**Voluntary Pledge on enhancing compliance with International Humanitarian Law by the 23rd Regional Seminar on International Humanitarian Law for Southern African and Indian Ocean Island States**

**Pretoria, South Africa**

**13 September 2024**

We, Governments in the Southern African Region, including Indian Ocean Island States, are committed to enhancing compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL), specifically through:

1. Establishing and strengthening existing National IHL Committees;
2. Capacity building, including training, of stakeholders on IHL such as relevant government ministries, defence and security agencies, judiciary, parliament, and civil society;
3. Including IHL sensitisation activities at educational institutions; and
4. Exchanging views on the development of an international legally binding instrument on Autonomous Weapons Systems and other IHL related issues.

Action plan

Considering the foregoing, we hereby endeavour to:

1. Enhance networking and engagement between and among National IHL Committees in between annual Regional Seminars to strengthen their work through the sharing of best practices;
2. Develop IHL dissemination action plans for engagement with educational institutions;
3. Initiate engagement on the exchange of views on the development of an international legally binding instrument on Autonomous Weapons Systems;
4. Develop and execute capacity-building and training programmes for IHL stakeholders such as relevant government ministries, defence and security agencies, the judiciary, parliament and civil society; and
5. Continue to broaden engagement on IHL at the national level.