

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

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SPECIAL MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL  
HUMANITARIAN LAW  
[AG/RES. 2795 (XLIII-O/13)]  
Friday, January 31, 2014  
Padilha Vidal Room, OAS General Services Building  
1889 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

AGENDA

(Approved by the CAJP on December 12, 2013)

I. Introduction

General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2795 (XLIII-O/13), Promotion of and Respect for International Humanitarian Law, instructed “the Permanent Council to hold, prior to the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly, a special meeting on topics of current interest in international humanitarian law.”

This past September 13 the first Dialogue was held between the representatives of national commissions for international humanitarian law—gathered in San José, Costa Rica, for the occasion—and OAS member states representatives, gathered at a regular meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Pursuant to the General Assembly mandate, this event aimed to discuss ways, modalities, and possible activities “to forge closer cooperative ties between the Organization and the said entities in the implementation, integration, and promotion of international humanitarian law.”

During the Dialogue, a report was delivered on the contents, conclusions, and recommendations of the Continental Conference of National Committees for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in the Americas, held in San José, Costa Rica, from September 10 to 12, 2013. This was followed by an exchange of ideas between the members of the CAJP and the representatives of national committees for international humanitarian law regarding ways to forge closer cooperation, recommending follow-up on the conclusions and results of the Dialogue during this Special Meeting.

The hemispheric conference of national committees for IHL was organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, in partnership with the Costa Rican Commission for International Humanitarian Law, and with support from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. In attendance at the event were high-level government representatives and members of 17 national committees for international humanitarian law from the Americas, 3 national committees from Europe, 6 observer countries of the hemisphere, and representatives of international and regional organizations. The event featured presentations as well as the sharing of national, hemispheric, and global experiences with respect to current issues related to the protection of cultural property and progress and challenges in terms of armaments issues, particularly with regard to nuclear weapons, high-tech weapons, and the Arms Trade Treaty. Also evaluated was the progress made in following up on resolutions adopted by the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and on the role of national committees with regard to persons who have disappeared and members of their families and the implementation and promotion of national standards on the use of force in maintaining public order.

This new Special Meeting seeks to examine two issues raised by the Continental Conference—one relating to arms treaties and the other related to the protection of cultural property. There is also expected to be a workshop to consider ways of facilitating cooperation between the CAJP and national committees for international humanitarian law. As is customary with meetings of this kind, there will be a slot for experts from interested states and the ICRC to discuss recent progress in the application of international humanitarian law in the Hemisphere.

It would be very useful for member states with national committees for international humanitarian law to consider the possibility of financing the participation of their representatives to this Special Meeting.

## II. Proceedings of the agenda of the special meeting

### i. **Opening remarks: 10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

- *Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs*
- *François Stamm*  
Head of the Regional Delegation for the United States and Canada  
International Committee of the Red Cross
- *Dante Negro*  
*Director, Department of International Law*  
*General Secretariat of the OAS*

### ii. **Presentation of reports by member states and the ICRC - Overview and notable progress in implementing international humanitarian law in the Americas: 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**iii. Current issues related to international humanitarian law:**

*2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

- *Arms challenges*

*ATT:*

*Roberto Dondisch*

Chief Negotiator of Mexico for the Arms Trade Treaty  
Director General for Global Issues  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

*Other treaties:*

*Andrea Harrison*

Legal Advisor  
Regional Delegation for the United States and Canada  
International Committee of the Red Cross

- *Promotion of implementation processes relating to the protection of cultural property.*

*Elizabeth Villalta*

Inter-American Juridical Committee Member  
Organization of American States

*Armando Meneses*

Legal Advisor  
Regional Delegation for Mexico, Central America and Cuba  
International Committee of the Red Cross

- *Humanitarian effects of nuclear weapons*

*Roberto Dondisch*

Chief Negotiator of Mexico for the Arms Trade Treaty  
Director General for Global Issues  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

**iv. National Committees for International Humanitarian law in the Americas:**

*4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.*

- *Report on the Dialogue between the CAJP and national committees for international humanitarian law, held on September 13, 2013: [Link](#)*

- *Proposals by delegations with regard to implementing the General Assembly mandate “to examine ways, means, and possible activities to forge closer cooperative ties between the Organization and the said entities in the implementation, integration, and promotion of international humanitarian law.”*

**v. Closing remarks: 5:30 p.m.**

- *Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs*