

**Statement by Mr. Arsen Omarov, Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Office and other International
Organizations in Geneva at the High-Level Launch of the Progress Report for the Global
Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to IHL
(Geneva, 16 October 2025)**

**Your Excellencies,
Dear Madam President,
Dear colleagues,**

At the outset, I would like to thank ICRC and congratulate with today's important event.

It is an honour for me to speak today on behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan, one of the six founding states of the Global Initiative, launched one year ago.

As the 21st century entered its third decade and the UN reaches the 80th anniversary, the global **humanitarian crisis remains grave**.

I would like to highlight the **joint appeal issued by the heads of state of the six founding members on 21 September 2025 in New York**, ahead of the high-level week of the UN General Assembly. This appeal's key message is that effective respect for humanitarian law requires strong political will and state responsibility at all levels. **The UN Secretary General Guterres** also commended this joint appeal.

Dear colleagues,

The Progress Report presented today marks this unique initiative's first annual milestone. The report's key value lies in its cross-cutting nature: each area is connected by the common goal of strengthening the protection of human dignity, enhancing accountability, and preventing suffering.

We sincerely hope that the work of the seven workstreams will result in **recommendations that will make a difference**, change behaviours on the ground, and to restore trust in the existing norms that embody the essence of humanity.

Over 130 countries took part in the first round of consultations. The number of countries that support the Initiative is growing.

Just last week, the Regional Conference for the Central Asian States on the Global Initiative took place in Astana **to promote the Initiative in the region**.

We are committed to collaborate further with all States to enhance compliance with IHL and ensure the protection of the most vulnerable in armed conflict.

In closing, let me **commend the Secretariat of the Global Initiative – International Committee of the Red Cross** for their efforts to promote and reinforce international humanitarian law.

Thank you.