

**Remarks by the delegation of Ukraine  
during the fourth state consultation on National IHL Committees  
(Workstream 2) under the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political  
Commitment to International Humanitarian Law  
(7 May 2026, Geneva)**

Thank you, Chair, for the floor.

Ukraine would like to thank the Co-Chairs of this Workstream and ICRC for preparing the draft outcome.

We see the document as a balanced reflection of views expressed by states during three rounds of extensive consultations. We also view positively its high level of ambition, overall substance and structure.

We welcome the document's recognition of an important, proactive role that national IHL committees should play in facilitating compliance with IHL.

We note with satisfaction that the document emphasizes our collective resolve to translate commitment into action to encourage all states to empower national mechanisms to promote coordination, implementation and compliance with IHL.

My delegation welcomes the inclusion in the text of many key elements that we consider critical to the well-functioning national committees, such as their empowerment, commitment to international cooperation, capacity-building.

We support the general direction of Annex 1 of the outcome document, particularly proposals for purpose, status, competence and responsibilities, structure and composition of national IHL committees.

It is essential to ensure that committees are chaired at a high political level and have wide representation from across various government agencies and other national stakeholders.

The case in point is Ukraine, where Interdepartmental IHL Commission has been functioning under the authority of the Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine for about nine years.

I would like to stress that its membership consists of high level officials from the Office of the President of Ukraine, the Government, including the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture, Office of the Prosecutor General, National Security and Defence Council, Security Service of Ukraine, Armed Forces, National Guards, Border

Guard Service, State Emergency Service, local administrations. Importantly, it also includes representatives from the ICRC, Ukrainian Red Cross, UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission, academia and civil society. Such a robust representation enables transparent and meaningful discussion and decision-making, as well as providing top political leaders with comprehensive IHL advice.

My delegation is strongly supportive of paragraph 4 of Annex 1 emphasizing the role of National IHL Committees during armed conflicts. The need for their advisory function in wartime can be exemplified by Ukraine's Interdepartmental IHL Commission, which has been providing expert advice to the Government on IHL application, including on protections offered to civilian population, children, environment, cultural property, treatment of POWs, means and methods of warfare, dissemination of IHL knowledge.

For instance, the working group on means and methods of warfare at its recent meeting discussed legal and ethical challenges around the use of artificial intelligence in armed conflict, as well as protection of objects containing dangerous forces against attacks. We believe this can serve to illustrate how the activities of IHL Committees can "breathe life into the rules".

My delegation also wishes to reaffirm the interest in regular engagements with other national IHL committees towards ensuring a universal culture of compliance with IHL. Hence, we are broadly comfortable with proposals for regular structured peer-to-peer dialogue between respective national IHL committees, as set forth in Annex 2.

Finally, we would like once again to thank the Co-Chairs and ICRC for the hard work put into the preparation of the draft, which provides a very good basis for further discussion. We stand ready to constructively engage in the process.

Thank you.