**PROPOSED DRAFT PLEDGE BY NIGERIA TO BE ADOPTED AT THE 34TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

**Specific Pledge**

1. **Pledge title:**

Ratification and Implementation of IHL Treaties

1. **Type of pledge: SPECIFIC**
2. **State(s) / National Society(ies) / other humanitarian partner(s):**

The Federal Republic of Nigeria

1. **Pledge period :**

2024-2028

1. **Objective of the Pledge:**

Achieving universality of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) legal instruments contributes to responsible State behaviour.

By ratifying and implementing IHL treaties, States can safeguard the rights and dignity of individuals during armed conflict and significantly improve the protection and assistance of those affected by armed conflict.

1. **Pledge:**

Considering the role of IHL in limiting the effects of armed conflict and the commitment of the Nigerian Government in protecting and assisting those affected by armed conflict within the territory of Nigeria, the Nigerian Government pledges to:

1. work towards further participation in the principal IHL treaties by considering the ratification of those legal instruments to which Nigeria is not yet Party;
2. work towards the national exactment of those instruments to which Nigeria has ratified;
3. work towards further participation in the principal IHL international political instruments by considering the endorsement of those instruments and their implementation; that
4. explore ways of better using existing mechanisms and procedures at the domestic level, such as the Nigerian National IHL Committee, to promote ratification, endorsement and implementation of IHL instruments.

1. **Action plan**

The Nigerian Government will:

1. consider the ratification of IHL treaties that Nigeria is not yet a Party, such as:

* The Additional Protocol III 2005 to the Geneva Conventions;
* The 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of the Certain Conventional Weapons which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and its 2001 amendments, as well as its Protocols;
* The Convention on the Prohibition of Military Use of Environmental Modification Techniques.

1. Consider the endorsement of IHL international political instruments, such as:

* The Paris Principles and Commitments on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups
* The Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas.

1. Consider the national enactment of IHL and other relevant instruments that Nigeria has already ratified, in order to give them force of law in Nigeria, in particular:

* The 1997 Additional Protocols (I) & (II) to the Geneva Conventions of 1949;
* The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction of 1997 (Ottawa Convention);
* The Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008;
* The Arms Trade Treaty, 2013;
* The Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 2000;
* The Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, 2006;
* The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa of 2009 (Kampala Convention);

1. Carry out adequate training and other measures towards ensuring IHL compliance, both in peacetime and during armed conflict; promote and disseminate IHL within the armed forces, and to civilian personnel involved in crisis management in situations of armed conflict.
2. Enhance and support the capacity of the National IHL Committee with the needed resources.
3. Consider the timely collation and reporting on implementation of relevant IHL treaties and pledges.
4. **Indicators for measuring progress**

To be discussed

Number of treaties ratified

Number of treaties implemented

Number of meetings of the National IHL Committee on treaty ratification, domestication, and implementation

Number of State reports on treaty implementation

No of engagements with relevant authorities

1. **Resource implications**
   1. Sufficient fiscal allocation in the yearly budget appropriation for the National IHL Committee, treaty ratification/ implementation/reporting, and the promotion and dissemination of IHL.
   2. Dedicated human resource for the National IHL Committee

1. **Ministries/ Department/ Agencies Concerned**
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. Ministry of Justice
4. Ministry of Defence
5. Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs
6. Ministry of Health
7. National Assembly
8. National IHL Committee
9. Nigerian Red Cross Society