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Notification to the Governments of the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the Protection of War Victims

CONVENTIONS

Communication from the depositary

Under resolution A/RES/ES-10/24 of 18 September 2024, the UN General Assembly invited Switzerland, in its capacity as depositary of the Geneva Conventions, to convene a Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in times of war, within six months of the adoption of said resolution.

With notification dated 11 November 2024, the depositary informed that it accepted the invitation and would conduct consultations with the High Contracting Parties in order to present the process and discuss their expectations.

The consultations held in Geneva have focused on the modalities and the final outcome document of the Conference. The consultations were organised in several rounds with High Contracting Parties. The depositary transmitted, by notification dated 27 February 2025, a final draft text of the declaration developed and refined during the consultations on the exclusive basis of the comments and contributions from High Contracting Parties and of international humanitarian law.

The depositary has taken due note of the various reactions on the final draft text of the declaration as communicated by several High Contracting Parties. It has tried to find compromise solutions. However, on the basis of the broad consultations conducted by the depositary, the latter had to conclude that the draft declaration of 27 February 2025 remained the text most likely to obtain the support of a cross-regional critical mass of High Contracting Parties.

Based on the request of several High Contracting Parties, the deadline for registration has been extended until **Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 4 p.m. (Geneva time)**. High Contracting Parties are requested to announce the names and functions of a maximum of two members per delegation, by means of an electronic message to dil.chcp@eda.admin.ch. Receipt of the registration will be confirmed by an acknowledgment of receipt.

If, after the expiration of the above-mentioned deadline, the depositary takes note of the absence of registration by a cross-regional critical mass of High Contracting Parties, it will infer a lack of will necessary for the holding of the Conference. In that case, the Conference will therefore not take place.

A copy of this notification will be sent for information to the following organisations: International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations, European Union, African Union, League of Arab States and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

This notification has been issued by Switzerland in its capacity as depositary (www.fdfa.admin.ch/depositary) of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols.

Bern, 5 March 2025

