



## National statement of the Republic of Slovenia

at the

### Second State Consultation on the Protection of Civilian Infrastructure Workstream 4, Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to IHL

Geneva, 3 November 2025

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Distinguished participants, Dear legal advisers,

Slovenia is delighted and honoured to be participating as Co-Chair in these consultations on the protection of civilian infrastructure, and to be sharing its perspectives with you.

In order to ensure that the infrastructure or parts thereof considered for attack are not civilian objects and are not subject to specific protections, the Slovenian Armed Forces have adopted rigorous targeting processes. However, any such process is initiated at the political-strategic level by the Government and the National Security Council, outside the remit of the Slovenian Armed Forces. The Government passes guidance and mandatory directions for action to the Chief of the General Staff, who then passes them to the operational level by directive or order.

At the Armed Forces level, the operational commander leads a Joint Targeting Group. This group links the strategic guidance with the objectives of Armed Forces operations across the entire area of operations. If required, the Joint Targeting Group is augmented with staff from the General Staff and administrative personnel from the Ministry of Defence.

At the tactical level, brigades are the basic formations that execute the targeting process and form their own targeting groups.

The fundamental basis for the work of all targeting groups and the processes they follow at the operational and tactical levels is provided by international humanitarian law, directives, orders, rules of engagement and decisions of the Joint Targeting Group. For any lethal engagement against targets that were not authorised prior to the start of operations, the unit Targeting Group must obtain approval from the Joint Targeting Group. Support from military intelligence is essential for the targeting process at all levels. At operational level, the J2 (Sector for Intelligence), in coordination with the Military Intelligence and Counterintelligence Sector, supports targeting procedures. Its key contributions include target nomination, target

development, target identification, assessment of combat effects and monitoring of alliance databases that support targeting.

When smaller units are deployed, the target selection process is carried out by the operational-level command prior to deployment. The results of this process are specified in annexes to the operational orders.

Unit commanders have the authority to approve engagement against authorised targets that arise within their area of responsibility.

Tactical-level Targeting Groups conduct peacetime training on targeting. Knowledge of international humanitarian law is disseminated through trainings sessions carried out in cooperation with the Peace Operations Training Centre. As well as covering the fundamentals, the training focuses on applying international humanitarian law to new methods and means of warfare. In 2023, the Slovenian Armed Forces for the first time introduced digital simulations into their training, based on case studies of current armed conflicts. This allows trainees to gain a deeper insight into their roles. The theoretical part of the training, along with the review and response to the answers given in practical cases, is carried out by academic experts from the Department of International Law of the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana.

On 26 and 27 November 2025, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia and the Geneva Water Hub with the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs will organise a workshop in Geneva on "Integrating the Foreseeable Effects of Water Service Damage and Pollution of Freshwater on Civilians and the Environment into Military Planning."

The workshop will explore how to incorporate the reasonably foreseeable effects of damage to water systems and pollution of freshwater sources on civilians into military planning tools, targeting protocols and real-world operational constraints.

The workshop's goal is to enhance situational awareness and inform target engagement decisions by providing commanders, planners and legal advisors with a comprehensive understanding of the vulnerabilities of water systems and their long-term consequences for civilians and the environment.