

Written Submission by the Libyan House of Representatives

ICT Workstream Third Consultation

To:

IHL Initiative Secretariat (ICRC)

Submitted by:

The Delegation of the Libyan House of Representatives

(Represented by Hon. Rabia Aburas, Chairperson of the National Committee for Sustainable Development; Member of PNND)

Introduction

On behalf of the Libyan House of Representatives, we would like to thank the Co-Chairs and the International Committee of the Red Cross for convening this critical consultation on the humanitarian and legal implications of ICTs in armed conflicts. As we strive for sustainable development and peace, the protection of the digital space remains a cornerstone of our national and international responsibility.

Response to Workstream 6: Ensuring Respect for IHL in the Use of ICTs

From a cybersecurity and legislative perspective, the Libyan House of Representatives submits the following observations:

- Protection of Civilian Data and Infrastructure:

We reaffirm that civilian data is essential for the functioning of vital services and must be protected under the principles of distinction and proportionality. Any cyber operation that causes death, injury, or destruction of civilian objects — including the disabling of essential systems — constitutes an “attack” under IHL and must be prohibited.

- Technical and Physical Separation:

We support the recommendation for the physical or technical separation of ICT infrastructure used for military purposes from that used for civilian functions. This is a vital cybersecurity measure to prevent civilian infrastructure from becoming a legitimate military target.

- Civilian Participation and Cyber Actors:

We are concerned about the involvement of civilians, including “hackers,” in ICT activities related to armed conflicts. States must exercise due diligence to prevent and

suppress IHL violations committed via ICTs and ensure that civilians are informed of the legal risks of participating in such activities.

- Protection of Medical and Humanitarian Missions:

In the digital age, the confidentiality of medical and humanitarian data is paramount. We support the development of a “Digital Emblem” to ensure that medical and humanitarian ICT systems are clearly identified and protected from interference.

- National Implementation and Parliamentary Oversight:

The Libyan House of Representatives emphasizes the importance of integrating IHL rules into national legislation and military doctrines concerning cyber operations. In this regard, we underscore the role of parliamentary oversight in ensuring that national cyber capabilities, doctrines, and procurement frameworks remain aligned with IHL obligations.

Conclusion

Ensuring a safe and secure digital environment during conflicts is not only a legal obligation but a necessity for human dignity and sustainable development. The Delegation remains available for any further clarification or engagement in the development of draft recommendations.

Thank you.