

Poland's statement WS 2 National IHL Committees

Fifth consultation

Excellencies,

First of all I would like to express our gratitude to Germany, Peru, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the International Committee of the Red Cross for organising this discussion.

Poland fully supports the text of the draft outcome document. We agree that the role of national IHL Committee is crucial for the proper implementation and dissemination of IHL.

Polish Commission for International Humanitarian Law was established in 2004 as an advisory body to the Prime Minister. Its main task is to disseminate the norms of IHL for the purpose of introducing them into the Polish legal system, including in particular by:

- reviewing and analysing international agreements relating to IHL and giving opinions in this area;
- submitting to the Prime Minister periodic opinions on the legislative, organisational and educational measures that should be undertaken in order to transpose the norms of IHL into Poland's legal system;
- formulating proposals on drafting instruments intended to transpose the norms of IHL into Polish legislation;
- liaising and exchanging information on an ongoing basis with other Committees and Commissions that deal with the topics of international humanitarian law, including in particular the Commission for the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law at the Main Board of the Polish Red Cross;
- analysing information about legislative bills, government programmes, and other documents relating to IHL upon which work is in progress;
- drafting course programmes regarding IHL;
- formulating an opinion, at the request of the competent minister, on Poland's position for international conferences and on the implementation of obligations there assumed;
- liaising with foreign institutions dealing with the topics of IHL.

The Commission comprises representatives of the ministries responsible for the implementation and dissemination of international humanitarian law in Poland, including the ministries competent for public administration; public finance; culture and protection of national heritage; science; upbringing and education; home affairs; foreign affairs; higher education; and the Minister of National Defence, as well as the Minister of Justice. The representatives of the Polish Red Cross as well as academics as experts in the field of IHL are always included in the works of the Commission. The Commission meets regularly at least twice a year.

In 2024 during 34th International Conference Poland, together with the Polish Red Cross, submitted numerous humanitarian pledges i. a. regarding:

- consolidating our regular dialogue and continuing to build upon our strong partnership in order to reinforce the dissemination of IHL in Poland, including the emblem protection;
- building upon positive long-term partnership and ongoing commitment to strengthen the role of Polish Red Cross as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, pledge to maintain a dialogue to consolidate a joint understanding of the specific and distinctive partnership established by the auxiliary role in the Polish context at all levels,

recognising that it entails mutual responsibilities and benefits through which the State and the National Society agree on the areas in which the latter supplements for public humanitarian services.

Polish Commission also supports international cooperation. In 2025 Poland, jointly with the ICRC and the Polish Red Cross organised 2nd Regional Conference of European National IHL Committees in Warsaw. The meeting was attended by over 110 participants representing 33 states. The discussion during two-day Conference focused i. a. on the follow-up to the 34th International Conference; the operationalizing key IHL obligations and the role of National IHL Committees; the International Humanitarian Fact Finding Commission; humanitarian exemptions in sanction regimes; protection of the medical mission and of the Red Cross / Red Crescent emblem; the Global Initiative.

Thank you for your attention.