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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

ICRC

Global IHL Dialogue

AGENDA WITH SPEAKERS

Monday 2 November 2026	
Opening of registration desk for badge pickup	15:00 – 17:00 **CICG ground floor**
Tuesday 3 November 2026	
Welcome coffee and tea/ registration	08:30 – 10:00 **CICG ground floor**
Welcoming remarks • H.E. Alexandre Fasel, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Switzerland • Mirjana Spoljaric, President, ICRC	10:00 – 10:30 **Room A**
Master of Ceremony: Dr Anne Quintin, head of unit, Global IHL Initiative, ICRC **Opening Plenary: from global consultations to global action** Representatives from the co-chairing states will introduce the seven outcome documents as key deliverables of the Global IHL Initiative demonstrating that existing rules of IHL remains as relevant as ever to protect persons affected by armed conflict and that respect for IHL is in the interest of all. Moderation: Dr Cordula Droege, Director of Law, Movement and Partnerships, ICRC Discussants: - H.E. Eldessouky Youssef, Assistant Foreign Minister for International Legal Affairs and Treaties, Egypt - H.E. Beatrice Ejodamen Jedy-Agba, Solicitor-General, Ministry of Justice, and Chairperson of the National IHL Committee, Nigeria - H.E. Clare Walsh, Permanent Representative of Australia in Geneva	10:30 – 12:00 **Room A**

- H.E. Francisca Méndez Escobar, Permanent Representative of Mexico in Geneva - H.E. Carlos D. Sorreta, Permanent Representative of the Philippines in Geneva - H.E. Mr. Mario Enrique Zamora Cordero, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica in Geneva - H.E. Riaz Hamidullah, Permanent Representative-designate of Bangladesh in Geneva	
Lunch break	12:00 – 14:00
Simultaneous roundtables Participants select between three simultaneous sessions, each of them zooming in on a transversal theme of the outcome documents and highlighting the complementarity between the workstreams. The roundtables will aim to identify practical pathways for implementation, including challenges, enabling factors and good practices.	14:00 – 15:30
Roundtable 1: A whole-of-society approach to build the foundations of IHL The consultations consistently demonstrated that respect for IHL begins long before hostilities. Effective respect for IHL depends upon political leadership, professional armed forces, functioning institutions and societies that internalize the values of humanity and human dignity – at home and through a global culture of compliance. This roundtable will present the conclusions emerging from several workstreams on how states can ensure that the norms and principles of IHL are deeply rooted within their society, and how governments, armed forces, national IHL committees and civil society can collectively strengthen institutional preparedness, professional military culture and public support for IHL. Moderation: Mr. Itonde Kakoma, President and CEO, Interpeace Discussants: - H.E. Alexander Kmentt, Permanent Representative of Austria in Geneva - Gwendolyn T. Pang, Secretary-General, Philippine Red Cross - Professor Dr Thilo Marauhn, Chairman of the German IHL Committee - Lt. Col. Kahina Ait Abdesselam, Ministry of Defense, Algeria	14:00 – 15:30 **Room A**

- Daniel Vega Pinzon, Coordinator of the International Humanitarian Law Unit, Directorate of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia	
Roundtable 2: Protecting civilians - essential services as a lifeline Protecting civilian populations requires protecting the services on which their very lives and livelihoods depend. Very often, the risk of disruption or collapse of the systems that sustain daily life is added to the already devastating immediate effects of military operations. When access to healthcare, water, electricity, sanitation and other essential services is compromised, the consequences can be far-reaching, long-lasting and extend beyond the territories at war to create repercussions at a global level. This roundtable will present the conclusions emerging from several workstreams on how military planning and operational decision-making can better protect civilian populations by accounting for the interconnected nature of infrastructure and the foreseeable humanitarian consequences of military operations. Moderation: Professor Janina Dill, Dame Louise Richardson Chair in Global Security, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford Discussants: - Matjaž Marko, Deputy Director General for Multilateral Affairs and International Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia - Indra Rosandry, Director for Legal Affairs and Political Security Treaties, MFA, Indonesia - Jawad Ali, Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan in Geneva - Dr. Dalia Samhouri, Global Lead, Attacks on Health Care Initiative, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, World Health Organization - Agnieszka Cholewinska, Senior Protection Advisor, Norwegian Red Cross	14:00 – 15:30 **Room B**
Roundtable 3: Ensuring technology upholds humanity and IHL Technological developments are transforming armed conflict while increasing the dependence of civilian populations on digital infrastructure and interconnected networks. While new technologies may enable belligerents to achieve military objectives with less harm to civilians and essential services than kinetic operations, their use also creates risks of seeing infrastructure, networks and communications being shut down, data being erased and more generally societies being brought to a standstill. This roundtable will present	14:00 – 15:30 **Room C**

