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**LAW AND POLICY  
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Since their adoption in 1949, the Geneva Conventions have been put to the test and there have been significant developments in how they are applied and interpreted in practice. In order to expose these developments and provide up-to-date interpretations, the ICRC and a team of experts embarked on a major project to update the Commentaries on the Conventions. The first installment of this ambitious project is now available: the updated Commentary on the First Geneva Convention. This publication addresses a range of important issues such as the scope of the obligation to respect and ensure respect for humanitarian law, the beginning and end of armed conflict and the protection of the wounded and sick, medical facilities and personnel.



## LAUNCH OF THE UPDATED COMMENTARY ON THE FIRST GENEVA CONVENTION

22 March 2016, 9:00 - 10:30 AM

Humanitarium, 17 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva

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visit: <http://bit.ly/1VDCh42>

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## Keynote Speech



### Peter Maurer

President of the ICRC

Peter Maurer has been President of the ICRC since 1 July 2012. In this position, his priorities include strengthening humanitarian diplomacy, engaging States and other actors for the respect of international humanitarian law, and improving the humanitarian response through innovation and new partnerships. He has led the organization through a historic budget increase to meet the growing needs of victims of armed conflict, from 1.1bn CHF in 2011 to over 1.6bn CHF in 2015. He previously served as secretary of State of the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs and ambassador of Switzerland to the UN in New York.

## Moderator



### Helen Durham

Director of Law and Policy, ICRC

Dr. Helen Durham became Director of International Law and Policy at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva on 1 July 2014. In doing so, she has become the first Australian appointed to any ICRC Directorship in the 150 year history of the organization. Helen was the Director of IHL, Strategy, Planning and Research at Australian Red Cross and is a Senior Fellow at Melbourne Law School. She has been involved in ICRC operational work in the field (in Burma, Aceh, the Philippines and the Pacific) and has been part of negotiations for international treaties in New York, Geneva and Rome.

## Panelists



### Jean-Marie Henckaerts

Head of Commentaries Update Unit, Legal Division, ICRC

Dr. Jean-Marie Henckaerts is head of the ICRC project to update the Commentaries on the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977. Prior to this, he was the head of the ICRC's project on customary international humanitarian law; he is a co-author of the ICRC study on the subject. He holds the degree of Doctor of Juridical Science from The George Washington University Law School. He has published seven books and numerous articles on international law, international humanitarian law and human rights law.



### Geoffrey S. Corn

Presidential Research Professor of Law at South Texas College of Law and Lieutenant Colonel, US Army

Geoffrey S. Corn is a Professor of Law at South Texas College of Law in Houston Texas, and a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel. His Army career included service as both an intelligence officer and a military attorney. His last position with the Army was as senior law of war expert advisor for The Judge Advocate General and Chief of the Law of War Branch. Prior assignments included chief prosecutor for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Regional Defense Counsel for the Western United States, Alaska, and Hawaii.



### Marja Lehto

Ambassador, Senior Expert on Public International Law, Finland

Dr Marja Lehto is currently Senior Expert and Ambassador at the Legal Service of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Throughout most of her career she has dealt with public international law, including at the UN and at the European level. She has published academic articles and monographs on issues ranging from the law of the sea to state succession, international criminal justice, terrorism and international humanitarian law. Dr Lehto is member of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law.



### Marisela Silva Chau

Legal Advisor to the Operations, Delegation in Afghanistan, ICRC

Marisela Silva Chau currently works as the Legal Adviser to the Operations of the ICRC Delegation in Afghanistan. Prior to her work in Afghanistan, she worked from 2012 to 2014 at the ICRC Delegation in Colombia, as the Coordinator of the Legal Department. Ms. Silva Chau was also the Legal Adviser of the ICRC Regional Delegation for Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, from 2001 to 2011. In addition, Ms. Silva Chau has been a Professor of International Law at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú from which she holds her Law Degree.