Mr. /Madame Chair, dear colleagues,

I have the honour to introduce, the draft resolution under agenda item 81 HQ WStatUsOHG of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts 'DV FRQWDLQHG LQHG LQ16, BnFbetaPfHofthWcospores / listed in that document.

I would like to announce that the following Member States also join in sponsoring the draft resolution: (see e-deleGATE for the latest list of additional cosponsors)

The draft resolution is based on resolution 75/138 adopted in 2020, with necessary technical updates. I will now address the following major changes which were made to the draft resolution following the informal consultations on this item.

Firstly, a new preambular paragraph 8 was introduced to welcome the important role of relevant regional fora in promoting the respect for international humanitarian law.

We have also agreed to add two new preambular paragraphs, 18 and 19, which note with appreciation two Security Council resolutions adopted in 2021 ±one (resolution 2573 of 27 April 2021) on the protection of civilian objects in armed conflict, [including objects indispensable to

(resolution 2222 of 27 May 2015) on the protection of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in situations of armed conflict.

Operative paragraph 8 was expanded to include a reference to the new publication by the , QWHUQDWLRQDO &RPPLWWHH RI WKH 5HG &URVV HQWLWOH implementation of international humanitarian law.

Furthermore, newly introduced operative paragraph 9 calls upon Member States to actively participate in the thirty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2024.

Operative paragraph 12 commends the International Committee of the Red Cross for organizing the fifth Universal Meeting of National Committees and Similar Entities on International Humanitarian Law in 2021.

resolution $75/138$ ] by Member States and encourages them to participate in the submission process at the seventy-ninth session.