



**Conference: Reclaiming the Protection of Civilians under
International Humanitarian Law**

Oslo, 24 May 2013

Statement by Switzerland in Working Session V

Mr. President,

We thank Norway for convening this important meeting.

We would like to briefly mention the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission. The Commission was officially constituted in 1991 on the basis of Article 90 of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions.

It is a permanent international body whose main purpose is to investigate allegations of grave breaches and serious violations of international humanitarian law. The Commission is thus an essential mechanism to help States ensure that international humanitarian law is implemented and respected during times of armed conflict.

The Commission's 15 expert members are medical doctors, military officers, diplomats and academic specialists in international humanitarian law from four continents. They are elected by the States that have recognised its competence.

Switzerland invites all States to join the 72 States that already recognise the Commission by making a declaration under Article 90 of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions.

Thank you.