PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE OEA/Ser.G

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES CP/CAJP-3557/21 rev. 4

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COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS Original: Spanish

AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING ON TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST   
IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

(April 29, 2021)

(Approved by the CAJP on February 18, 2021)

SPECIAL MEETING ON TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST   
IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Place: Virtual

General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2959 (L-O/20), “Promotion of and respect for international humanitarian law,” instructed the General Secretariat to continue strengthening cooperation between the OAS and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in promoting respect for international humanitarian law and the principles that govern that law; and instructed the Permanent Council to hold a special meeting in the first half of 2021 on topics of current interest in international humanitarian law, such as the applicability of this regulation to the issue of lethal autonomous weapons.

AGENDA

1. Opening remarks
   * Remarks by the Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, Ambassador Josué Fiallo, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic
   * Remarks by the Director of the Department of International Law, OAS General Secretariat, Dante Negro: [Presentation](http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2021/CP43918CAJPNegro.docx)
2. Follow-up on the pledges and resolutions from the XXXIII International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and in particular the resolution on national implementation of international humanitarian law, including the meeting and digital platform of national commissions.

* Report by [Romina Morello](#Romina) ICRC Regional Legal Advisor for the Americas, on recent developments in IHL: [Presentation](http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2021/CP43928CAJPMorello.pdf)
* Comments by delegations of the member states

1. Topic of current interest in international humanitarian law

* Presentation by [Helen Obregón Gieseken](#Helen), ICRC Legal Advisor, on “[Guidelines on the Protection of the Natural Environment in Armed Conflict](https://shop.icrc.org/guidelines-on-the-protection-of-the-natural-environment-in-armed-conflict-pdf-en?mc_phishing_protection_id=28048-c0qh2kf0s0vd587ve2e0)”: [Presentation](http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2021/CP43928CAJPObregon.pdf)
* Presentation by [Maya Brehm](#Maya), legal adviser in the ICRC Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit, on the topic: “New technologies: autonomous weapons systems:”[[1]](#footnote-1)/ : [Presentation](http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2021/CP43928CAJPBrehm.pdf)
* Comments by delegations of the member states



**Romina Morello**

**Regional Legal Advisor for the Americas**

**International Committee of the Red Cross**

Romina Morello is the Regional Legal Advisor for the Americas of the ICRC. She focuses, inter alia, on coordinating the ICRC ́s Legal Advisors of the Americas to reach the institutional and the delegations’ objectives aimed at promoting and integrating IHL and other relevant norms, with a view to enhancing respect thereof, improving the ICRC’s dialogue with national authorities and relevant regional organizations, and facilitating the ICRC operational activities and priorities of the Americas Region. Moreover, Romina contributes to the operationalization of the Panama Regional Delegation Prevention strategy responding to identified humanitarian problems in each context. Her work as part of the ICRC Pan-American Center of Expertise (PACE) includes supporting key thematic issues, researching and drafting ICRC position papers. Before joining the ICRC, Romina worked at the International Criminal Court, Parliamentarians for Global Action, the Prosecution Office in Argentina and an international law firm. Romina holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Public Law (Leiden University, the Netherlands) and a Law degree (Universidad Católica de Córdoba, Argentina).

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**Helen Obregón Gieseken  
Legal Adviser  
International Committee of the Red Cross**

Helen Obregón Gieseken has served as Legal Adviser within the ICRC’s Legal Division in Geneva since 2014. She focuses, among other issues, on the protection of the environment in situations of armed conflict. Previously, she worked for the ICRC/British Red Cross project on customary international humanitarian law. Before joining the ICRC, Helen worked for Oxfam International, TRIAL International and for the international cooperation agency of the Colombian government. Helen holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Switzerland) and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.).



**Maya Brehm  
Legal Adviser  
International Committee of the Red Cross**

Maya Brehm is a legal adviser in the Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit of the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Her present work focuses on IHL questions raised by new technologies of warfare, including increasing autonomy in weapons systems, and on the promotion of responsible arms transfers. Before joining the ICRC, Maya worked as a researcher, lecturer and policy advisor for academic institutions, civil society organizations and UN bodies in the fields of humanitarian action, disarmament and human rights. Maya holds an MA in international relations and an LLM in international humanitarian law.

1. . <https://www.icrc.org/en/download/file/121024/icrc_sipri_limits_on_autonomy_june_2020.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)