

Declaration by Signatories to Geneva Call's *Deeds of Commitment*

Concerned that armed conflicts continue to cause enormous suffering to the civilian population worldwide, including among the most vulnerable, in particular children;

Recognizing the responsibility of all parties to armed conflict to both respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian norms;

Stressing that awareness and ownership of international humanitarian norms by all parties to armed conflict are critical in efforts to improve compliance;

Noting that humanitarian engagement with parties to armed conflict does not affect their legal status;

Recalling declarations adopted by Signatories to Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment* at the First and Second Meeting of Signatories in 2004 and 2009;

We, the Signatories to the *Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action*, the *Deed of Commitment for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict* and the *Deed of Commitment for the Prohibition of Sexual Violence in Situations of Armed Conflict and Towards the Elimination of Gender Discrimination*,

- *Commend* the increased adherence to the *Deeds of Commitment*, as well as the progress in their implementation since the Second Meeting of Signatories;
- *Reaffirm* our commitment to effectively implement the *Deeds of Commitment* and to comply fully with their provisions;
- *Call on* States to respect and adhere to international humanitarian norms;
- *Express our appreciation* to Geneva Call for its efforts in monitoring and supporting the implementation of the *Deeds of Commitment* and *call upon* States, international organisations and other donors to support such efforts;
- *Call upon* specialized organizations to increase support for humanitarian mine action, child protection and assistance to victims of sexual violence, including in areas under our control or where we operate;
- *Raise* concerns over alleged violations of the *Deeds of Commitment* and *urge* signatories concerned to take appropriate measures to ensure compliance and to prevent violations;
- *Undertake* to increase efforts to protect civilians from the harm caused by explosive weapons, to promote greater gender equality and women participation in decision-making processes and to protect students, teachers, schools and other education facilities from attack and the effects of military operations;
- *Take into consideration* the "*Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict*" and *appreciate* that the Guidelines have recognised armed non-state actors as stakeholders;
- *Commit* to continue to actively promote Geneva Call's *Deeds of Commitment* among non-signatory armed non-State actors and *encourage* them to sign the different *Deeds of Commitment* or undertake similar commitments as soon as possible.