In Memory of Doctor Ugo Genesio  
Sanremo, 31st October 2017

The President, the Council, the staff, as well as members, alumni and the whole community of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law express their deepest condolences for the passing away of Dr Ugo Genesio, one of the founders of the Sanremo Institute. His life was marked by great dynamism. After having graduated in law at the Catholic University of Milan, presenting a thesis on administrative law, he became a legal prosecutor in 1959. In the 1960s he was awarded a scholarship to go to Berkeley University in California where he completed a master degree in political science and improved his knowledge in the field of American constitutional and comparative law. After having entered the judiciary he reached the highest positions of responsibility becoming a brilliant judge. At the Court of Assizes in Milan he was a reporting judge and wrote out the sentence in the trial concerning the dioxin disaster in Seveso (Italy), and the first judgment concerning the Banco Ambrosiano affair. Dr Genesio concluded his career in the Court of Cassation where he dealt with important cases against organized criminality and administrative corruption. Over the years, Dr Genesio consolidated his studies and developed interests beyond his sphere of expertise and in 1970 he promoted the creation of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo. Dr Genesio dedicated almost thirty years of his life as Secretary-General of the Institute and in this role his unselsh and unwavering commitment greatly contributed to the Institute’s world-wide reputation as a centre of excellence and forum for neutral humanitarian dialogue among like-minded organizations and experts concerned with humanitarian law, human rights, refugee law and related matters. He will be greatly missed.

First meeting of the Advisory Board on Training in Gender Issues  
Sanremo, 7th–10th November 2017

This meeting was the first step of the Institute’s project “Enhancing Training on Women, Peace and Security: Integrating Gender Perspective into International Operations”, financially supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation within the framework of Italy’s Third National Action Plan, in accordance with UNSCR 1325 (2000), 2016-2019. This meeting of experts, opened by the President of the Institute, Professor Fausto Pocar, aimed at constituting an Advisory Board on Training in Gender Issues tasked with identifying and drafting specific training policies by establishing methodology, training needs and learning objectives. The Advisory Board would also define appropriate training activities to be implemented and scheduled as well as identify the target audience of pilot training workshops with specific focus on key leaders of international operations and gender advisors. It gathered together international experts and specialists: the coordinator of the project Prof. Gabriella Venturini, Member of the Institute (Italy); Colonel Nathalie Durhin from the French Air Forces; Ms Aissatou Fall from Senegal; Captain Vincenza Chiacchierini from CoESPU (Italy); Ms Vanessa Murphy from ICRC; Ms Breda Bunic from NATO and Colonel John Hardy from the Military Department of the Sanremo Institute. Prof. Sandesh Sivakumaran from the University of Nottingham, who was unable to take part in this meeting, is also member of the team of experts.

Course on Targeting: Terrestrial, Cyber & Space  
Sanremo, 2nd–6th October 2017

The Institute organized its targeting course under the direction of Colonel Gilles Castel (France) who was assisted by Major Nathan Bankson (United States), Deputy Course Director, both permanent teaching staff members of the Military Department of the Institute. The 22 attendees represented 15 different nations. The course had been redesigned by the Institute’s Military Department using the same scenario as is currently used for the military course on international humanitarian law (IHL) and the rules of engagement course. The course examined the legal and operational parameters of the targeting process and focused on the military doctrine with regard to the joint targeting cycle. To facilitate understanding, the participants conducted exercises taking them through a targeting process from planning and execution to battle damage assessment.
Rules of Engagement Course
Sanremo, 9th–13th October 2017

The rules of engagement (ROE) course was directed by Colonel John Hardy (United Kingdom), Director of the Institute’s Military Department, supported by Major Ardan Folwaij (The Netherlands) Deputy Course Director, Projects Officer of the Institute’s Military Department. The 33 participants from 19 different countries included experienced military officers and civilian legal advisers and members of governmental and non-governmental organizations. Using the successful programme that had been designed the previous year by the IIHL Military Department, ROE topics were examined in the single service, national, joint and multinational environments, and from a strategic, operational and tactical level of command perspective.

14th Migration Law Course
Sanremo, 9th–13th October 2017

The course on the protection of the rights of migrants was organized by the Institute with the support of the Organisation internationale de la francophonie and the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration. Conducted in French, this course was a pilot course aimed at strengthening the theoretical knowledge of authorities and representatives of institutions such as national human rights commissions, mediators, bar associations, and civil society on human rights and international standards for the protection of migrants, while also focusing on the implementation of this protection in practice. Fifty participants from 22 francophone countries benefitted from this course, which was directed by Mr Jean-François Durieux, expert in the protection of migrants and refugees and Member of the Institute. The teaching staff included Ms Catherine-Amélie Chassin, Lecturer at the University of Caen; Ms Anne Althaus and Ms Céline Bauloz, both representing the International Organization for Migration; Ms Mariette Grange, Senior Researcher at the Global Institute. The course included sessions on the legal framework for the protection of migrants, as well as sessions on trafficking and detention. In addition to these sessions, two expert panels were organized: the first addressed the comparison of freedom of movement in the European Union and in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the second considered the example of Morocco regarding the protection of migrants.

