

**Remarks by the delegation of Ukraine
during the fourth state consultation on Prevention Good Practices
(Workstream 1) under the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political
Commitment to International Humanitarian Law
(6 May 2026, Geneva)**

Thank you, Chair, for the floor,

The delegation of Ukraine would like to thank the co-chairs of this Workstream and the International Committee of the Red Cross for their excellent work in the production of the draft outcome as well as for convening us today.

Overall, we are pleased with the clarity, structure and content of the document, which we consider a balanced reflection of three rounds of extensive consultations. In our view, it represents a very good basis for our work to ensure the adoption of robust and actionable recommendations under this Workstream.

We are strongly supportive of paragraph 1, which recognizes the crucial role of political leadership and standing national commitment for the successful IHL implementation, particularly through designating a lead agency responsible for IHL issues.

We also welcome a set of measures proposed in paragraph 2 to ensure sustained civilian and military leadership, oversight and responsibility for IHL compliance.

In its subparagraph 2(b), the document rightly emphasizes the critical role of robust command structures and clear lines of authority for prevention of IHL violations and promotion of good practices. This enables IHL-compliant behavior, including through issuing and execution of clear orders that respect IHL.

In Ukraine, IHL has been integrated into the Statutes of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, which obligates every serviceperson to know and rigorously comply with IHL; and every commander – to know, rigorously comply and ensure compliance with IHL by subordinates. The culture of compliance is supported by the system of legal advisers from battalion level, who – in time of armed conflict – act as legal advisers to commanders in line with Article 82 of Additional Protocol I.

We appreciate strong emphasis placed in paragraphs 2 and 3 on IHL training and education for both professional military and civilians, signaling their significance for effective prevention. We have long maintained that, as a key aspect of building a culture of compliance, IHL training must take place at all levels and be a part of professional development of every member of the Armed Forces. As our experience suggests, such training must be unified – that is based on a standardized curriculum and methodological materials. Furthermore, training of

IHL training is essential. In my country, officers receive sophisticated IHL training at all levels from military institutes, where they receive their basic military education, to the National Defence University, which offers courses on IHL compliance for high-level officers.

On paragraph 3 and 7, we support measures proposed for facilitating exchanges between civilian and military authorities and institutions on IHL interpretation and application as well as increased engagement by media, academic institutions and civil society in promoting public understanding of IHL.

Of particular importance for Ukraine is paragraph 11 on ensuring accountability for IHL violations. We support the level of ambition of this paragraph which reflects our determination to effectively investigate and prosecute all serious IHL violations so that impunity is prevented and perpetrators are held to account. We do have a couple of comments and suggestions:

- we would propose to further strengthen subparagraph 11 (a) to emphasize the need “to repeal provisions in legislation exempting military personnel from criminal liability for serious IHL violations”;

- we would also suggest the inclusion of a reference to “non-judicial accountability measures” to address the systematic IHL violations. In our view, in addition to criminal prosecutions, non-judicial accountability plays a critical role in addressing the broader impacts of armed conflicts, including through guarantees of non-repetition;

- we would also welcome the inclusion of explicit reference to “due process and fair trial guarantees”, which need to be upheld at all stages of criminal proceedings for all accused.

The delegation of Ukraine is ready to engage constructively to finalize this important draft outcome.

Thank you.