



413-04-02-00-4260/7 – GEN 1/25

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. They were organised in several rounds with High Contracting Parties. These consultations resulted in the conclusion that a cross-regional support exists on the basis of both the modalities discussed (annex 1) and on the text of the Final Draft Declaration (annex 2, English). These two documents have been drafted and revised during the consultations on the sole basis of comments and contributions from High Contracting Parties and of international humanitarian law.

The depositary thus has the honour to inform the High Contracting Parties that the Conference will take place, in accordance with the modalities in annex 1, on Friday **7 March 2025 at 9 a.m.** at the Palexpo International Exhibition and Convention Centre, next to Geneva airport (rte François-Peyrot 30, CH-1218 Le Grand-Saconnex).

The High Contracting Parties wishing to participate in the Conference are kindly asked to register until Wednesday **5 March 2025 at 12 p.m.**, by announcing the names and functions of a maximum of two members per delegation, by means of an electronic message to dil.chpc@eda.admin.ch. Receipt of the registration will be confirmed by an acknowledgment of receipt.

In accordance with the enclosed modalities, the programme of the Conference will be as follows:

1. Opening statement by the Chair of the Conference
2. Statements by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations (to be confirmed)
3. Formal reading of the Declaration (as circulated on 27 February 2025) by the Special Envoy for the Conference and adoption by acclamation (without a vote)
4. Statements from groups of States
5. Conclusion by the Chair of the Conference

In accordance with the provisions of the enclosed modalities, the depositary will issue the badges permitting access to the Conference room. These are exclusively reserved for High Contracting Parties and observers, and are limited to two people per delegation.

High Contracting Parties wishing to speak at the Conference on behalf of an established group, in accordance with the provisions of the enclosed modalities, have to inform the depositary by means of an electronic message to dil.chpc@eda.admin.ch until Thursday 6 March 2025 at 9 a.m. The depositary will draw up a list of the order of the group statements. The same procedure and deadline apply to High Contracting Parties wishing to submit to the depositary a written declaration for inclusion in the official documentation of the Conference.

A copy of this notification will be sent as an invitation to participate as observers 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.

Enclosures mentioned

Bern, 27 February 2025

