Pledge: Promotion and dissemination of IHL

Has your organization taken action on the implementation of this pledge?

**Yes**

No

ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In April 2016 Slovenia endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration and thus committed to take concrete action in support of the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict. Slovenia committed to include the Guidelines in the pre-deployment training of civilian and military personnel participating in international operations and missions and into the Handbook on International Humanitarian Law for the Slovenian Armed Forces. Slovenia also committed to include the Guidelines in the EU and NATO Security Sector Reform concepts and operational activities.

The Slovene Armed Forces already included the Guidelines in the pre-deployment training of its personnel participating in international operations and missions.

Furthermore, Slovenia reaffirmed its endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration and the Lucens Guidelies at the World Humanitarian Summit last May, and on several occasions called for their endorsement by other countries.

The Safe Schools Declaration and the Lucens Guidelines were presented also at the All European International Humanitarian and Refugee Law Moot Court Competition that took place at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana last November. Thus the awareness on protection of education from attacks was raised among young generations.

Slovenia is a staunch supporter of the Responsibility to Protect and carried out several activities to promote this commitment. In 2016, the United Nations publication 'Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes: a tool for prevention' was translated into Slovene by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to raise awareness on the scourge of atrocity crimes. The publication was presented on several occasions.

On 10 May 2017, the MFA organised the 3rd European R2P Focal Points meeting, aimed at exchanging information and sharing experience and good practice in the implementation of the responsibility to protect. In addition to government representatives, the meeting was attended by Dr Ivan Šimonović, UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor on the Responsibility to Protect, Prof Yehuda Bauer, Honorary Chairman of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, Dr Simon Adams, Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, representatives of the European External Action Service and observers from international NGOs specialising in R2P.

Among other things, the participants discussed the UN Secretary-General's Annual Report on the Responsibility to Protect, were acquainted with the new R2P manual prepared by the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect based in New York, exchanged relevant experience and considered the recommendations for future action in preventing the developments that might escalate into genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. At the end of the meeting, a Chair's Statement was adopted to orient European action on R2P and the prevention of mass atrocity crimes which includes recommendations and ideas for activities based on the adopted political and legal commitments relating to preventive actions. The recommendations refer to:

- the prevention of mass atrocity crimes, especially with increased national and regional resilience of the society,

- the situations with ongoing risks and existing violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law,

- the situations of instability or conflict.

The meeting was followed by an academic conference entitled "Responsibility to protect in theory and practice" (11– 12 May 2017) organised by the Faculty of Law of Ljubljana University.

ACTIVITIES OF THE FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA

The Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, successfully launched an All-European International Humanitarian and Refugee Law Moot Court Competition. Its first edition took place from 21 to 25 November 2016 under the leadership of Professor Vasilka Sancin, assisted by the expertise and professional support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Ljubljana, the Slovenian Red Cross, the Ministry of Defence, the Slovenian Armed Forces and the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia.  The competition is based on a case study carefully prepared by the organisers in cooperation with the ICRC and UNHCR to addresses the most pertinent and topical questions related to international humanitarian and refugee law drawing on the current crisis situations. It is designed to encourage students to learn and understand basic concepts by tackling concrete legal problems. It is the first all-European moot court competition comprehensively addressing the questions of international humanitarian and refugee law, giving students the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the most pertinent legal issues from these fields and practice their legal argumentation. The next edition is to take place from 21 to 25 November 2017. More information is available at: <http://www.pf.uni-lj.si/en/international-cooperation/moot-court-competitions/all-european-international-humanitarian-and-refugee-law-moot-court-competition/>

The competition included a presentation of the Oslo Safe School Declaration and Lucens Guidelines for Protection of Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict, which Slovenia endorsed in April 2016.

On 11 and 12 May 2017, the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana successfully organised the third biannual international interdisciplinary scientific conference on the Responsibility to Protect. This conference series has become a regular international event at the Faculty and is a rare attempt to comprehensively address the broad R2P spectrum by gathering views from experts in political and social sciences, security experts and legal scholars and practitioners, and including various aspects of international humanitarian law. The conference brings together renowned international and Slovenian experts and engages young scholars from around the world to discuss one of the topical issues of the international community. More information on the conference is available at: <http://www.r2pconference.com/>

In May 2017, the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, published a book entitled *Are we “manifestly failing” R2P?*, edited by Professor Vasilka Sancin; another book, entitled *Varstvo kulturnih dobrin v času oboroženih spopadov* (Protection of Cultural Property in Times of Armed Conflicts), presenting contributions by some of the members of intergovernmental groups for the dissemination and promotion of IHL (edited by Vasilka Sancin), is to be published by the end of 2017. The Faculty regularly cooperates with the Slovenian Red Cross and Slovenian Armed Forces on various aspects of the implementation and dissemination of IHL

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW INSTRUMENTS

Slovenia was among the first states to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 3 December 2008. A year later it deposited the instruments of ratification (for Slovenia, the Convention entered into force on 1 August 2010). Slovenia fulfilled all the obligations derived from the convention. It does not have any stockpiles of cluster munitions or areas contaminated with cluster munitions nor does it have a record of cluster munitions victims.

