

**Comments and observations of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on the draft Principles on protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts**

1. A glossary of essential terms would be useful to ensure a common understanding and interpretation of the terminology used in the document;
2. It is recommended to map and integrate better in the text key provisions of the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability, the Professional Standards for Protection Work and the Sphere Handbook. The current formulation of the principles treats environment in isolation of the affected communities who live there. Rights of the latter should be respected and integrated with environmental considerations;
3. Under Part V on measures addressing aftermath of the armed conflict, state action should be guided by the leadership and experience of local actors and communities to prepare for changing climate and environmental risks, reduce risks and vulnerability to shocks, stresses and longer-term changes through an increased focus on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action.
4. It is recommended that Principle 23.2 be expanded as follows: Instead of “Relevant international organizations should, where appropriate, play a facilitating role in this regard”, please use: “Relevant international organizations in cooperation across the humanitarian system, in particular between local, national and international actors should ensure a continuum of efforts to manage environmental risks and to develop sustainable development interventions”.
5. It is recommended that Principle 26 on Relief and assistance **be expanded** by adding that States and International Organizations should direct relief and assistance efforts towards urgent and more ambitious climate action and environmental protection to step up implementation of relevant international obligations and national laws, standards, policies and plans for stronger climate action and environmental protection.