Course on Naval Operations and the Law
Sanremo, 16th–20th October 2017

The objective of this course was to examine and understand the legal regime affecting the planning and conduct of naval operations across the entire spectrum of conflict providing participants with an opportunity to assess whether legal and operational gaps in the law exist and, if so, which steps could be taken to remedy the situation. Participants examined the following areas: International law and the use of force; Rules of Engagement in the maritime context; Maritime law enforcement; Anti-piracy operations; Drug enforcement operations; Terrorism and counter-proliferation issues; Naval warfare; Peace operations in the maritime domain.

Commodore (Retd) David Letts (Australia) was the Course Director, supported by a team of experts which included Professor Wolff Heintschel von Heinegg (Germany), Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder); Capt. (N) Kevin Brew (USA), US Naval War College; and Lieutenant Commander Patricia Folwaij-Verkroost (The Netherlands), Royal Netherlands Navy. The 22 attendees represented 14 different nations.

Course on the Law of Internal Displacement
Sanremo, 16th–20th October 2017

This edition of the course was organized with the support of UNHCR and benefitted from the presence and the collaboration of Ms Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The course gathered 20 government officials from ten countries, each representing different ministries and national institutions involved in the protection of IDPs. Participants were introduced to the legal framework of the protection of IDPs with particular attention to specific issues such as the prevention of displacement, development of national laws and policies, data collection and profiling, documentation, and sustainable solutions. The course was directed by Mr Claudio J. Delfabro, Director of the International Refugee and Migration Law Programme of the Institute, and Ms Cecilia Jimenez-Damary. The teaching staff included: Ms Martina Caterina, Legal Officer in support of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs at UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva; Mr Daniel MacGuire, Legal Officer on IDPs, Division of International Protection at UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva; Ms Eliana Rueda from Joint IDP Profiling Service; Ms Michelle Yonetani, expert on protection of IDPs; Ms Barbara McCallin, Consultant on Internal Displacement and Housing, Land and Property Issues; and Ms Lucy Hall, Lecturer at the University of Amsterdam. Participants also benefitted from the intervention of Ms Angela Cotroneo and Ms Emily Richard from the International Committee of the Red Cross, who joined in from Geneva via conference call.

Renforcement des capacités des institutions nationales des droits de l’homme africaines en matière de promotion et de protection des droits des migrants et des refugiés
Rabat, 23rd – 25th October 2017

In accordance with a partnership agreement made with UNHCR and Morocco’s Conseil national des droits de l’homme (CNDH), and with the participation of IOM, the Institute ran a pilot course in French on the
protection of the rights of migrants and refugees. The main objective of the course, which was held in Rabat from 23rd – 25th October, was to build the capacities of African National Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the field of promotion and protection of the rights of migrants and refugees. The course targeted senior staff of the NHRIs of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Senegal. Opening remarks were made by Mr Volker Turk, Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees, and Mr Driss El Yazami, President of CNDH, who both stressed the critical role NHRIs played in promoting and protecting the human rights of refugees and migrants in the face of serious threats and challenges. Mr Jean-François Durieux, expert in the protection of migrants and refugees, was course director and Ms Cecilia Thompson, expert on the rights of migrants, co-facilitated. The sessions were tailored to the learning needs of the African NHRIs present and included opportunities to exchange ideas on the legal framework and areas of improvement in practice.

The IIHL and its partners plan to extend this initiative in coming years and reach out to the largest possible number of NHRIs in Africa and in the Arab world.

90th Course on Refugee Law
Sanremo 24th – 28th October 2017

The five-day course in English was organized with the support of UNHCR, the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration and the US Department of State. A total of 47 participants from over 20 countries attended the course, which gathered together governmental officials, legal advisors and representatives of international organizations and non-governmental organizations. The course was directed by Mr Claudio J. Delfabro D., Director of the International Refugee Law and Migration Programme of the Institute, and introduced different topics such as the international legal framework for the security and protection of refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless persons. It also included sessions on refugee status determination, national security, and durable solutions. The course’s keynote speech was delivered by Mr Steven Wolfson, expert in Refugee Law and International Protection. The teaching staff included Mr Jacopo Giorgi, Senior Refugee Law Training Officer at UNHCR’s Global Learning Centre; Mr Cameron Rashleigh, UNHCR Refugee Status Determination Advisor (Exclusion) and Ms Rewa El-Oubari, Coordinator of the Institute’s Refugee Law and Migration Programme.

168th International Military Course on the Law of Armed Conflict
Sanremo, 30th October–10th November 2017

The course, successfully directed and coordinated by Colonel Andre Retief from South Africa, was held in English, Chinese and Russian. The 81 participants from 29 countries were exposed to different IHL topics including the application of the principles of international humanitarian law, the conduct of hostilities, conflict classification, the conduct of peace operations, and detention.

