



WEAPONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Regional meeting of National IHL Committees in the Americas

on the occasion of the commemorations of the 40th anniversary of the 1977 Additional Protocols and the 20th anniversary of the 1997 Convention on the prohibition of anti-personnel mines

San Jose, Costa Rica, 30-31 May 2017

PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES:

- take stock of the contribution to the protection of persons the two Additional Protocols of 1977 have had in the past 40 years, as well as the Convention of 1997 on the prohibition of anti-personnel mines in the 20 years since its adoption;
- facilitate an exchange on the challenges that arise in the implementation of international humanitarian law rules that govern means and methods of warfare in armed conflicts;
- identify the challenges faced by some of the main treaties on weapons in Latin America and promote solutions for their effective implementation at the domestic level of States Parties;
- encourage a flow of information facilitating processes at domestic levels to implement international commitments of States Parties to relevant treaties;
- inform about current debates regarding the regulation of certain weapons and the related humanitarian concerns that arise;
- reflect on and provide orientation for the services and support offered by national committees on international humanitarian law to their governments, concerning the regulation of weapons.

First day

08.00 - 09.00 **Registration and hand out of materials**

09.00 - 09.30 **Inauguration**

- Minister of Foreign Relations and Worship, Costa Rica
- Head of Delegation, ICRC Mexico

09.30 - 10.30 **Key note address:** the contribution of the Additional Protocols of 1977 to the regulation of means and methods of warfare in contemporary armed conflicts

- ICRC Geneva

Questions & Answers

10.30 – 11.00 **Break**

11.00 – 11.30 **Legal framework governing weapons under international humanitarian law**

- ICRC Mexico

Questions & Answers

11.30 – 13.00 **Regime of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its annexed Protocols, with special consideration of national measures for their implementation**

Panel:

- ICRC
- GUATEMALA
- URUGUAY

Moderator: COSTA RICA

Questions & Answers

13.00 – 14.30 **Lunch**

14.30 - 16.00 **Achievements and challenges related to the 1997 Convention on the prohibition of anti-personnel mines in the hemisphere**

Panel:

- IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT / ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION - GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

- COLOMBIA

- ECUADOR

Moderator: ICRC

Questions & Answers

16.00 – 16.30 **State of play of the prohibition of cluster munitions in the Americas**

Presentation

- ICRC

Questions & Answers

16.30 – 18.00 **Responsible arms transfers, with special consideration of the limits imposed by the 2013 Arms Trade Treaty and regional instruments in the Americas**

Panel:

- UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE, DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (UNLIREC)
- COSTA RICA
- CARICOM IMPACS
- ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Moderator: ICRC

Questions & Answers

18.00 – 18.15 Recap and closure of the first day

20.00 – 22.00 Dinner

Second day

09.00 – 10.00 **Challenges in the application of the rules that govern the use of explosive weapons in populated areas**

Presentation

- ICRC

Questions & Answers

10.00 - 11.30

Challenges in the application of legal reviews of new weapons, means and methods of warfare as required under Article 36 of Additional Protocol I

Panel:

- PERU
- EXPERT FROM THE USA
- COLOMBIA

Moderator: ICRC

Questions & Answers

11.30 – 12.00

Break

12.00 – 13.00

Update on the debate about new technologies of warfare

Presentations

- BRAZIL (on autonomous weapons systems in light of international humanitarian law)
- ICRC (on cyber warfare in light of international humanitarian law)

Moderator: Costa Rica

Questions & Answers

13.00 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 15.30

Current state and perspectives of the debate about the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons

Panel:

- MEXICO
- INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS (ICAN)
- ICRC

Moderator: COSTA RICA

Questions & Answers

15.30 – 17.00 **Advisory role of national committees on international humanitarian law: experiences and potential as a tool for governments facilitating compliance with international humanitarian law**

Round table

Moderator: ICRC

17.00 – 17.30 Break

17.30 – 18.00 **Concluding statements**

- COSTA RICA
- ICRC
