



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

High-Level Launch Event on the Progress Report for the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to IHL

Statement of Ambassador Grassi, Permanent Representative of Italy

Geneva, 16th October 2025

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Distinguished President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Italy is honoured to have joined the *Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law*.

With this step, we have reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to international humanitarian law, not only as a legal framework, but as a moral compass and a cornerstone of our shared humanity.

Italy's decision to join reflects its long-standing commitment to the protection of civilians and for a multilateral system grounded in the respect for international law. It also stems from our conviction that respect for IHL is the foundation of peace. Every time these rules are ignored, it is not only lives that are lost but the very idea of shared humanity that is weakened. Echoing the words of our President of the Republic a couple of days ago, peace cannot endure if not rooted in the hearts of peoples. That is why respect for IHL matters so profoundly: because it protects not only lives, but the moral fabric of communities and helps rebuild trust, dignity and compassion, the very conditions without which peace remains fragile.

We wish to commend the ICRC and the six founding States for the vision and perseverance in shaping this Initiative. In just one year, it has achieved remarkable progress: more than eighty States have joined, over one hundred and thirty have participated in

consultations and the seven thematic workstreams have provided a space for inclusive and practical dialogue on preventing IHL violations, protecting civilians and critical civilian infrastructure, among others.

Italy is proud to add its voice and its experience to this collective effort. We plan to contribute to the second round of consultations through the joint engagement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence, also drawing from the work and expertise of our National IHL Committee, which brings together ministries, the armed forces, academia and the Italian Red Cross to promote the domestic implementation of IHL and to advise on national and international policies.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the Progress Report that has just been released. It demonstrates that this Initiative is not only about reaffirming principles, but also about translating them into practice, by identifying good national experiences, building trust among States and creating a renewed political momentum to uphold IHL globally.

Looking ahead to the global meeting in 2026, Italy stands ready to work with all partners to deepen this momentum and to ensure that IHL remains fit for purpose in today and tomorrow's armed conflicts.

Thank you.