

**Statement by the delegation of Ukraine  
during the third state consultation on protecting civilian  
infrastructure (Workstream 4) under the Global Initiative to Galvanize  
Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law  
(3 February 2026, Geneva)**

Thank you, Chair,

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

We wish to thank the ICRC and the co-chairs of the Workstream on Naval Warfare – Algeria, Costa Rica, Sierra Leone, Slovenia and the ICRC – for convening today`s consultation.

We would like to take this opportunity to confirm Ukraine`s unwavering commitment to the provisions of International Humanitarian Law related to the protection of civilian infrastructure. This includes two types of norms:

- those related to protection of civilian objects in general, provided in Article 52 of Additional Protocol I and other relevant treaty and customary norms of international law;
- those related to the protection of specific objects of civilian infrastructure, including objects indispensable for the survival of civilian population as defined in Article 54 of Additional Protocol I and other relevant treaty and customary norms.

It is a matter of grave concern that these norms have been regularly violated in recent armed conflicts. Such violations include:

- intentionally directing attacks against civilian infrastructure, particularly against civilian objects that are indispensable to the survival of the civilian population resulting in disruption of energy, heating, water supplies, sanitation and basic services, particularly in cold season;

- intentionally launching double-tap strikes affecting emergency responders, particularly the personnel of civil defence organizations, humanitarian and healthcare staff;

- - intentional attacks against objects of civilian infrastructure calculated at spreading terror among civilians. We find such policies and practices unacceptable and oppose them in the strongest terms.

For its part, the Armed Forces of Ukraine receive clear instructions and take constant care to protect civilian infrastructure in armed conflict.

The implementation of rules on the protection of civilian infrastructure into the daily activities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine is achieved through a series of specific military orders. Most importantly, this is the Instruction on Compliance with IHL in the Armed Forces of Ukraine of 23 March 2017, which:

- firstly, implements and clarifies IHL norms on the protection of both civilian objects in general and on special protection afforded to objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population;

- secondly, sets specific rules for planning and conducting military operations aimed at ensuring the protection of civilian infrastructure. For example, this includes prohibitions of attacks against certain objects and description of conditions under which such protection can be lifted by the orders of high-level commanders, prohibitions and restrictions of movement and placement of military units in populated areas, specific precautionary measures to be taken in case hostilities take place in the vicinity of civilian objects, including objects of civilian infrastructure.

These provisions are further clarified in the orders of military commanders. Most importantly, in 2022, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine issued an order prohibiting placement of any movable military objectives near the civilian objects, including objects of critical civilian infrastructure. This prohibition does not, however, extend to those objects which are necessary exclusively for the defence of that infrastructure.

These orders are brought to the attention of every member of the Armed Forces of Ukraine through increased awareness and appropriate training.

I thank you.