



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

Special Projects Department Sanremo - Italy



Disaster Law



With the support of

Croce Rossa Italiana

11th International Disaster Law Course

30 October -
27 November 2026
Online

www.iihl.org

Background

Disasters are among the largest threats to human integrity, security and development the world is facing today. Is International Law stepping up? Are national and international institutions, humanitarian actors, and scholars ready to face legal and institutional challenges raised by disasters caused by natural hazards or human activities?

This online specialised course will provide participants with a comprehensive overview of existing **international provisions and key regulatory issues related to disaster risk reduction and management**.

Target audience

The specific target audience for this training includes governmental and military personnel, international and regional organisations staff, personnel from different NGOs, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, academics, civil protection officers, international lawyers, legal advisors, graduate and post-graduate students with interest in humanitarian assistance and disaster risk management issues.

Structure

The course, organised by the **Special Projects Department (SPD)** of the **International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL)** in collaboration with **IFRC Disaster Law** and the **Italian Red Cross (ItRC)**, will provide a dynamic and tailored virtual learning environment to all participants.

Attendees will have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the subject thanks to a programme integrating both live and self-paced sessions, facilitated by a **highly experienced teaching staff from both academia and relevant organisations**.

The delivery of thematic assignments will be required to successfully complete the course.

Exercises and case studies will mainly focus on **real-life application of the international legal standards and strategies** illustrated by the facilitators throughout the didactic modules, also offering an opportunity to explore the best practices implemented on the ground by the most relevant humanitarian actors.

Module 0

Opening Session and Course Overview

30 October 2026

Live session at 2.00 pm (CET), approx. 90 min.

Gian Luca Beruto Secretary-General, Director, SPD, IIHL
Isabelle Granger Global Lead, Disaster Law and Auxiliary Role, IFRC

Tommaso Natoli Head, Humanitarian Diplomacy and International Law, ItRC; IFRC-ItRC Disaster Law Focal Point (Europe)

Keynote Speech (video recorded)

Arnold Pronto Director, Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations

Module 1

International, Regional and Domestic Legal Frameworks

3 November 2026

Live session at 2.00 pm (CET), approx. 120 min.

Giulio Bartolini Professor of PIL, Università Roma Tre; Editor-in-Chief YIDL; Member, IIHL

Tommaso Natoli Head, Humanitarian Diplomacy and International Law, ItRC; IFRC-ItRC Disaster Law Focal Point (Europe)

Isabelle Granger Global Lead, Disaster Law and Auxiliary Role, IFRC

Module 2

IDL, IHL, and Human Rights Law

6 November 2026

Live session at 2.00 pm (CET), approx. 120 min.

Emanuele Sommario Associate Professor in International Law, Sant'anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa

Marlies Hesselmann Lecturer in International Law, University of Groningen

Module 3

Refugee, Migration and Displacement

10 November 2026

Live session at 2.00 pm (CET), approx. 120 min.

Elizabeth Ferris Senior Fellow, Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Martina Ranieli Head of Institutional Engagement Unit, Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, IIHL

Module 4

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

13 November 2026

Live session at 2.00 pm (CET), approx. 120 min.

Rónán McDermott Assistant Professor, Centre for Humanitarian Action, School of Agriculture and Food Science, University College Dublin

Riccardo Luporini Postdoctoral Research Fellow in International Law, Sant'anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa

Module 5

International Disaster Response and Management

17 November 2026

Live session at 2.00 pm (CET), approx. 120 min.

Dug Cubie Senior Lecturer in Law, University College Cork

Isabelle Granger Global Lead, Disaster Law and Auxiliary Role, IFRC

Module 6

Disaster preparedness, response and management at the EU level and EU external action in International Humanitarian Aid

20 November 2026

Live session at 2.00 pm (CET), approx. 150 min.

Federico Casolari Professor of EU Law, University of Bologna
Grega Grobovsek Team Leader of Contingency Planning, European Commission, DG-ECHO

Sandra Romero Ruiz Preparedness Policy Adviser, European Commission, DG-ECHO

Miriam Alba Reina Disaster Management Officer, Red Cross EU Office

Module 7

Regional Disaster preparedness, response and management at the ASEAN and AU Levels

24 November 2026

Live session at 2.00 pm (CET), approx. 120 min.

Padmini Nayagam Regional Disaster Law Coordinator, Asia Pacific, IFRC

Stella Ngugi Disaster Law Coordinator, Africa Region, IFRC

Module 8

Online Roundtable on the role of International Organisations in Disaster Management

27 November 2026

Online roundtable with experts at 2.00 pm (CET), approx. 120 min.

Marina Skuric Prodanovic Chief, Approaches and Practices Section, Humanitarian Sector Division, OCHA

Gian Luca Burci Senior Visiting Professor of International Law, Academic Adviser, Global Health Centre; Director, Joint Georgetown/Graduate Institute LLM in Global Health Law and Governance

Nevenka Addo Senior Legal Officer, WFP

Stéphane Michaud Manager for Operations Coordination in Disaster, Climate and Crises, IFRC