

BACKGROUND NOTE

FIFTH ROUND OF STATE CONSULTATIONS ON THE WORKSTREAMS OF THE GLOBAL IHL INITIATIVE

MONDAY, 22 JUNE 2026 TO THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2026

FORMAT: IN PERSON (GENEVA) AND ONLINE (ZOOM)

Background

- Four rounds of state consultations have been organized on the seven workstreams of the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law (Global IHL Initiative) in 2025 and 2026.
- Over 160 states attended these consultations and shared views on how they understand the existing rules of IHL as well as practices and proposals to support those rules' implementation and application in good faith.
- Following the first three rounds of consultations, the co-chairing states and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) presented a **draft outcome document for each of the seven workstreams** of the Global IHL Initiative. These documents formed the basis of the discussions among states during the fourth round of consultations in May 2026.
- Following the input received from states – both during the fourth round itself and through written contributions, the co-chairing states and the ICRC worked together to revise the draft outcome documents.
- All states are now invited to **consider the revised version of the draft outcome document** for each workstream (available in the [documentation section](#) of the Humanity in War website and in the agenda provided at the end of this background note).
- During the fifth round of consultations, states will be invited to express their general views on the revised texts, including whether they consider that the outcome documents provide a balanced reflection of the discussions and contributions received throughout the consultation process and

offer useful guidance for future implementation. It is expected that this final consultation will facilitate the finalization of the outcome documents.

Participation

- The consultations will be held in a hybrid format with participation in person and online.
- The consultations are **open to all states that are interested** – any state can contribute ideas to further improve the outcome documents.
 - States that have not joined the Global IHL Initiative are still encouraged to participate and share their views and suggestions on the draft outcome documents.
 - State that did not participate in the previous rounds of consultations are equally encouraged to participate in the fifth round.
- **Other representatives with specific expertise** in the subject matter (e.g. members of international organizations, civil society and academia) will also participate upon invitation.
- Please register no later than **17 June 2026**, [using this link](#) or this QR code:



Procedure

- The working languages will be **Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish**, with simultaneous interpretation.
- We ask participants to limit their statements to **four minutes** to ensure sufficient time for all participants to take the floor.
- The **inclusive, constructive, non-politicized and solution-oriented** nature of the discussions will be maintained throughout the consultations.
- To facilitate interpretation, we invite participants to share a copy of their oral statements by **19 June 2026**, via email at ihlinitiative@icrc.org, with “Fifth round of consultations – Workstream [please specify the workstream]” in the subject line.
- States that cannot participate during the consultation may still send their written statement **no later than 25 June 2026**.
- Unless confidentiality is explicitly requested, written statements will be published on Humanity in War.
- The consultations will be recorded, but the recording will not be made public.

Agenda

GLOBAL IHL INITIATIVE

Fifth round of state consultations

22 – 25 June 2026

Venue: ICRC Humanitarium, 17 avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva

Monday 22 June 2026	
Welcome coffee and tea	10:30 – 11:00
Introduction and general updates	11:00 – 12:30
Lunch	12:30 – 14:00
Workstream 4 – Protection of civilian infrastructure <i>See draft outcome document here</i>	14:00 – 17:00
Tuesday 23 June 2026	
Welcome coffee and tea	9:00 – 9:30
Workstream 5 – Achieving meaningful protection for hospitals <i>See draft outcome document here</i>	9:30 – 12:30
Lunch	12:30 – 14:00
Workstream 6 – Upholding IHL in the use of information and communications technologies in armed conflict <i>See draft outcome document here</i>	14:00 – 17:00

Wednesday 24 June 2026	
Welcome coffee and tea	9:00 – 9:30
Workstream 7 – Naval Warfare <i>See draft outcome document here</i>	9:30 – 12:30
Lunch	12:30 – 14:00
Workstream 2 – National IHL Committees <i>See draft outcome document here</i>	14:00 – 17:00
Thursday 25 June 2026	
Welcome coffee and tea	9:00 – 9:30
Workstream 1: Prevention good practices <i>See draft outcome document here</i>	9:30 – 12:30
Lunch	12:30 – 14:00
Workstream 3 – IHL and Peace <i>See draft outcome document here</i>	14:00 – 17:00