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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 27 February 2025, the depositary transmitted the modalities related to the Conference as well as the text of the Draft Final Declaration. These two documents have been drafted and revised, during the consultations undertaken since November 2024, on the sole basis of comments and contributions from High Contracting Parties and of international humanitarian law.

With notification dated 5 March 2025, the depositary extended the deadline for registration to the Conference until Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 4 p.m. (Geneva time). The depositary also indicated that if, after the expiration of the deadline, it 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.

After examining the state of registrations, the depositary reaches the conclusion that there is no sufficient cross-regional critical mass supporting the text of the Final Draft Declaration as transmitted on February, 27, 2025. It thus infers that the High Contracting Parties lack the will necessary for the holding of the Conference, which will therefore not take place.

This concludes the depositary's actions in relation to the invitation contained in resolution A/RES/ES-10/24 of 18 September 2024 of the UN General Assembly. The depositary will report accordingly to the UN Secretary-General as soon as possible.

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, 6 March 2025

