

**NPA Statement on Workstream 3 – IHL and Peace
Global IHL Initiative - 5th round of State consultations**

Geneva, 25 June 2026

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) thanks the ICRC and the Co-Chairs of the Thematic Workstream 3 on IHL and Peace for preparing a comprehensive draft outcome document.

As a leading organization working on humanitarian disarmament and wider humanitarian response, we strongly support the central message of the document that respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) is a strategic investment in peace. From our perspective, we particularly welcome the reference to the critical role that humanitarian disarmament plays in peacebuilding.

In today's context of rising geopolitical tensions, the norms of IHL are under increasing strain. Two critical humanitarian disarmament treaties and cornerstones of IHL, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), face unprecedented challenges. Recent withdrawals by certain European States represent a serious setback for the protection of civilians where false short-term security promises compromise long-term commitments to humanitarian norms. They also create a dangerous precedence by actively eroding the global humanitarian norm that bans these indiscriminate weapons. When countries abandon this treaty, or not implement it fully, then exceptions to IHL become acceptable, threatening the entire rules-based system we have built in the last hundred years.

Now more than ever, the imperative to uphold IHL norms must be at the forefront of our collective agenda. We therefore urge all states to join, fully implement, and refrain from withdrawing from humanitarian disarmament treaties. These treaties save lives, prevent armed conflicts and sustain peace. The recent accession to the APMBC by Lebanon amid ongoing war on its territory sends a powerful message.

In light of the above, NPA recommends that the final outcome document includes the following guidelines:

- States which have withdrawn from the APMBC should not engage in production, transfer nor use of anti-personnel mines
- States Parties to humanitarian disarmament treaties should promote universal observance of their norms and objectives and speak clearly against any non-compliance with the treaties, as well as any use of these indiscriminate weapons under any circumstances by any actor, including armed non-state actors.
- IHL and humanitarian disarmament norms should be integrated into peace negotiations as a confidence-building measure between parties to armed conflict.

Thank you.