



Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Militärrecht und KVR
Société suisse de Droit militaire et de Droit de la Guerre
Società svizzera di diritto militare e diritto della guerra
Swiss Society for Military Law and the Law of War



GCSP
Geneva Centre for
Security Policy

Invitation to the annual Colloquium of the Swiss Society for Military Law and the Law of War

The Principle of Precautions in IHL

November 7th, 2025, 10:30 – 16:30
Geneva, Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP)

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

Following the success of our two previous editions, the *Swiss Group* of the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War* is pleased to invite you to this year's Colloquium, which will focus on the evolving challenges and legal obligations surrounding precautions in attack and defense under International Humanitarian Law, particularly in light of emerging technologies, modern warfare tactics, and humanitarian considerations.

Key topics will include:

- Targeting decisions and the obligation to minimize civilian harm
- The role of the commander and the principle of reasonable foreseeability regarding collateral damage
- Integrating Artificial Intelligence and decision-support systems into targeting processes while ensuring compliance with IHL
- "Pattern of life" analysis and its implications for protecting civilians
- New technologies and the protection of the environment in armed conflicts
- Organizational measures for defending forces to safeguard civilians and civilian objects
- Legal obligations to ensure compliance with IHL during defense planning and execution

Through keynote lectures and panel discussions, we aim to foster dialogue between legal scholars, military professionals, technologists, humanitarian organizations, and policymakers. Together, we will explore how the principles of precaution under IHL can be effectively implemented in complex, technology-driven conflict scenarios.

We look forward to your participation in shaping the future discourse on IHL, ensuring that humanitarian considerations remain at the forefront of military decision-making.

Please register by October 31, 2025 by sending an e-mail to: laura.dublanc@vtg.admin.ch

Swiss Society for Military Law and Law of War
Co-Presidents: Christophe Leuenberger und Remo Cadosch
Secretary: Laura Dublanc
Contact: laura.dublanc@vtg.admin.ch

Programme

10h00	Welcome coffee
10h30 – 10h40	Opening of the Colloquium: GCSP representative and Co-President of the SSMLLW)
10h40 – 11h30	Keynote speech <i>Maj Gen (Ret.) Adrian Ó Murchú, IRL, former Deputy Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces</i>
11h30 – 13h15	Panel 1 - Precautions in attack <i>Col Bruce (Dair) Gray, Army Legal Services, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom</i> <i>Abby Zeith, Legal Adviser in the Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit in the ICRC's Legal Division</i> <i>Dr. Marta Bo, Senior Researcher TMC Asser Institute (The Hague), Associate Senior Researcher, SIPRI (Stockholm)</i> <i>Col (GS) Grégoire Solioz, Base Commander BIERE / Commander artillery training center 30 / Artillery Chief, Swiss Armed Forces</i> <i>Chair: Col Carl Marchand, Head IHL and Human Rights Section, Swiss Armed Forces; Council Member and Vice President, International Institute of Humanitarian Law (Sanremo)</i>
13h15-14h00	Lunchbreak
14h00-15h45	Panel 2 - Precautions against the effects of attacks <i>Prof. Marco Sassòli, retired Professor of International Law at the University of Geneva, Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and member of its Executive Committee</i> <i>Sergio da Silva, OCHA Civil-Military Coordination Service (CMCS)</i> <i>Swiss Armed Forces Representative (TBC)</i> <i>Eirini Giorgou, Legal Adviser in the Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit in the ICRC's Legal Division</i> <i>Chair: Prof. Anna Petrig, Professor of International Law and Public Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Basel</i>
15h45-16h00	Final remarks

Language: English (possibility of translation of questions from the public in French if necessary)