

**ICRC Launch of the Progress Report
Global Initiative on IHL
16 October 2025
Tempus Room, Palais des Nations
Geneva**

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

(as delivered)

Thank you, Chair.

As a process, the Global Initiative is a young one. Yet in just over a year, much has been achieved. The consultations and dialogues have brought about better understanding and appreciation of IHL. These have also brought to the fore concerns and questions that some might have harbored.

The Global Initiative serves as a crucial platform in bringing clarity and eliminating ambiguity in a highly divided and complex world.

One key part of the process has been the very meaningful regional consultations and we are glad to have partnered with the ICRC in hosting one in Manila last August.

The Philippines is deeply honored to serve as one of the co-chairs of the workstream on National IHL Committees, along with Germany, Peru and the United Kingdom. We have also actively participated in all the other workstreams.

Through our participation in the Global Initiative, we seek to contribute to a collective endeavor – one that strengthens national ownership of IHL compliance and galvanizes political leadership for its advancement. The Philippines has long engaged with and kept

faith in IHL. We ratified all four Geneva conventions and its Three Protocols. We have passed legislation that operationalizes these conventional norms.

IHL is a concrete expression of our duty to preserve human dignity. It reinforces discipline within our security institutions, strengthens civilian protection, and builds public trust in the legitimacy of State action.

IHL only finds meaning when faithfully observed by those who command and wield armed force, understanding that at times, restraint, not the weapon, best serves humanity. The protection of life and dignity must remain constant, even amid the changing character of conflict.

The Philippines reaffirms its steadfast support for the Global Initiative and stands ready to continue working with fellow co-chairs, States, and partners to translate our collective commitments into enduring respect for International Humanitarian Law.

Thank you.