



International Institute of Humanitarian Law  
Institut International de Droit Humanitaire  
Istituto Internazionale di Diritto Umanitario



ICRC

## 47<sup>th</sup> ROUND TABLE ON CURRENT ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

### “From the 1859 Battle of Solferino and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 to the future: current challenges and new prospects of International Humanitarian Law”

(Working title)

**Sanremo (with live broadcasting online)**

*12-13 September 2024*

The Battle of Solferino, fought on June 24, 1859, during the Second Italian War of Independence, marked a turning point in the history of warfare. Witness to the devastating humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts, particularly the suffering of wounded soldiers on the battlefield, Henry Dunant, a Swiss businessman, was inspired to initiate the humanitarian movement that led to the establishment of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and, eventually, the Geneva Conventions (GCs).

The Geneva Conventions of 1949 form the cornerstone of international humanitarian law (IHL), providing protection for particularly vulnerable categories of persons among whom the sick, wounded, and shipwrecked members of the armed forces, prisoners of war, and civilians during armed conflicts.

The 47<sup>th</sup> edition of the Sanremo Round Table aims to delve into the historical continuum from the Battle of Solferino to the codification of GCs in 1949, exploring the transformative journey of IHL between these key occurrences, fostering a deeper understanding of the development of IHL over time, and acknowledging the importance of humanitarian principles to shape the landscape of modern conflict resolution and strengthen the protection of vulnerable populations.

#### **Format**

The Round Table will be structured as a series of thematic sessions, combining presentations delivered by experts, panel discussions, and interactive Q&A sessions. Emphasis will be placed on fostering dialogue and collaboration among participants. Approximately 30 minutes of each session will be devoted to Q&A. Questions will be collected both on-site and online to allow remote interaction.

