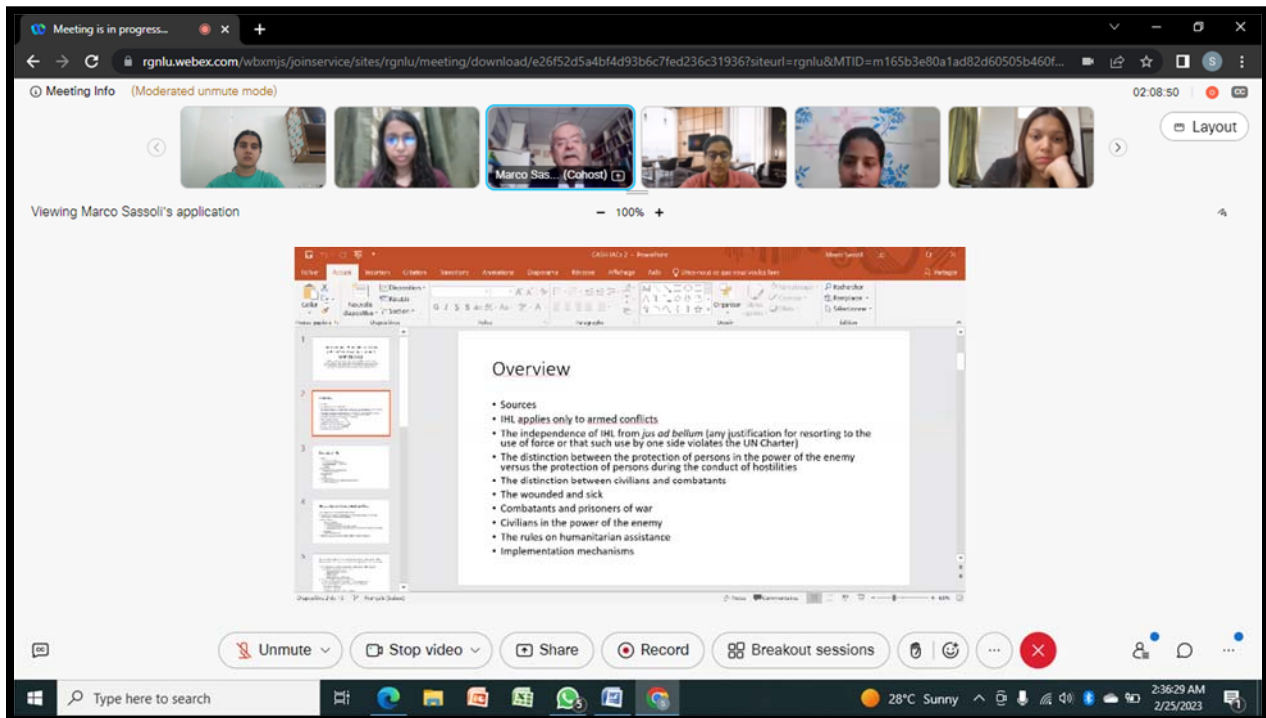


REPORT- Session 6

Two credit certificate course International Humanitarian Law

Date: 25th February 2023

Speaker: Prof. (Dr.) Marco Sossoli



Today's lecture was presided over by a leading expert on International Humanitarian Law, Professor Marco Sassòli. He delivered the first of three lectures that he will be delivering as a part of the course. The lecture saw that participation of over 50 people from universities across of the country. Prof. started the session by giving an overview of the topic for the session. He announced that the specific focus of the day would be on International armed conflicts and the subsequent lectures shall deal with Non-international armed conflicts.

He went on to elaborate upon the sources of International humanitarian law which primarily include, Treaties [including the Geneva conventions, additional protocols etc], customary law, General principles [of law and of IHL] and subsidiary sources [including scholarly writings, expert comments etc]. Prof. Sassòli, then explained the two kinds of international conflicts, namely International armed conflicts and non-international armed conflicts. He primarily

focused on the international armed conflicts which are defined as conflicts between two independent states. Following this, he expounded upon the four steps for checking the violation of humanitarian law. These include: Checking the weapon used, whether lawful or unlawful; Use of weapon only on combatants not civilians; Allegiance to the rule of proportionality; Precaution against attack and effect of attacks.

This marked the first half of the session and Prof. Sassòli opened floor for questions. He answered questions concerning difference between IHL and International human rights law, Status of IHL in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Applicability of IHL in cases of genocide and more. Post the first question-answer round, he continued the lecture by explaining the difference between civilians and combatants in an International armed conflict and the need for understanding this difference. He went on to provide a detailed description of various categories of actors involved in an International Armed conflict starting with the wounded, sick and shipwrecked and also the medical personnel. He furthered the discussion by explaining who are combatants and prisoners of war followed by the principles of protection of civilians in power of energy.

Prof. Sassòli then elucidated the rules on humanitarian law He dealt with three important articles of the fourth Geneva Convention. These included: Article 23 [free passage of relief]; Article 59 [Occupying power must give consent for occupied territories]; Article 70 [Impartial humanitarian relief actions]. He ended the session by a discussion about the implementation of International humanitarian law by implementation mechanisms including prevention, Obligation of all states to ensure respect, ICRC, International criminal responsibility among others. With the view of elaborating upon non-international armed conflicts in the coming lectures, Prof. Sassòli ended the two-hour comprehensive discussion with some more questions asked by participants. The session for the day was concluded with this interactive question and answer session.