

NEW YORK



The multiple tasks and activities of the UN often have implications of a humanitarian nature. Operating since 1983, the ICRC delegation to the UN serves as a support and a liaison for ICRC operational and legal initiatives. The delegation conveys the ICRC's viewpoint, keeps abreast of trends and developments relating to humanitarian issues and promotes IHL.

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	-
Assistance	-
Prevention	2,533
Cooperation with National Societies	-
General	-

► **2,533**

of which: Overheads 155

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	105%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	4
National staff (daily workers not included)	7

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- president and other senior ICRC representatives exchanged views on humanitarian issues and contexts with members of the UN Security Council and selected member States of the UN General Assembly
- vice-president highlighted the ICRC's mandate in a ministerial-level meeting to mark the 10th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security
- director-general reaffirmed the ICRC's central role in the protection of civilians in armed conflict in an address to the Security Council
- made 9 official statements before the General Assembly on legal, thematic and humanitarian issues
- maintained its outreach to the diplomatic community, including through the 27th annual seminar on IHL for UN-accredited diplomats and numerous thematic and operational briefings
- on a monthly basis, briefed the rotating presidency of the Security Council on humanitarian issues

CONTEXT

The UN and diplomatic community in New York continued to address topics of global concern and contexts of relevance to the ICRC.

The efficiency of humanitarian action and coordination was called into question at year-end following the large-scale response by the UN, international humanitarian organizations and NGOs to needs resulting from January's earthquake in Haiti and August's floods in Pakistan.

The UN Security Council oversaw UN peacekeeping operations and monitored situations around the world, including many in which the ICRC operated. It also addressed themes of interest to the ICRC, such as: the protection of civilians in armed conflict; women and children affected by armed conflict; post-conflict peacebuilding; disarmament and non-proliferation; strategies for UN peacekeeping operations; and international criminal justice.

Weapons and disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, remained key issues. The 2010 Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons took place in May, and the first Preparatory Committee for the Arms Trade Treaty was held in July.

Women were high on the UN agenda, with the 10th anniversary of the Security Council's landmark resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, the decision to create a UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the appointment of a special representative of the secretary-general on sexual violence in conflict and, as a follow-up to renewed reports of mass rapes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in August, a Security Council resolution establishing a monitoring and reporting mechanism on conflict-related sexual violence.

The Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute met in New York twice, before and after the first Review Conference of the Statute in Kampala, Uganda, in June.

At the 65th session of the UN General Assembly, many States defended the UN's relevance as the only truly global forum at a time when its legitimacy was being challenged. Apart from the situation in the Middle East, natural disasters received more attention than contexts involving the application of IHL. Member States continued to have divergent views on humanitarian issues, in particular on humanitarian action and coordination, the proposed Arms Trade Treaty, and universal jurisdiction for serious international crimes, including violations of IHL.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

To contribute to international efforts to protect and assist people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence worldwide, the ICRC maintained contact with UN bodies, member States, observers and civil society. Through seminars, meetings, reports and bilateral dialogue, the ICRC expressed its views and shared its legal expertise and operational perspective with UN and State officials, encouraging the incorporation of IHL and related humanitarian issues into UN activities, policies, programmes and resolutions.

The ICRC president's February meetings with members of the Security Council and General Assembly, meetings between other high-level ICRC representatives and UN and diplomatic officials, monthly meetings between delegates and the rotating Security Council president, and ICRC attendance at Security Council and General Assembly debates, enhanced understanding of each other's perspective on humanitarian issues and strengthened ties with member State and UN Secretariat representatives.

Visits of high-level ICRC representatives organized by the delegation included those of: the vice-president on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325; the director-general, notably to address the Security Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict; the director and deputy director of operations; and three heads of operations.

As part of its ongoing activities to promote IHL and its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian approach among the diplomatic community in New York, the ICRC engaged with UN, member State and NGO representatives on matters within its expertise. It held bilateral meetings and organized briefings on topics such as IDPs, weapons and IHL, and the protection of civilians in armed conflict during peacekeeping operations. The delegation and the New York University School of Law jointly organized the 27th annual IHL seminar for State diplomats.

The delegation monitored international debates on and developments regarding humanitarian and IHL-related issues, including peacekeeping, humanitarian coordination and international criminal justice. To this end, it followed the work of UN bodies, in particular the Security Council and General Assembly, and maintained regular contact with the UN Secretariat and other UN bodies and agencies, including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) and the Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). The delegation also contributed to UN discussions on specific topics, such as children, women and sexual violence in armed conflict, the Rome Statute, cluster munitions, nuclear disarmament, and operational contexts.

Events organized by NGOs provided further opportunities to contribute to humanitarian dialogue and coordination and to enhance understanding of each other's roles, challenges and activities. The delegation liaised with the International Federation's representatives in New York, to coordinate humanitarian diplomacy efforts.

