

SIDE EVENT
CONCEPT NOTE

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARAB NATIONAL COMMITTEES IN BUILDING A GLOBAL
CULTURE TO PROMOTE AND RESPECT INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW



“...calls for the strengthening of cooperation between ... [National Committees on International Humanitarian Law] on the international, regional and cross-regional levels, in particular by attending and actively participating...”
-Article 6, IC33, Resolution 1 “Bringing IHL Home” - [33IC/19/R1](#)

- Wednesday, 30 October 2024
- 18:30pm – 19:30pm
- Room 3

At a time where international humanitarian law (IHL) cannot be more doubted, yet more necessary and indispensable, Egypt - in its capacity as the coordinator of the Arab Group - is honored to co-organize with Saudi Arabia and Qatar a side event on the side lines of the 34th International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent, to show case the Arab region’s efforts in the faithful application and promotion of IHL on national and regional fronts.

As such, and in line with Resolution 1 of the 33rd International Conference - *Bringing IHL home: A road map for better national implementation of international humanitarian law* - the event will present the ongoing efforts of Arab National Committees in fostering regional partnership and bilateral/regional cooperation towards successfully advancing “a global culture to promote and respect international humanitarian law.”.

Description:

For several years, discussions within the framework of the International Conference and its resolutions have emphasized the crucial role of regional International Humanitarian Law (IHL) mechanisms. These mechanisms characterized by their technical and non-politicized nature and cooperative approaches based on regional solidarity, have proven vital. Throughout these discussions, Arab countries have consistently underscored the need to further strengthen the role of such mechanisms in promoting respect for IHL at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels.

This event aims to foster dialogue among Arab states, humanitarian organizations, and international stakeholders, with the goal of strengthening the implementation of IHL and building a more cohesive framework for the protection of civilians in conflict-affected areas. It aligns with two key themes on the agenda of the 34th International Conference: 'Building a Global Culture of Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL)' and 'Standing by Our Fundamental Principles in Responding to Humanitarian Needs and Risks.' The event will also promote and showcase the Arab Region's progress in fostering cooperation, dialogue, and the exchange of best practices at both the regional and sub-regional levels, with a focus on enhancing respect for IHL and promoting its culture.

The discussion will focus on the activities reflect the faithful implementation of Resolution 1 adopted in the 33rd International Conference by Arab states through their National Committees on IHL. Among other, the recently adopted Regional Action Plan (2023-2025) will be presented, which further reiterates the importance of strengthening regional IHL efforts. The session will also present key IHL programs and workshops in the Arab world, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), addressing vital topics such as climate change, the intersections between IHL and Islamic Sharia, and other regional initiatives.

Additionally, the event will spotlight the continued commitment of Arab states to promote the respect of IHL at a time where IHL is most needed. This will be done through the **Arab Group's pledge**, titled “The contributions of Arab national committees in building a global culture to promote and respect international humanitarian law”.

The side event will feature the following:

- Announcing the **Arab Group Pledge** at the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, titled:
“The contributions of Arab national committees in building a global culture to promote and respect international humanitarian law”.
- Presenting the latest “Action Plan for the Implementation of IHL in the Arab Region (2023–2025).”
- Showcasing key IHL programs and workshops in the Arab world, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Moderator:

- Ms. **Amal Emam** - Acting Chief Executive Office, Egyptian Red Crescent

Speakers : *(10 minutes per speaker)*

- Counsleor. **Abdullah Alrwaily**, Secretary General of the Standing Committee of International Humanitarian Law. (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).
- Mr. **Mohamed Bayoumi**, Counselor, Member of the National Committee of International Humanitarian Law.
- Mr. **Khaled Mohamed AlKhamis AlObeidly**, Rapporteur of the National Committee for International Humanitarian Law. (State of Qatar),
- Mrs. **Farida El-Khamlishy** – Chairperson of the National Committee for International Humanitarian Law. (Kingdom of Morocco).