

**Fourth State Consultation on IHL and Peace**

Online, 4 May 2026

*Switzerland statement*

Madam and/or Mister Chair,

Switzerland would like to thank the ICRC, the Republic of Colombia, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the State of Qatar, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for convening the Fourth State Consultation on IHL and Peace under the Global IHL initiative.

Switzerland welcomes the draft outcome document of the IHL and Peace workstream. The latter provides a technical summary of the measures States can take before, during, and after armed conflicts, to preserve pathways to peace.

Respecting IHL clearly contributes to the work towards and achieve sustainable peace, both key priorities of Switzerland's foreign policy strategy. This involves taking measures to implement humanitarian disarmament frameworks and IHL obligations that apply post-conflict, including rules related to the search for missing persons, the protection of people deprived of their liberty, and the return of displaced populations. Switzerland further holds that respecting IHL during armed conflict can serve as a confidence-building measure to foster a dialogue between conflict parties and pave the way towards peace.

During the first round of consultations, several suggestions were made by States to strengthen the operationalization of IHL in mediation processes, including supporting mediators but also conflict parties with practical tools and context-specific IHL training, and facilitating structured exchanges between legal and mediation actors. These suggestions were introduced as "Elements for further reflection and dialogue" in the progress report of the Global IHL initiative. Switzerland proposes to include these elements in the outcome document, as they provide – in parallel to the illustrative humanitarian provisions – practical ways for States, conflict parties, mediators and other stakeholders, to integrate IHL into peace negotiations.

Thank you, Madam/Mister Chair