Course on International Refugee Law
Amman, 5th–8th November 2017

This course was organized with the support of UNHCR Jordan and addressed the protection of refugees in the Jordanian context. Twenty-two participants from different governmental agencies attended the course which was held in Arabic. Topics discussed included the protection of refugees through both the international and national legal frameworks, asylum in the Arab tradition, the mapping of protection needs, trafficking of refugees, and durable solutions. The course director and lead facilitator was Ms Lobna Abdel Hadi, International Consultant on Refugee Protection. The teaching staff included Judge Ashraf Omari, Head of Reconciliation Offices at the Supreme Judge Department in Amman; Mr Mohamed Al Naser, Assistant Training Officer at UNHCR Amman; Ms Fawzia Istaiteyah, Assistant Protection Officer at UNHCR Jordan; Feras Hattar, Assistant Protection Officer (Detention Unit) at UNHCR Jordan; Ms Zaina Jadaan, Associate Protection Officer at UNHCR Jordan; Ms Anwaar El Batta, Assistant Resettlement Officer at UNHCR Jordan and Ms Rewa El-Oubari, Coordinator of the Institute’s Refugee Law and Migration Programme.

91st Course on Refugee Law
Sanremo, 14th – 18th November 2017

The course on Refugee Law in Arabic was organized with the support of UNHCR, and reflected part of the Institute’s efforts to increase the number of courses in Arabic in response to the growing need. A total of 45 participants from 12 Arab countries attended the
course, representing different government agencies, academia and international and non-governmental organizations. The course introduced different topics on international protection of refugees such as the international legal framework, access to livelihoods, mixed migration, and durable solutions. The course director and lead facilitator was Ms Lobna Abdel Hadi, International Consultant on Refugee Protection. The teaching staff included Mr George Fahmy, UNHCR Protection Training Officer; Mr Ziad Ayoubi, UNHCR Senior Livelihoods Officer; and Ms Rewa El-Oubari, Coordinator of the Institute’s Refugee Law and Migration Programme.

3rd Course on Statelessness
Sanremo, 20th–24th November 2017

This was the Institute’s first course on Statelessness held in Arabic, and was organized with the support and collaboration of the UNHCR regional offices in Amman and Riyadh. The main objectives of the course were to increase the participants’ ability to deal with the phenomenon of statelessness in their countries and to encourage the sharing of good practices among participants on how to reduce and prevent statelessness as well as how to protect stateless persons. Twenty-seven government officials representing 13 countries from the regions of the Gulf, the Middle East and North Africa attended the course. The teaching staff included Ms Hagir Musa, UNHCR Senior Regional Protection Officer in the Gulf; Mr Yousef Daradkeh, UNHCR Protection Officer in Pakistan; and Ms Fawzia Isstaieyah, UNHCR Assistant Protection Officer in Jordan. Sessions of the course included the legal framework, both at international and regional level, as well as the sharing of best practices in the protection and the resolution of the problems of stateless persons.

43rd and 44th Course for Directors of Courses and Trainers in IHL
Sanremo, 4th–8th December 2017

These two courses were held in French and English respectively and are designed for those who are responsible for planning IHL training programmes, determining training requirements, developing the curricula or designing course modules and training material. The objective of this course was to allow staff military officers, civilian professionals and representatives of international military institutions to engage with the relevant issues essential for the organization and provision of national training programmes within the armed forces. The different training modules addressed general and legal obligations, and offered guidelines for the armed forces. Furthermore, the course examined how to identify learning needs, define learning objectives, and draft specific training modules. The 43rd Course was directed by Lieutenant Colonel Philippe Frin (France) and co-directed by Major Jacques Corteggiani (France), and attended by 13 participants from 9 nations. The 44th course was directed by Brigadier General Dr Karl Edlinger and consisted of 5 participants from 5 different countries.

Journalists, Law and Rights in War Course (English)
Sanremo, 11th–14th December 2017

This newly designed four-day course was organized with the support of the Swedish Government. The aim of the course was to familiarize participants with the conduct of hostilities and provide them with an overall introduction to IHL applied to the broad spectrum of armed conflict enabling them to have a better optic when making a critical analysis of and report on a conflict. The course also focused on the inherent dangers of reporting on armed conflict and provided participants with an understanding of their own status and rights under IHL. The course brought together 16 participants from 12 different countries.

92nd Course on Refugee Law (English)
Sanremo, 12th–16th December 2017

The last course of the year was the course on refugee law within the framework of the Refugee Law and Migration Programme, organized with the support of UNHCR, the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration, and the US Department of State. A total of 42 participants from 23 countries representing governmental officials, and representatives of international organizations and non-governmental organizations attended. The course was directed by Mr Claudio J. Delfabro D., Director of the International Refugee Law and Migration Programme of the Institute. The teaching staff included Mr George Fahmy, UNHCR Protection Training Officer; Mr Ziad Ayoubi, UNHCR Senior Livelihoods Officer; and Ms Rewa El-Oubari, Coordinator of the Institute’s Refugee Law and Migration Programme.