

IHLI Statement National control system — Brokering

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the facilitators.

Regarding national efforts on brokering and mediation, we welcome volunteer submissions and consider them an important step in discussions on exchanging best practices among States in this area.

The International Humanitarian Law and Youth Initiative (IHLI) would like to share some points as a youth-led initiative, most of whose members are from conflict-affected areas and are directly impacted by arms brokering and mediation activities.

In many armed conflicts today, we witness how arms brokering can contribute to serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. Brokers, whether individuals or private military and security companies, may sometimes facilitate the transfer of weapons to parties that use them against civilians or to escalate conflicts, through document manipulation, concealing the identity of the parties involved, or operating via national companies abroad. These gaps pose a real threat to peace and security and require strict regulation of brokering.

Therefore, it is essential that national frameworks include clear measures to regulate brokering/mediation, including intermediaries who play a direct role in diverting weapons to conflict zones. Field monitoring in both Sudan and Palestine has confirmed this need.

In addition to national regulation, international cooperation is essential to prevent the illicit diversion of weapons in conflict settings. States Parties should exchange information regarding licensed brokers or those found to be involved in illegal activities, which enhances the capacity for effective action. This includes sharing criminal convictions, end-user documentation, and judicial coordination between States.

Questions for States:

- How do States conduct risk assessments for each arms transfer, particularly in conflict-affected areas?
- What measures are in place to ensure accountability for private military and security companies involved in brokering or mediation activities?

- How do States cooperate internationally to prevent diversion of weapons to conflict zones, and could they share lessons learned in information exchange and judicial coordination?

Thank you.