



*Permanent Mission of*  
**Malaysia**  
*to the United Nations*

STATEMENT BY  
THE HONOURABLE SENATOR KRISHNAN MANIAM  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, MALAYSIA

ON AGENDA ITEM 75: STATUS OF THE PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE  
GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949 AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF  
VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICTS AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 61st  
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2006

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to place on record its appreciation for the effort of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat in fulfilling their mandate under General Assembly resolution 59/36 of 2 December 2004 and welcomes the Report on the Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts.

2. In a world increasingly rocked by violence and destabilizing use of force, it is incumbent on this august body to emphasize renewed respect for and compliance with international humanitarian law. Adherence to the existing international humanitarian law treaties is almost universal yet the atrocities that are perpetrated against civilians, non-combatants and other protected persons appear to continue unabated. Sadly, these incidents continue to occur even in countries that are parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the 1977 Additional Protocols. Thus the Report of the Secretary-General is a timely reminder of how effectively countries have implemented their international humanitarian law obligations.

3. We express our appreciation also for the countries that have so generously shared their experience and efforts in implementing the obligations under the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols. These efforts are useful guides and will contribute to the global effort to harmonize laws and build-capacity on international humanitarian law expertise and compliance.

4. We commend also the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the completion and publication of its study on "Customary International Humanitarian Law" in 2005 and look forward to more detailed discourse on the strengthening of international humanitarian law by reference to evolving state practice.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Malaysia is committed to the maintenance of international peace and security. In this regard, Malaysia contributes to United Nations peacekeeping operations, which often are in hostile and perilous environments. Malaysia views seriously its obligations to ensure proper dissemination of knowledge of the principles and rules of international humanitarian law as codified in the Geneva Conventions to which it is party to, as well as to the Additional Protocols, although it has not acceded to the latter. Malaysia is also a party to the other international humanitarian law-related treaties, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, Nuclear Weapons Conventions, Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property.

6. It is Malaysia's belief that knowledge, awareness and understanding of the principles of international humanitarian law are the cornerstone of compliance therewith. In furtherance of this purpose, Malaysia is studying the modalities for the establishment of a national International Humanitarian Law Committee to undertake, among others, a cohesive and detailed review of its international humanitarian legislation for compliance with international norms and standards, a study of the international humanitarian law conventions and protocols for possible accession thereto and the dissemination of international humanitarian law generally. Malaysia already works closely with the ICRC to promote and disseminate international humanitarian law among its armed forces, security forces and youth.

Thank You.