



**Fifth round of Consultations on Workstream 2: National
IHL Committees
New Zealand Written Feedback
June 2026**

New Zealand would again like to thank the ICRC, as well as the co-chairs Germany, Peru, the Philippines, and the United Kingdom, for their stewardship of Workstream 2.

New Zealand considers that the final draft outcome document appropriately captures the diversity of views and experiences shared by States, including New Zealand, throughout the consultations. We consider it will provide useful guidance on ways to advance the common purpose of all national IHL committees (NIHLCs), which includes strengthening national implementation of international humanitarian law. We welcome a number of areas where the document has been strengthened following the fourth round of consultations.

Firstly, we appreciate the focus on sustainability, including through sound legal foundations and clarity of mandates. We welcome the emphasis on the advisory role of NIHLCs, as well as recognition of their public dissemination functions.

Secondly, we welcome the expanded articulation of the roles committees can play before, during, and after armed conflict. In peacetime, committees can support preparedness and prevention, including through advising on domestic implementation of IHL and promoting training and dissemination, and building the institutional and societal foundations for IHL compliance. During armed conflict, they should be appropriately empowered to support decision-making and coordination across government.

Finally, New Zealand appreciates the clear recognition that mandates and functions of national IHL committees must be tailored to suit unique national contexts. This flexibility is essential to ensuring that guidance in the document remains relevant and practical for States with differing legal systems, institutional structures, resources and capacity.

On Future Regional and Global Cooperation

With respect to global and regional cooperation, New Zealand supports the establishment of a national IHL committee steering group, comprised of geographically diverse group of States and the ICRC. We welcome the emphasis on ensuring broad and inclusive participation. We also support the proposed strengthening of regional engagement, including through regular regional meetings, as a means of fostering practical exchange and peer learning.

We note the proposal for NIHLCs to contribute to the development of a Global IHL Initiative implementation strategy, as well as to periodic universal meetings and a potential template plan of action to support implementation of relevant outcomes. We see value in these efforts to promote coherence and shared learning, while emphasising that they should remain flexible to reflect national priorities and capacities.

Overall, New Zealand supports the adoption of the outcome document as a useful and balanced reflection of discussions to date, and as a practical resource for States in strengthening the role and effectiveness of national IHL committees.

New Zealand

June 2026