



Enhancing Protection in Armed Conflict through Domestic Law and Policy

UNIVERSAL MEETING OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND SIMILAR BODIES ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

30 November – 2 December 2016
Geneva, Switzerland

AGENDA

International Committee of the Red Cross, Advisory Service on IHL with the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the involvement of the Swiss Interdepartmental Committee for International Humanitarian Law and the Swiss Red Cross Society



ICRC

- 08:30 - 09:30 **Arrival and registration (CICG)**
- 09:30 - 10:30 **Opening Session**
Moderator:
Dr Helen Durham, Director for International Law and Policy, ICRC
Key note speakers:
Ms Christine Beerli, Vice-President, ICRC;
H.E. Valentin Zellweger, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations, Geneva
- 10:30 - 11:00 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 - 11:15 **Introduction**
Background, objectives and structure of the meeting
Ms Cristina Pellandini, Head of the Advisory Service on IHL, ICRC
- 11:15 - 12:45 **First session (plenary)**
Role and work of national committees on IHL: achievements, challenges and prospects for the future
Introduction panel with representatives of national committees on IHL
Moderator:
Mr Charles Sabga, Legal Adviser, Advisory Service on IHL, ICRC
Speakers:
Mr Hugo Torres Armas, National Committee on IHL, Peru;
Dr Basim Abedulzaman Majeed Al Rubaye, National Committee on IHL, Iraq;
Ms Lieve Pellens, Chairwoman, National Committee on IHL, Belgium
- 12:45 - 14:00 **Lunch/**
13:00 - 14:00 **Side event**
The contribution of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to national committees on IHL
- 14:00 - 17:00 **First session (continued) (includes coffee break)**
Peer-to-peer exchanges and discussion
Group 1: English, French, Russian
Moderator: *Ms Mateja Grasek, National Committee on IHL, Slovenia*
Group 2: English, French, Arabic
Moderator: *Mr Pitso David Montwedi, National Committee on IHL, South Africa*
Group 3: English, French, Spanish
Moderator: *Mr Sergio Estrada Rojas, National Committee on IHL, Mexico*
- 17:30 - 19.30 **Cocktail reception at the CICG**
Hosted by the Swiss government and its national committee on IHL and the Swiss Red Cross

Thursday, 1 December

- 09:00 - 10:30 **First session (plenary) (continued)**
Reports from working groups followed by discussion
- 10:30 - 11:00 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 - 12:45 **Second session (plenary)**
Specific issues: What role can national committees and similar bodies on IHL play?
Introduction panel with experts and representatives of national committees on IHL
Moderator:
H.E. Jürg Lindenmann, Chairman, National Committee on IHL, Switzerland
Speaker on preservation and protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict: *Mr Jan Hladík, Head of Cultural Heritage Protection Treaties Section, UNESCO*
Speaker on protection of the provision of health care in armed conflicts and other emergencies: *Mr Frederik Siem, Senior Adviser for Health Care in Danger, Norwegian Red Cross*
Speaker on protection of internally displaced persons and migrants in armed conflict: *Prof. Chaloka Beyani, Professor of International Law, London School of Economics, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons*
- 12:45 - 14:00 **Lunch /**
13:00 - 14:00 **Side-events**
Regulating Private Military and Security Companies – What Can National IHL Committees Do?
Legal Review of New Weapons, and of New Means and Methods of Warfare
- 14:00 - 17:00 **Second session (continued) (includes coffee break)**
Workshop 1 on the preservation and protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict: What Can National Committees and Similar Bodies on IHL Do to Implement the Related Normative Framework?
Moderator: *Mr Benjamin Goes, National Committee on IHL, Belgium*
Workshop 2 on the protection of the provision of health care in armed conflicts and other emergencies: What Can National Committees and Similar Bodies on IHL Do to Implement the Related Normative Framework?
Moderator: *Prof. Geoffrey Skillen, Chairman, National Committee on IHL, Australia*
Workshop 3 on the protection of internally displaced persons and migrants in armed conflict: What Role Can National Committees and Similar Bodies on IHL Play in this Regard?
Moderator: *Ms Ivonne Gonzalez, National Committee on IHL, Colombia*
- 17:30 - 19:00 **War in Cities: Addressing the Humanitarian Challenges - Panel discussion**
- 20:00 **Dinner hosted by the ICRC, Restaurant “Parc des Bastions”**

Friday, 2 December

- 09:00 - 10:30 **Second session (plenary) (continued)**
Reports from workshops followed by discussion
Moderator:
H.E. Jürg Lindenmann, Chairman, National Committee on IHL, Switzerland
- 10:30 - 11:00 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 - 13:00 **Third session (plenary)**
Recent and current developments in IHL relating to protection issues in armed conflict and to the implementation of IHL
Moderator:
Dr Knut Dörmann, Chief Legal Officer, Head of the Legal Division, ICRC
Speakers on new tools:
Ms Julie Tenenbaum, Regional Legal Adviser for Europe, ICRC;
Mr Vincent Bernard, Head of the Law and Policy Forum, ICRC
Speaker on key developments in IHL treaties on weapons:
Ms Kathleen Lawand, Head of the Arms Unit, ICRC
Speaker on current IHL challenges related to detention and conduct of hostilities:
Dr Jean-Francois Quéguiner, Head of the Thematic Legal Advisers Unit, ICRC
- 13:00 - 13:30 **Closing session**
General conclusions and closing remarks
Moderator: *Dr Helen Durham, Director for International Law and Policy, ICRC*
- 13:30 - 14:30 **Light lunch**
- Afternoon **Visit to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum (optional)**