

Good afternoon, honourable chair and attendees. I'm pleased to make these remarks as a representative of the academic community of Ukraine. In this capacity, I will focus on the peculiarities of the institutional development of the IHL Commission of Ukraine, of which I was a member for several years.

Firstly, it is important to note that Ukraine has a unique experience of the functioning of the IHL Commission in both peacetime and situation of international armed conflict, including its high-intensity phase. Since the IHL Commission was established in 2000, its periods of actual activity have been almost equally divided between peacetime and international armed conflict.

In its inaugural phase, the Commission was designated the Interagency Commission for the Implementation of IHL in Ukraine and was within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. The organisation's work focused primarily on regulatory support for the implementation of IHL, as well as on issues related to Ukraine's participation in international treaties in the field of IHL.

In 2017, the IHL Commission of Ukraine was renamed the Interagency Commission on the application and implementation of IHL in Ukraine and placed under the jurisdiction of the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine. The ministry provided the commission with organisational, informational, and logistical support. The Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine – Minister for Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories assumed the leadership of the Commission, which significantly strengthened its coordination capabilities. In 2022, the Commission established four working groups, a number that was increased to eight by 2024.

In 2025, the IHL Commission of Ukraine was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister for the Restoration of Ukraine – Minister for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine. Eight working groups have been formed within the Commission to address specific topics, including a working group on IHL development, which has been coordinating with the Platform for the Progressive Development of the IHL, established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in 2025.

The distinguishing characteristic of the IHL Commission of Ukraine is its operation within the framework of ministries with a specific mandate and under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister. This arrangement has been pivotal in enhancing the Commission's coordination capabilities. A significant component of the Commission's work pertains to the establishment and management of thematic working groups, which are instrumental in ensuring the effective execution of its mandate.

The second aspect I would like to draw your attention to is the involvement of representatives of non-governmental organisations and the academic community in the work of the Ukrainian Commission. From the very beginning of the Commission's creation, its membership included representatives of the Ukrainian Red Cross and the ICRC. The advisor to the President of the Ukrainian Red Cross on IHL in 2022–2025 headed the working group on the dissemination of knowledge about IHL, which is one of our top priorities.

The involvement of academic representatives, specialising in international law and IHL, has been of particular importance. In 2015, seven such experts were involved in the work of the Commission, which significantly expanded the range of issues considered by the Commission and the quality of expertise.

Since then, the Commission has consistently included two representatives of Ukrainian NGOs, currently a representative of the Ukrainian Association of International Law and representatives of academic institutions. For a certain period, representatives of the academic community headed individual working groups of the Commission, which substantially contributed to their effectiveness, especially in the field of disseminating knowledge on IHL.

I sincerely appreciate your attention!