

Société Internationale de Droit Militaire
et de Droit de la Guerre a.i.s.b.l.



International Society for Military Law
and the Law of War a.i.s.b.l.

International Conference

The Law of Armed Conflict and Emerging Technologies: Legal, Ethical and Strategic Perspectives

Lucerne, Switzerland

10 to 13 March 2026

Swiss Armed Forces College

Organized with the support of
The Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport, as well as
the Swiss Group of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

Programme

Ref: ISMLLW 1242 N E 19



(Photo courtesy of Kurt Stocker via Flickr)

16 March 2026

Tuesday 10 March 2026

Arrival of Participants

13.00 – 14.30 *Registration (Lobby, Hotel Astoria)*

13.00 – 14.30 **Meeting of the Managing Board** (Hotel Astoria - Managing Board members, the Assistant Secretary General and a representative of the Organizing Committee of the Swiss Group only)

14.45 – 16.15 **Meeting of the Board of Directors** (Hotel Astoria - Members of the Board of Directors and specifically invited observers only)

16.30 – 18.15 **General Assembly** (Hotel Astoria - Members of the Society only)

18:30 – 20:00 **Icebreaker** offered by the Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (Government Building of the Canton of Lucerne)

Welcome speech

Major General René WELLINGER, Commander of the Armed Forces College & Deputy Chief of Training and Education Command, Switzerland

Introduction by Colonel Christophe LEUENBERGER VERZASCONI, Co-President of the Swiss Group of the Society & Commander of the IHL Detachment, Swiss Armed Forces

Wednesday 11 March 2026

08.00 – 09.00 *Registration (Lobby, Swiss Armed Forces College)*

09.10 – 9.30 **Opening Ceremony** (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Ms. Ylfete FANAJ, Member of the Government Council of the Canton of Lucerne, Head of the Department of Justice and Security

Prof. (Em.) Dr. Wolff HEINTSCHEL VON HEINEGG, President of the Society & Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

Brigadier General Hugo ROUX, Commander of the Military Academy (MILAC) at ETH Zurich, Member of the Board of Directors of the Society & Member of the Advisory Board of the Swiss Group of the Society

9.30 – 10.15 **Keynote Speech** (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Dr. Markus MÄDER, State Secretary, State Secretariat for Security Policy SEPOS, Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport

10.15 – 11.00 *Group photo & Coffee/tea*

16 March 2026

11.00 – 12.30

Panel 1 (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Global Security in a Changing World Order

Chair:

Dr. Tobias VESTNER, Director of the Research and Policy Advice Department, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

Panellists:

Dr. Gorana GRGIC, Head of the Global Security Team, Centre for Security Studies, ETH Zürich

Dr. Markus MÄDER, State Secretary, State Secretariat for Security Policy SEPOS, Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Panel 2 (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Is a Lower Threshold for the Application of International Humanitarian Law Emerging?

Chair:

Dr. Marco SASSÒLI, Honorary Professor, University of Geneva & Associate Professor, Université du Québec à Montréal

Panellists:

Dr. Julia GRIGNON, Associate Professor, Paris Human Rights Center, University Panthéon-Assas

Dr. Antonio COCO, Associate Professor, Essex Law School and Human Rights Centre, University of Essex

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee/tea

16.00 – 17.30

Panel 3 (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Cyber Warfare and International Humanitarian Law

Chair:

Ambassador Sandra LENDENMANN WINTERBERG, Vice-Director, Directorate of International Law, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Panellists:

Lieutenant Colonel Nick WOBMA, Deputy Head, Law Branch, NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence

Dr. Heather HARRISON DINNISS, Senior Lecturer, Centre for International and Operational Law, Swedish Defence University

Free evening

Thursday 12 March 2026

08.30 – 10.15

Panel 4 (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Autonomous Weapon Systems & Artificial Intelligence

Chair:

Reto WOLLENMANN, Deputy Head Section Arms Control, Disarmament and Cybersecurity,
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Panellists:

Joe BOUCHER, Research Assistant, Swiss Centre for Drones and Robotics, armasuisse Science
and Technology, Swiss Federal Office for Defence Procurement

Dr. Jessica DORSEY, Assistant Professor of International and European Law, Utrecht
University

Colonel Inna ZAVOROTKO, Head of International Humanitarian Law, Ministry of Defence,
Ukraine

10.15 – 10.45

Coffee/tea

10.45 – 12.30

Panel 5 (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Maritime Warfare in the Digital Age

Chair:

Prof. (Em.) Dr. Wolff HEINTSCHEL VON HEINEGG, President of the Society & Europa-
Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

Panellists:

Prof. Dr. Anna PETRIG, Chair of International and Public Law, University of Basel

Abby ZEITH, Legal Advisor, International Committee of the Red Cross

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Panel 6 (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Cloud, Data and Quantum Computing in Armed Conflict

Chair:

Ann VÄLJATAGA, International Law Researcher, NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence

Panellists:

Major David QUAYAT, Directorate of Cyber Operations Law, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Canada

Dr. Heike RIEL, IBM Fellow, Head Science and Technology, Lead IBM Research Quantum EMEA

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee/tea

16.00 – 17.30

Panel 7 (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Roundtable: The Future of International Humanitarian Law in the Age of Disruptive Technologies

Chair:

Dr. Jessica DORSEY, Assistant Professor of International and European Law, Utrecht University

Panellists:

Heidi KANDIEL, Legal Advisor, Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit, Legal Division, International Committee of the Red Cross

Dr. Heather HARRISON DINNISS, Senior Lecturer, Centre for International and Operational Law, Swedish Defence University

Robert KOLB, Professor of Public International Law, Law Faculty, University of Geneva

Dr. Tobias VESTNER, Director of the Research and Policy Advice Department, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

Colonel Inna ZAVOROTKO, Head of International Humanitarian Law, Ministry of Defence, Ukraine

17.30 – 17.45

Conclusions

Colonel Christophe LEUENBERGER VERZASCONI, Co-President of the Swiss Group of the Society & Commander of the IHL Detachment, Swiss Armed Forces

Free evening

Friday 13 March 2026

(Optional, not included in the participation fee)

9.30 – 11.00 **Visit to the Bourbaki Panorama Museum**

11.00 - ... *Departure of Participants*

Supporting Partners of the Conference

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence

Paris Human Rights Center, University Panthéon-Assas

Faculty of Law, University of Basel

Academic Programme Director

Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Assistant Secretary General of the Society