

effective solutions to the problem of the indiscriminate mines whose explosions maim civilians in different parts of the world.

With this Declaration in mind, we reaffirm the necessity to make the implementation of international humanitarian law more effective. In this spirit, we call upon the Swiss Government to convene an open-ended intergovernmental group of experts to study practical means of promoting full respect for and compliance with that law, and to prepare a report for submission to the States and to the next session of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

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In conclusion we affirm our conviction that, by preserving a spirit of humanity in the midst of armed conflicts, international humanitarian law keeps open the road to reconciliation, facilitates the restoration of peace between the belligerents, and fosters harmony between all peoples.

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CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE

The participants welcomed the spirit of good will, understanding and tolerance which prevailed during the Conference and the concern shown by the States for humanitarian issues. In their closing addresses, Mr. Sommaruga and Mr. Cotti underscored that concern and expressed the hope that the commitments undertaken by the States would bring about a distinct improvement in the implementation of international humanitarian law.