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Additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and other existing law in relation to military activities that damage the environment. Many participants urged additional ratifications by states of these instruments.

13. Some participants saw a pressing need to consolidate in one instrument, such as a set of principles, a declaration or an international convention, the disparate provisions relevant to protection of the environment during armed conflict. Others favoured elaborating new law as well, for example on the protection of nature reserves or other similarly sensitive areas. The idea was also put forward that an organization able to deal rapidly and effectively with severe environmental damage, including during times of armed conflict, could be created.

14. On the other hand, the view was expressed that efforts should focus on implementing existing obligations rather than the need for new substantive law. They also feared that such consolidation or elaboration would not achieve broad support under present circumstances.

15. Participants urged governments to take advantage of the upcoming opportunities to address, in various international fora, the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict.

