

Respected CO- Chairs of the Sessions, Delegations from various counties and other participants, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning

I would like to express my sincere gratitude towards ICRC for organizing such an incredible event to discuss, learn and exchange more on National IHL committees. Myself, Aruna Joshi, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Nepal also serving as a member-secretary of the National IHL Committee of Nepal. I will be presenting very brief of National IHL Committee of Nepal under following points:

NATIONAL IHL COMMITTEE, NEPAL

- Formed on 26 February 2007 vide Executive Order
- 11-member National Committee on IHL, chaired by Law Minister
- Representatives from Ministries of Law, Defense, Home, Foreign Affairs, Health, Education, Tourism, and Office of Prime Minister
- Representation at secretary or joint secretary level
- Joint Secretary at International Treaty Division as member secretary
- Secretariat in Law Ministry

Rule of Procedures

- Expert or specialist may be invited
- Representative of other institutions may be invited
- Meetings to be held at least three times a year
- Power to form sub-committees

Functions

- Draft necessary laws
- Review existing laws for implementation of Conventions
- Make recommendation for joining other treaties as appropriate and taking measures for their implementation
- Ensure the fulfilment of Nepali's international obligations under IHL by assisting and encouraging the government agencies to develop policy on IHL
- Encourage international respect for and implementation of IHL
- Carry out all other activities for the implementation the Conventions on IHL
- Carry out other requisite acts including promotional acts

Performance of National Committee

Series of pre-consultation meetings at the stage of formation of National Committee (Separately and collectively):

- Government Ministries
- Nepal Army
- Other security agencies
- Nepal Red Cross Society
- Civil society members
- Technical support from ICRC
- Formation of sub-committee under convenorship of Member Secretary consisting of representatives from Home, Defense Ministries, PM Office, Nepal Army and Nepal Law Commission
- Mandate of sub-committee:
 - Prepare draft bill on Geneva Convention Act
 - Study on possibility of joining 1954 Hague Cultural Property Convention and its Protocols
- draft bill on Geneva Convention Act prepared has been sent to the Ministry of Defence, concerned authority to proceed further with the procedures
- Nepali version of Geneva Conventions prepared
- Publication of IHL handbook for parliamentarians and other stakeholders in cooperation with ICRC and Nepal Red Cross Society being at final stage
- Dissemination of Conventions through regional and district level activities
- Community legal education program on human rights and IHL
- School level legal awareness program on human rights and IHL
- Publication of Multilateral Treaties to which Nepal is a party including IHL total 169 treaties in 6 volumes)
- Training Human Resources through participation in SATS, IHL Conferences, Dialogues, Judges in the Moot Courts
- Other Promotional Activities in collaboration with ICRC and other stakeholders

Challenges

- Holding National Committee meeting on a regular basis

- Change of Government coalition, change of Ministers
 - Government's priorities on other issues
- Human and financial resources
- Compatibility study not yet carried out
- Drafting and bringing into force an Action Plan on Implementation Strategy of IHL and its domestication
- Periodic evaluation of works of National Committee
- Relations with national authorities
 - Maintaining close working relations with executive
 - Developing links with legislative authorities
 - Cooperating with judiciary in IHL implementation
- International cooperation
 - Strengthening direct relations with counterpart committees
 - Maintaining relations with international organizations
 - Thematic seminars, meetings, other promotional programmes on regional and international level

Way Forward

- Inviting experts and others from judiciary, civil society and concerned in the meeting
- Assigning responsibilities to members according to issues
- Ensuring adequate budget and human resources
- Carrying out compatibility study
- Ensuring availability of network of contacts
- Developing links with national and international authorities and organizations
- Periodic publication of reports on works of National Committee
- Periodic evaluation of works
- Collaboration with ICRC, Academic institutions to hold discussion, interaction, dialogues on various thematic issues of IHL
- Incorporation of session on IHL in Service Entry and In- service Training at Judicial Service Training Center
- Establishing network with National Committees of other jurisdiction in support of ICRC

- Interaction with executive, legislative and judiciary
- IHL Discourse, Discussion e- Platform under government's domain
- Preparation, publication and dissemination of simplified version of IHL for legal awareness to general public and school students
- Sensitization and Dissemination of IHL
- Strengthening collaboration with national and international organizations