

Global IHL Initiative
WS5: Achieving Meaningful Protection for Hospitals in Armed Conflict
Second State Consultation
Statement of Japan
2 December 2025

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair.

We would like to express our gratitude to the ICRC and the co-Chairs from Nigeria, Pakistan, Spain, and Uruguay for convening this important discussion.

Please allow me to move away from the guiding questions and make some general remarks.

First, respecting and ensuring respect for international humanitarian law is a fundamental obligation that must be upheld.

We strongly urge all parties to comply with international law, including IHL.

Attacks on medical facilities and healthcare workers undermine local health systems and may have severe, long-lasting impacts on people's lives. Innocent civilians, especially vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, refugees, and the internally displaced, should not be made to suffer.

Every possible measure must be taken to prevent civilian casualties in armed conflict.

Furthermore, if attacks on medical facilities and healthcare workers lead to the destruction or dysfunctioning of health systems, they may result in the spread of infectious diseases and other illnesses. Such diseases can spread widely through the movement of people, affecting both parties to a conflict, and even endangering the civilian population of the attacking side. From this perspective as well, attacks on medical facilities and healthcare personnel must be avoided.

In May 2016, the international community affirmed its solidarity to respond to attacks on healthcare in armed conflict and unanimously adopted Security Council Resolution 2286.

The resolution was jointly drafted by five countries—Japan, Egypt, New Zealand, Spain, and Uruguay.

Although nearly ten years have passed since the adoption of this resolution, medical personnel and medical facilities have been repeatedly attacked.

Japan reaffirms its commitment to fully implementing Resolution 2286.

We strongly hope that the other Member States will also commit to fully implementing this important resolution.

I thank you.

(288 words)