



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

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

*“Pandemics, armed conflict and international  
humanitarian law”*

### **OPENING SESSION**

Online, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### **Keynote message**

*Alberto BIANCHERI*

Mayor of Sanremo

Distinguished guests of the Sanremo Round Table,

I'm very honored to welcome you to this 44<sup>th</sup> edition of the Sanremo Round Table on current issues of IHL, on behalf of the Municipality of Sanremo and the whole City Council.

We are living in challenging times. The impact of Covid-19 on our lives does not need to be explained to anyone, as we have all witnessed its effects on our daily life for quite a long time now.

Considering this, I would like to say how glad and proud I am to see that, even during these uncertain times, the Sanremo Institute has been able to shape its flagship event – which traditionally took place, since 1970 every September in the city of Sanremo – to an online format, to keep up its mission of disseminating international humanitarian law and fostering the international scientific debate.

The chosen topic “Pandemics, armed conflict and international humanitarian law” could not have been more timely. When sanitary emergencies are combined with armed conflicts, natural disasters and other humanitarian crises, the negative consequences on civilian populations inevitably multiply, indiscriminately threatening all its fringes both directly and indirectly.

The participation of experts and practitioners from academic, humanitarian, and military circles from all over the world is proof of the prestigious reputation of this event organized by the Institute in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross, which strongly contributes to the international projection of the City of Sanremo and its ambitious vocation to be recognized among the main international cities of peace.

Let me now thank the Institute, the International Committee of the Red Cross and all the institutions involved in the organisation of this important webinar series, with the very strong hope to be able to host you next year in Sanremo, our beautiful city.

I wish you a fruitful Round Table and good health to you and your families.