

Fifth State Consultation Round
Second Workstream: National IHL Committees

Statement of Italy
Geneva, 25 June 2026

Italy commends the efforts undertaken by the Co-Chairs of Workstream 2 and considers the draft documents to be a valuable outcome of the consultation process, offering practical recommendations and examples of good practice. In particular, the flexible nature of the proposed measures, which allows them to be adapted to different national contexts, is especially commendable.

We are pleased to note that several recommendations it previously submitted have been reflected in the current text.

With a view to the final refinement of the texts, we would like to offer some additional observations.

With regard to Annex 1, Italy suggests that the list of potential competencies of National IHL Committees should explicitly include their possible involvement in periodic reporting processes to treaty bodies and other international reporting mechanisms, including those conducted within the United Nations concerning the status of the Additional Protocols. National IHL Committees are particularly well placed to collect and share information at both the domestic and international levels. This has recently been demonstrated through the positive experience of the Italian National IHL Commission in supporting Italy's contribution to the report of the UN Secretary-General on the status of the Additional Protocols.

Concerning composition, Italy welcomes the emphasis placed on the multi-stakeholder character of National IHL Committees. In this regard, Italy suggests explicitly identifying representatives of the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society among the core members of such bodies, in light of their specific mandate and role, as already recognized elsewhere in the document.

Turning to Annex 2, Italy considers it a valuable contribution to the consultation process and a useful basis for strengthening existing mechanisms of cooperation among National IHL Committees. With regard to the proposal to establish a "National IHL Committee Steering Group", Italy notes the growing number of National IHL Committees worldwide and the importance of ensuring broad and balanced representation. It therefore suggests exploring the possibility of increasing the number of participating States beyond the six currently envisaged and/or limiting the possibility of mandate renewals. Such adjustments could enhance inclusivity and rotation.

As regards participation in meetings, Italy suggests that consistency could be achieved between the provisions relating to universal and regional meetings. While both envisage the participation of the Chair of the relevant National IHL Committee, only the section concerning universal meetings encourages States to include representatives of their National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society within their delegation. Italy believes that this recommendation would be equally valuable in the context of regional meetings.

Thank you.