

PROGRAMME 15 November 2019

8:45 - 9:00 AM	Registration
9:00 - 9:50 AM	<p>Welcome Address</p> <p>Professor Kennedy Gastorn, Secretary General, AALCO The Geneva Conventions today - views from Asia and Africa</p> <p>Ms. Uma Sekhar, Additional Secretary, Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs India and the Geneva Conventions</p> <p>H.E. Ambassador Dr. Andreas Baum, Embassy of Switzerland Perspectives as the Depositary State: 70 Years of the Geneva Conventions – relevant as ever</p> <p>Mr. Yahiya Alibi, Head of the Regional Delegation, ICRC New Delhi The Significance of the Geneva Conventions 70 Years On ...</p> <p>Followed by a group photo</p>
10:00 – 11:30 AM	<p>Panel Discussion I: Legal and Practical Measures to Improve IHL Implementation</p> <p>Session Objective: The objective of this session is to focus on domestic implementation which is fundamental to ensuring respect for IHL. The mere existence of the law is not sufficient to prevent and address violations, it must be implemented on the ground. On this 70th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, it is useful to recall those practices of Asian and African States that have contributed to better implementation to protect the victims of armed conflict.</p> <p>Possible Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How has IHL implementation been strengthened through domestic legal frameworks and practical measures?</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What steps have been taken to integrate IHL into military training and planning?</i> • <i>What is the contribution of National IHL Societies or other similar bodies in implementing IHL?</i> • <i>How has the judiciary in your country contributed to overseeing IHL implementation?</i> <p>Moderator: Ms. Supriya Rao</p> <p>Panel: H.E. Ernest Rwamucyo, High Commissioner of Rwanda H.E. Mr. François Delhay, Ambassador of Belgium H.E. Austin Fernando, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka Ms. Eva Svoboda, Deputy Director ICRC Geneva</p> <p>Useful Reading: ICRC Legal Factsheets: What is IHL, Implementing IHL: From Law to Action Other documentation on the National Implementation of IHL</p>
11:30 – 12:00 AM	Tea Break
12:00 – 1:00	<p>Panel Discussion II: Contemporary IHL Challenges - Counterterrorism, IHL and Principled Humanitarian Action</p> <p>Session Objective: In recent years many States have resorted to stronger counter-terrorism measures by tightening counter-terrorism legal frameworks.</p> <p>This session will clarify prevailing misconceptions surrounding the relationship between the legal frameworks governing counterterrorism and IHL and the need to ensure that counter-terrorism measures do not restrain or otherwise adversely impact principled humanitarian action in armed conflict in keeping with IHL norms. This could result from counter-terrorism laws criminalizing any form of support to individuals designated as terrorist by impeding humanitarian action such as medical assistance to wounded and sick fighters, visits and material assistance to detainees, or relief operations that meet the basic needs of civilians in areas controlled by armed groups designated as terrorist organizations. Some recent developments at the international level make it necessary for counter-terrorism measures to comply with IHL Rules – these include UNSC Resolution 2462 (2019) on combating the financing of terrorism and the UNGA resolution on the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy of June 2018.</p> <p>Possible Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>When does IHL apply to States in the fight against terrorism and to non-state armed groups designated as 'terrorist'?</i> • <i>How can States ensure that counterterrorism measures respect the</i>

	<p><i>integrity of IHL and preserve the imperative of humanitarian action?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What steps are needed to carve out a comprehensive humanitarian exemption under domestic law in line with UNSC Resolution 2462 and IHL rules? What are the other measures that can be adopted at the domestic level to harmonize approaches, so that security imperatives do not impede the delivery of impartial humanitarian action?</i> <p>Moderator: Professor Kennedy Gastorn</p> <p>Panel: H.E. Mr Ahmed H.M. Gebreel, Chargé d'Affaires, Libya Ms. Eva Svoboda, Deputy Director ICRC Geneva</p> <p>Useful Reading: UNSC Resolution 2462 (2019) UNGA Resolution 72/284 The UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy Review (2018) ICRC Challenges Report: The applicability of IHL to counterterrorism (2015) pages 16 – 21.</p>
1:00 – 1:10	<p>Closing Followed by lunch</p>