Slovenia is a strong supporter of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and their Destruction. In September 1997, it actively participated in the negotiations on the Convention which took place in Oslo, and was among the first countries to sign it in Ottawa on 3 December 1997 (for Slovenia, the Convention entered into force on 1 March 1999). Slovenia fulfilled all its commitments under the Convention. It does not have any stockpiles of anti-personnel mines, mine fields or record of mine victims. A small number of such mines have been kept for the purpose of training the members of Slovenian Armed Forces for demining.

Both conventions (the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and their Destruction) are regarded as Slovenian foreign policy priorities and included in the Declaration on foreign policy adopted by the National Assembly on 10 July 2015 (Official Gazette No. 53/15) and in the strategic document on foreign policy adopted by the Government on 29 June 2015 (entitled "Slovenia: Safe, Successful, Globally Respected – The Foreign Policy of the Republic of Slovenia").

In its statements at the States Parties' sessions, Slovenia advocates the universal nature of both conventions (the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and their Distruction) and promotes the activities of ITF Enhancing Human Security. Slovenia also supports finding synergies between the two conventions and other international instruments (the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons).

Slovenia regularly participates in meetings of States Parties of both conventions and reports to the UN on national measures for the implementation of both conventions pursuant to their respective Article 7.

Slovenia is a staunch supporter of the concept of human security and a member of the Human Security Network. In March 1998, the Slovenian Government established ITF Enhancing Human Security, designed to help solving humanitarian crises caused by anti-personnel mines and other unexploded remnants of war in the neighbouring region of South-Eastern Europe. Outstanding results in the countries of the region have encouraged further engagement; ITF has gradually widened the geographical area of its activities to South East Europe, South Caucasus, Central Asia, Middle East, North and West Africa, Latin America and the Baltic States. The ITF mission is to enhance safety as well as to enable the recovery and development of conflict affected countries by addressing the immediate and long-term impact of mine/ERW and other hazards following armed violence. In South East Europe, over 135.9 million square meters of land has been cleared through ITF, in the South Caucasus, over 2.1 million square meters and in Lebanon, over 1.3 million square meters.

Since its establishment, ITF has raised over 415 million USD. Slovenia has allocated roughly EUR 13.5 million for its operation (more information is available at: http://www.itf-fund.si/contacts/headquarters). At the same time, the Government offers ITF indispensable political and diplomatic support.

 SUPPORT OF PROJECTS

Slovenia has continued to promote several projects of physical and psychological rehabilitation of children affected by armed conflicts. The projects carried out in the 2015–2018 period include: rehabilitation of children from Belarus, strengthening the psychosocial well-being of children in Ukraine and rehabilitation treatment of a victim of an armed conflict from Ukraine. Further projects involve assistance to victims of conflicts in the Middle East: psychosocial assistance to victims of conflict, support to comprehensive rehabilitation, and aid in capacity building in Palestine**,** psychosocial support for victims of conflict, and assistance with providing comprehensive rehabilitation in the Gaza Strip, mines and explosive remnants of war risk education for Syrian refugees in Jordan, and psychosocial assistance and primary education for Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

Slovenia has expressed support to the work and mandate of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on multiple occasions.

TRAININGS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has joined other ministries in raising public awareness on the needs and rights of children refugees and migrants, including with regard to the international humanitarian law. In the spring of 2016, a worksheet entitled Children Refugees intended for school children in Slovenia was drawn up, and in October 2016, a panel discussion with participants from Slovenia and abroad was held on this topic.

The Slovenian Armed Forces provide basic and advanced training in International Humanitarian Law at different military education levels (initial military training, non-commissioned officer school, officer candidate school, command and staff school) and before every deployment abroad. Special training has been organised for military lawyers, usually conducted abroad. Their task is to provide additional training and advice for commanders (pursuant to Governmental decision on introducing legal advisors in the Slovenian Armed Forces, No. 762-01/2001-3 of 1 July 2002).

International humanitarian law is also part of the police education programme in Slovenia. Topics related to the International humanitarian law are included in the theoretical and practical part of the police education and interrelate with topics on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

OFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS OF THE TREATIES INTO NATIONAL LANGUAGE

The four 1949 Geneva Conventions, succeeded to by the Republic of Slovenia in 1992, were first published in Serbo-Croatian (Gazette of the Presidium of the People’s Assembly of the Federal People’s Republic of Yugoslavia, No. 6/1950). Since 2016, the Expert Group for the verification of Slovene texts of international instruments published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia (which includes members of the Permanent Coordination Group for International Humanitarian Law) has been preparing an official translation in the Slovene language. The Expert Group includes a translator, a language editor, representatives of the ministries of defence, health, justice and the interior, and of the Slovenian Red Cross, an international law expert from the International Law Department at the Foreign Ministry, a representative of the Faculty of Law, and external experts. The translation will be an important contribution to the dissemination of knowledge on international humanitarian law, as well as a guiding principle for the Slovenian Armed Forces and health personnel on missions abroad, and for the work of state authorities and scholars.

As the text of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Protocol, adopted at the Hague on 14 May 1954, was published in the Serbo-Croatian language (Official Gazette of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, International Treaties, No. 4/56), the Permanent Coordination Group for International Humanitarian Law prepared official Slovene translations. In accordance with Article 26 of the Convention, the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Paris submitted to the Secretariat of UNESCO the official translation of the Convention and its Protocol on 17 February 2016 (http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/armed-conflict-and-heritage/convention-and-protocols/1954-first-protocol/linguistic-versions/#c279237).