



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

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Statement of Italy
IHL Global Initiative
Fifth State Consultation on Workstream 1
Prevention Good Practices
Geneva, 25th June 2026

Italy thanks the co-chairs for the revised version of the draft outcome document and welcomes the substantial efforts made to further strengthen its operational dimension.

As this final round of consultations marks the conclusion of more than a year of exchanges, Italy would also like to express its **sincere appreciation** to all the co-chairs, the ICRC and all participating States for the constructive and collaborative spirit that has characterized this process. Italy has attached particular importance to this Workstream but has actively contributed to all discussions throughout the process through the joint engagement of experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence, reflecting our shared commitment to strengthening respect for and implementation of IHL.

Italy continues to believe that Workstream 1 addresses one of the most important and, at times, overlooked dimensions of IHL compliance. In this regard, the document succeeds in highlighting that **compliance is not solely a legal or operational matter, but also depends on institutions, leadership, professional culture and societal values**. Italy therefore welcomes the holistic and forward-looking approach that characterizes the text.

We particularly appreciate the clearer references to **practical measures aimed at preventing violations**, including the enhanced focus on risk factors, the stronger link between detection and corrective action, and the inclusion of concrete measures such as personnel rotation, post-deployment debriefings and psychological support. Italy also welcomes the strengthened references to inter-institutional coordination, including through National IHL Committees, as well as the greater recognition of the role that civil society, humanitarian actors and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies can play in promoting a culture of compliance with IHL.

We would like to offer **three brief observations**.

First, Italy particularly welcomes the stronger emphasis placed on doctrine, operational guidance and lessons-learned processes. We see these elements as essential tools for translating IHL obligations into operational practice, an objective that Italy is also pursuing through the finalization of its Military Manual on the Application of International Law to Military Operations. In this regard, we believe that further consideration could be given to the role of such doctrinal and training tools in facilitating the sharing of lessons learned and good practices related to the implementation of IHL.

Second, we welcome the stronger references to persons with disabilities throughout the document. Building on this positive development, we believe that further consideration could be given to the role of organizations representing persons with disabilities in prevention efforts, including in the identification of risks, lessons-learned processes and the development of mitigation measures. Their expertise can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of protection challenges and help ensure that prevention measures effectively address the needs of those most at risk.

Third, Italy appreciates the inclusion of a reference to the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission among the relevant international mechanisms supporting accountability and prevention. As the only permanent treaty-based fact-finding mechanism established under Article 90 of Additional Protocol I, the Commission constitutes an important element of the broader architecture aimed at strengthening respect for and compliance with IHL. We therefore support efforts to further raise awareness of its role and potential contribution and welcome the fact that the present draft recognizes the value of existing mechanisms established under IHL.

As we conclude this final round of consultations, Italy looks forward to the next phase of the Initiative, including the conference in Geneva in November and, ultimately, the “Humanity in War” Conference in Amman. We believe that the exchanges held over the past year have laid a strong foundation for practical and action-oriented recommendations, and we remain fully committed to supporting a successful outcome of the process.

Thank you.