the conclusions from several workstreams on how technology can be designed and used in ways that strengthen the protection of those affected by war. Moderation: H.E. Sandra Lendenmann, Deputy Director, Directorate of International Law, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland Discussants: - H.E. Eldessouky Youssef, Assistant Foreign Minister for International Legal Affairs and Treaties, Egypt - H.E. Luc Dockendorf, Ambassador for Cybersecurity and Digitalization, Luxembourg - Prof. Lijiang Zhu, Vice Dean, School of International Law, China University of Political Science and Law - Dr. Erica Moret, Director, United Nations & International Organisations, Microsoft	
Break	15:30 – 16:00
High-level plenary discussion: IHL and peace The outcomes of the seven workstreams contribute to ensuring that war does not destroy the human, institutional and material foundations necessary for a return to sustainable peace. This high-level discussion will show that implementing the outcomes of the Global IHL Initiative will not only strengthen respect for IHL but also contribute to preserving the social and economic fabric upon which recovery depends and support reconstruction and reconciliation in the aftermath of war. Moderation: Secretary of State Alexandre Fasel, Switzerland Discussants: - Mirjana Spoljaric, President, ICRC - Md Kamruzzaman, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh - Dr. Mohammed Al-Hadid, President of Jordanian Red Crescent Society - Abdul Mohammed, Senior Fellow, Amani Africa	16:00 – 17:00 **Room A**
Reception	17:00 – 18:30 **CICG ground floor**

Wednesday 4 November 2026	
Welcome coffee and tea/ registration	08:30 – 9:30 **CICG ground floor**
Implementation forums: Turning the outcomes into action Participants will be invited to join one of three parallel implementation forums. Each forum will focus on a different pathway through which states can translate the outcomes of the Global IHL Initiative into concrete action. The forums will be designed as interactive exchanges rather than formal panels. Participants will be invited to share national and regional experiences, identify practical opportunities for cooperation, and outline concrete steps they intend to take to implement the outcomes of the Initiative.	09:30 – 11:00
Implementation forum 1: Implementing the outcomes through domestic measures How can states translate the outcomes of the Initiative into effective domestic implementation? This forum will explore how national legislation, military manuals and doctrine, training and dissemination programmes, can be updated to ensure that the outcomes of the workstreams are effectively implemented. It will also look at practical arrangements and institutional measures that need to be taken ahead of a potential armed conflict. Moderation: Kareen Jabre, Director, Division of Programmes, Inter-Parliamentary Union Discussants: - H.E. Haileselassie Subba Gebru, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ethiopia in Geneva - Silvia Delgado Gonzalez, Deputy Director General in charge of United Nations and International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain - Asher Safo, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Ghana - Sarah Macrory, Counsellor: International Law, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom in Geneva - Tommaso Natoli, Head of Humanitarian Diplomacy and International Law, Italian Red Cross	09:30 – 11:00 **Room A**

- Representative from the United Arab Emirates as a co-chairing state of the workstream on Prevention Good Practices	
Implementation forum 2: Leveraging international cooperation and peer exchange to strengthen respect How can states learn from one another and work together to strengthen implementation? This forum will demonstrate the added-value of regional and cross-regional peer exchange as well as cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and other partners. It will also be a moment to report on ongoing regional implementation activities and announce upcoming ones. Moderation: H.E. Clare Walsh, Permanent Representative of Australia Discussants: - H.E. Elmer José Germán Gonzalo Schialer Salcedo, Permanent Representative of Peru in Geneva - H.E. Ms. Eugenia Gutiérrez Ruiz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica in Geneva - Dr. Abdullah O. M. Alshammari, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Geneva - Indra Rosandry, Director for Legal Affairs and Political Security Treaties, MFA, Indonesia - Katharina Thon, Senior Advisor, Europe Liaison Office, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict	09:30 – 11:00 **Room B**
Implementation forum 3: Ensuring that implementation leads to concrete change on the ground How can states ensure that implementation measures taken in relation to the seven workstreams will have an impact for populations affected by wars? This forum will explore good practices in following up and reviewing implementation work, including the use of voluntary reports on IHL, domestic measures aimed at strengthening enforcement and accountability and ways of ensuring that lessons learned translate into improved practice. Moderation: H.E. Dominik Stillhart, Deputy Director General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit, Switzerland	09:30 – 11:00 **Room C**

Discussants: - H.E. Lansana Alison Gberie, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone in Geneva - Counsellor Cristina Mansilla Decesari, Director of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uruguay - Cindy Nariasi, Senior State Counsel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya - Andrea Koulaimah, Director for Africa, Asia, Latin America, Caribbean and Pacific, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Commission, European Union - Abdulaziz Al Mansoori, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Qatar in Geneva - Claude Maon, Intersectional Legal Director, Médecins Sans Frontières - Representative from Kenya as a co-chairing state of the workstream on Prevention Good Practices	
Break	11:00 – 11:30
Plenary discussion – Sustaining Momentum: High-Level Conference in Jordan and Follow-up Building on the morning's forums, this plenary session will aim at identifying implementation priorities and lay the groundwork for future collective follow-up on the Initiative's outcomes. Moderation: Jürg Lauber, Vice President, ICRC - H.E. Ali Albsoul, Director of the International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jordan - Dr. Cordula Droege, Director of Law, Movement and Partnerships, ICRC	11:30 – 12:00 **Room A**
Closing remarks • H.E. Alexandre Fasel, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Switzerland • Mirjana Spoljaric, President, ICRC	12:00 – 12:15 **Room A**