

## **Political declaration on the protection of medical care in armed conflict**

**31 October 2017**

With the present declaration we express our support to the Secretary-General's recommendations submitted to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 13 of resolution 2286 (2016) on the protection of medical care in armed conflict.

**We pledge to take practical measures to enhance the protection of, and prevent acts of violence against, the medical and humanitarian personnel, and to better ensure accountability for violations, in accordance with our obligations under international humanitarian law.** We further pledge to make our best efforts to support the implementation of such practical measures and to respect and ensure respect for relevant international humanitarian law in all circumstances.

In particular we will:

- **Review our national legislation, policies and procedures relevant to the protection of medical care in armed conflict** and formulate recommendations to ensure – if not already the case - strict compliance with international law and medical ethics, and guarantee a degree of protection that matches the highest standards observed in international practice, as well as support such reviews undertaken by other States.
- **Ensure protection to all wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties**, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities in situations of armed conflict.
- **Ensure that our legislations, policies and procedures allow for the impartial and unimpeded provision of medical care in line with medical ethics to all wounded and sick in armed conflict.**
- **While considering the transfer of conventional arms, ammunitions, parts and components, assess the potential risks that they could be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of international humanitarian law**, thus impacting the provision of medical care in conflict, consider mitigating measures, and refrain from any such transfer if the assessment concludes to a clear risk.
- **Systematically call upon the Security Council to adopt measures to respond to repeated acts of violence and other acts impeding the provision of medical care in armed conflict**, including sanctions against parties responsible for such acts, or the activation of mechanisms to investigate and document incidents or where necessary seek accountability, and to include specific tasks in the mandate of relevant peacekeeping operations to contribute to the creation of security conditions conducive to the protection of medical care in armed conflict, such as monitoring and reporting, capacity building or engagement with national authorities on the issue.
- **Review, as applicable, our military doctrine, procedures and practices** with a view to ensuring that such documents and practices specifically take the protection of

the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities in armed conflict into account in the planning and conduct of military operations, and share good practices in the context of joint and multinational operations.

- **Welcome an enhanced and sustained engagement by the Security Council in taking forward this important agenda./.**