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THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY OF THE MILITARY ACTIVITIES

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Intentional and unintentional destruction of the environment has always been a feature of warfare: from the scorched earth policy used by the Scythians in retreating from the Persians in 512 BC and the annual devastation of Athenian fields by the Spartans during the Pelo-Ponnesian Wars of 431-404 BC to the modern wars in Vietnam, Iraq, Congo, etc., to the present day wars in the United States [1–6].

The lack of appropriate environmental protection measures during military conflicts is a serious problem that causes enormous damage to nature and human health. During warfare, heavy weapons, including weapons of mass destruction, are often used, which can lead to soil, water and air pollution. Environmental pollution during war has a negative impact on ecosystems and can affect the lives of many people who are forced to live under such conditions.

Modern military activities pose a huge threat to the environment and natural resources. Many military operations and military units, which are among the largest consumers of natural resources, involve the use of various types of weapons and equipment, which can pollute water and soil resources and damage ecosystems. Military units have a negative impact on the environment. They pollute soils and water bodies when they bury military equipment and ammunition. After using

weapons and equipment, waste such as plastic power systems, batteries and ammunition is left behind. Military units often use hazardous chemicals such as fuel for missiles, aircraft and vehicles, fuel oil, and pesticides to clean bases. The expansion of bases and camps leads to the destruction of the environment. All these problems require a systemic solution and coordination between the government, the military and environmental organisations.

In order to ensure the environmental safety of the daily activities of military units and sub-units, they must have a clear and well-developed system of organisation and control, as well as proper waste treatment and disposal.

Environmental pollution during war also poses a threat to human health. People living in conflict zones can be exposed to radiation, chemicals and other hazardous substances that can lead to various illnesses and even death. To prevent damage to nature and human health, appropriate environmental protection measures should be taken during military conflicts. This may include: conducting more precise strikes to minimise civilian casualties and maximise environmental preservation; developing environmental education and awareness in military organisations, which will help reduce damage at war sites; the use of protective technologies to prevent negative environmental impact, for example, the use of environmentally friendly fuels, the development of special devices for waste collection and disposal in war zones; creating international agreements to protect the environment during warfare, which will help reduce damage and ensure equitable use of natural resources.

Thus, the lack of appropriate environmental protection measures during military conflicts can lead to serious damage to nature and human health. The environmentally sensitive conduct of conflicts should be a priority for all States.

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