

**STATEMENT BY GHANA AT THE 4TH ROUND OF STATE CONSULTATION ON  
UPHOLDING IHL IN THE USE OF ICTS DURING ARMED CONFLICTS**

*Global Initiative on Galvanizing Political Support for IHL  
Geneva, 05 May 2026*

**Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,**

Ghana thanks fellow workstream co-chairs and the ICRC for advancing this important discussion. We are grateful to all participating states for their constructive engagement across the three rounds of consultations that have delivered this comprehensive outcome document.

Ghana aligns itself with the outcome document and wishes to offer the following reflections.

We warmly welcome the document's foundational recognition that ICT activities can inflict real human costs, suffering, disruption, and loss of dignity, even without causing physical damage. For developing countries like Ghana, where digital infrastructure increasingly underpins access to healthcare, financial services, and humanitarian assistance, this acknowledgment is not merely legal language. It reflects lived reality. We therefore strongly support the affirmation that IHL principles - distinction, proportionality, precaution, and humanity, apply fully to ICT operations during armed conflict.

Ghana particularly values the protections extended to medical services and humanitarian activities. The call to develop a "digital emblem" to make humanitarian protection visible in the ICT environment is both innovative and necessary, and Ghana encourages continued engagement with the ICRC on its implementation. We equally commend the document's attention to the protection of civilian data, recognising that medical, biometric, and humanitarian data are not abstract assets, but lifelines for vulnerable populations.

We also welcome the emphasis on capacity-building. As a developing country, Ghana understands that obligations without commensurate capacity risk becoming aspirational rather than operational. The document's call for bilateral, regional, and global capacity-building to strengthen states' ability to implement IHL in the ICT context directly responds to this concern, and we urge that this commitment be translated into concrete, adequately resourced programmes.

That said, Ghana wishes to flag some areas for refinement. The document's practical measures appear to be largely directed at states with advanced ICT and military capabilities. We would benefit from more explicit guidance tailored to developing states particularly on how to fulfill due diligence obligations regarding civilian hackers and non-state actors in contexts of limited institutional capacity. Similarly, while we support the cross-cutting measures in Outcome 7, greater specificity on *how* developing states can conduct legal reviews of ICT capabilities, given resource constraints, would strengthen implementation.

Finally, Ghana strongly endorses the call for gender and age-sensitive, disability-inclusive approaches. These are not peripheral considerations; they are essential to ensuring that IHL protection reaches the most vulnerable.

In conclusion, Ghana believes this outcome document represents meaningful progress in applying the laws of war to an increasingly digital battlefield. We remain committed to advancing its implementation and to ensuring that this workstream produces outcomes that protect civilians everywhere, including in the developing world.

I thank you.