**Improving compliance with IHL**

The commitment to improve compliance with IHL is ongoing at international, regional and domestic levels. Dissemination activities and collaboration between the New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), New Zealand Government and the IHL committee have had a strong track record across a number of events.

1. **Promotion of IHL and humanitarian principles at relevant international meetings and fora, internationally and domestically;**

* The NZ Government completed a term as a member of the UN Security Council in October 2016, in which they took a number of opportunities to improve compliance with IHL. This included, for example, condemning the use of cluster munitions in the Security Council in August 2016 and UN General Assembly (UNGA) humanitarian resolutions with respect to humanitarian access in the Syrian conflict.
* The NZ Government contributed a UNGA Sixth Committee statement on the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions (2016).
* NZRC is working with New Zealand Defence Force to plan and implement large scale Civil Military exercises about a complex humanitarian emergency, planned for October 2017.

1. **Ongoing support to the National IHL Committee;**

* NZRC provides the Secretariat for an IHL Committee at three meetings a year; and facilitates communication between meetings. This Committee includes Government Ministries, the New Zealand Defence Force, the New Zealand Police, academics and a humanitarian emergencies representative from the Council for International Development. Joint pledges with Government from the International Conference are regularly reviewed at the IHL Committee meetings.

1. **Ongoing cooperation on protection of the Red Cross emblem;**

* After a gap due to staff changes, NZRC is exploring options to update the software to monitor cases, and identify and follow up with those that are still open.

1. **Ongoing Provision of World Class training on the law of armed conflict for New Zealand military personnel;**
2. **Ongoing promotion of adherence to and implementation of, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), especially in the Pacific, and working for the respect of IHL regarding the use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas;**

*Engagement with Pacific nations on the Arms Trade Treat (ATT) ratification;*

* NZ Government hosted a discussion for Pacific countries at the First Committee session at the UN General Assembly in New York in October 2016.
* As a member of the Evaluation Committee for the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund, NZ Government promoted Pacific uptake in adopting and implementing the ATT.
* NZ Government sponsored Palau to attend ATT 2nd Conference of States Parties and contribution to UNDP fund to support Pacific attendance at the Third Conference of States Parties to the ATT.
* NZ Government funding and support to Pacific Capacity-Building Workshop on the ATT (Samoa, September 2016), including NZ-Palau hosted session on the CCM.
* NZ Government funded Control Arms to provide a first draft ‘model export control list’ which has been distributed to Pacific Island countries.
* NZ Government contribution of almost NZD 100,000 to the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund for projects in Africa and the Pacific.
* NZRC is exploring appropriate engagements with National Societies in Pacific Nations on ATT ratification. Funding from Peace and Development Education Trust (PADET) was made available for a brochure and its development is in process.

*Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)*

* Ongoing engagement as a member of the CCM coordination committee to promote universalisation of the CCM and its norms.

NZ Government continues to serve as national implementation measures coordinator for the CCM to promote universalisation and adherence to the CCM. NZ contributed to a recent workshop on ratification held in Uganda for Africa states, and attended a regional meeting on CCM in Bangkok for Southeast Asian states.

* NZ Government condemned use of cluster munitions in statements in the UN Security Council and at the Sixth Meeting of States Parties in Geneva in August 2016.

*Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA)*

* NZ Government representatives participate in the EWIPA core group in Geneva.
* NZ Government engaged with EWIPA in UN General Assembly First Committee debate, and in side events on EWIPA during UN First Committee session.
* NZRC has highlighted the issue of EWIPA on social media and at public events.

1. **Further professional development of NZ Government staff and NZRC staff, volunteers and members on IHL, the emblem and Fundamental Principles;**

* The NZRC IHL Advisor has designed a module for delivery on request to NZRC/NZ Government staff and Red Cross members on IHL, Fundamental Principles and their underlying values to build a culture of non-violence and peace.

1. **NZ Government and NZRC continuing to work on dissemination of IHL and humanitarian principles through innovative approaches, particularly for youth, and to specialist audiences such as tertiary students, journalists, members of parliament and Government representatives.**

* NZRC has developed a member led and locally managed programme for secondary schools, called ‘Women and War’. This project relies on local members to deliver to local schools, promoting awareness of IHL and gendered impacts of conflict, as well as engagement in humanitarian concerns by young people.
* NZRC has run five national IHL Moot Court Competitions since 2012 with support from government, universities and the legal profession. In 2016 we welcomed participation of teams from all six law schools in New Zealand for the first time.
* NZ Government attendance at 4th Universal Meeting of National Committees and Similar Bodies on IHL in Geneva, December 2016.
* NZ Government and NZRC Attendance at 4th Meeting of Commonwealth National IHL Committees (Swakopmund, June 2017).
* NZ Government and NZRC advocated for IHL principles to be reflected in UN Security Council products, while also being a member of the UN Security Council 2015-16.
* NZ Government, together with four other elected Security Council members, drafted Security Council Resolution 2286 on Healthcare in Armed Conflict, which was adopted by consensus in May 2016.
* NZ Government advocated to strengthen IHL language in UN General Assembly and UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolutions during the 71st General Assembly.