. Brazil also calls for worldwide implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration and of Security Council resolutions 2601 (2021), on the protection of education during armed conflict, 2286 (2016) on the protection of medical personnel and facilities and 2573 (2021) on the protection of civilian infrastructure.

Madam/Mister Chair,

Respect to international humanitarian law is key to the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. The

