Global IHL Dialogue

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Statement of Georgia

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The Global IHL Initiative comes at a particularly important time. At a moment when respect for international humanitarian law faces serious challenges, this process provides a valuable opportunity to renew our collective commitment and focus on how we can strengthen implementation in practice.

In this regard, the outcome documents are an important achievement of the Initiative. Their significance lies in providing a common basis for action, while allowing states to identify priorities that best reflect their national contexts and capacities.

For Georgia, a whole-of-society approach is an essential part of this effort. We established our Interagency Commission on International Humanitarian Law in 2011 and have developed national action plans to support coordinated implementation.

Our experience demonstrates that the value of these mechanisms lies not only in their existence, but in their ability to translate commitments into concrete measures and bring relevant actors together around shared priorities.

An important aspect of implementation is ensuring that IHL is understood and applied by professionals whose responsibilities are directly related to its observance. In this regard, Georgia works with relevant institutions to support IHL education, capacity-building and dissemination.

For example, within the Ministry of Defence of Georgia, a dedicated Working Group supports the integration of IHL into the Georgian Defence Forces. IHL principles are incorporated into military education programmes, supported by relevant manuals and publications, and reflected in operational plans.

We also recognize that implementation cannot be the responsibility of government institutions alone. Cooperation with the ICRC, the National Red Cross Society, academia and other relevant actors is essential to broadening engagement and fostering a deeper understanding of IHL principles across society.

The specific measures may differ between states, but the shared challenge is to translate commitments into practice and regularly assess and strengthen existing arrangements.

Georgia remains committed to this process and to strengthening respect for international humanitarian law through sustained cooperation and practical implementation.

Thank you.