

Resolution of the Forty-first session  
of the General Assembly  
of the United Nations  
on the Protocols additional  
to the Geneva Conventions

*On 21 November 1986, at its Forty-first session, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted by consensus a resolution on the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, the text of which is set out below.*

*Previously approved by consensus by the Sixth Committee of the Assembly, this resolution especially appeals "to all States Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 to consider becoming party also to the Additional Protocols at the earliest possible date". In this the resolution closely follows Resolution II adopted by the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross in October 1986 (see the November-December 1986 edition of the Review, p. 342).*

*The ICRC representative at the meeting of the Sixth Committee was Mr. Hans-Peter Gasser, Legal Adviser to the Directorate.*

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

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling its resolutions 32/44 of 8 December 1977, 34/51 of 23 November 1979, 37/116 of 16 December 1982 and 39/77 of 13 December 1984,*

*Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts,*

*Convinced* of the continuing value of established humanitarian rules relating to armed conflicts and the need to respect and ensure respect for these rules in all circumstances within the scope of the relevant international instruments pending the earliest possible termination of such conflicts,

*Mindful* of the need for consolidating and implementing the existing body of international humanitarian law and for the universal acceptance of such law,

*Particularly mindful* of the need to protect the civilian population, especially women and children, against the effects of hostilities and of the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and civil defence organizations in this respect,

*Noting with appreciation* the continuing efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to promote and to disseminate knowledge of the two Additional Protocols,

1. *Appreciates* the virtually universal acceptance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949;

2. *Notes*, however, the fact that so far a more limited number of States have become Parties to the two Additional Protocols;

3. *Appeals* to all States Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 to consider becoming party also to the Additional Protocols at the earliest possible date;

4. *Calls upon* all States becoming Parties to Protocol I to consider making the declaration provided for under Article 90 of that Protocol;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-third session a report on the status of the Protocols based on information received from Member States;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session the item entitled "Status of the Protocols additional to the Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts: report of the Secretary-General".