AUTHORITIES

UN bodies and member States and the ICRC pursued dialogue on humanitarian issues and measures to protect and assist victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence.

In February, Security Council, General Assembly and Humanitarian Liaison Working Group members met the ICRC president for in-depth exchanges on humanitarian issues, IHL and the ICRC's mandate and operations. Monthly meetings between the Security Council president and ICRC delegates permitted regular discussion of humanitarian concerns and contexts on the Council's agenda. Delegates' attendance as observers at open debates served to further such discussions, with a debate on Kosovo resulting in the encouragement of parties to communicate information on missing persons to relevant organizations, including the ICRC, and another on the protection of civilians in armed conflict in which the ICRC, through its director-general, took on a central role.

Security Council and General Assembly members were informed of emerging humanitarian needs and responses through meetings, ICRC reports and press releases. Contacts were fostered with the UN Secretariat and other UN bodies, including the DPA and UNDSS, and strengthened during high-level meetings, including with member State representatives and:

- ▶ the UN under-secretary general for safety and security during a visit of the ICRC director of operations
- ▶ the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict in connection with the ICRC vice-president's address to mark the 10th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325
- ▶ the Security Council, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and other bodies during two visits of the director-general and a statement by the deputy director of operations at the opening of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) segment on humanitarian affairs
- ▶ the UN Secretariat, in particular the UN legal counsel and the OLA, during a visit of the head of the legal division

The ICRC's specific role and scope of activities in armed conflict and other situations of violence were highlighted during the address of the director-general to the Security Council and during briefings by the heads of ICRC operations in Africa and the Middle East for UN officials and member State representatives. ICRC operational practice in responding to sexual violence in armed conflict was kept regularly on the agenda, including during a panel discussion on violence against women at the annual meeting of the ECOSOC Commission on the Status of Women. Discussions also dealt with the importance of safeguarding neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action and of recognizing the distinct roles of the UN and the ICRC while strengthening areas of complementarity. Delegates pursued this dialogue daily in many fora, including coordination meetings organized by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and OCHA. They provided input for various reports and draft resolutions, including the secretary-general's report on

humanitarian coordination submitted to ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

At the 65th session of the General Assembly, nine ICRC statements made in committees and the plenary raised member States' awareness of ICRC concerns and positions, including on internal displacement, children and women, humanitarian coordination, peacekeeping operations, weapons, and universal jurisdiction. Thematic and context-related resolutions adopted during the session included references to IHL and humanitarian issues discussed by the ICRC with member State representatives. Similarly, during their meetings, members of the Peacebuilding Commission drew on ICRC expertise.

Cooperation with the DPKO developed, notably with a first briefing on ICRC activities for police commissioners from peacekeeping operations and the second annual DPKO/ICRC workshop, bringing together peacekeeping officials with ICRC experts. Participants at a workshop organized by UN member States on the protection of civilians by peacekeeping forces and members of the Special Committee for Peacekeeping Operations benefited from ICRC contributions on the topic.

At the sessions of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute and at preparatory meetings for the June Review Conference, delegates provided expertise on ways to encourage States to pledge commitments to the Statute and discussed developments in international criminal law with State diplomats. An expert meeting on international criminal tribunals benefited from ICRC input. The UN high representative for disarmament affairs discussed the ICRC president's April 2010 statement on nuclear weapons with the ICRC delegation at the Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

UN and member State representatives consulted the ICRC on matters within its expertise, often sparked by their attendance at events held by or with ICRC participation. Many such events included input from ICRC operational and legal experts visiting New York.

State and/or UN representatives also attended:

- ▶ the 27th annual IHL seminar, organized jointly by the New York University School of Law and the ICRC, which focused on IHL and the protection of civilians in armed conflict
- ▶ a briefing on IHL for government legal advisers by the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization and the ICRC
- ▶ briefings by ICRC experts on IDPs and the protection of civilians in armed conflict

Over 70 officers from some 50 States attending courses at the US Naval Staff College were briefed on the ICRC's mandate and activities worldwide.

To coordinate the above efforts in humanitarian diplomacy, information on UN-related activities and policies affecting

ICRC operations was exchanged regularly with ICRC headquarters and field delegations. Coordination with the International Federation's New York delegation on matters of common concern was strengthened.

CIVIL SOCIETY

In addition to regular exchange of information with the consortium of NGOs connected to the UN, workshops and seminars organized by think-tanks and NGOs contributed to strengthening humanitarian action and coordination and facilitated the exchange of views and expertise, in part thanks to ICRC participation. They also helped promote understanding of the ICRC's mandate and activities, as did the distribution of ICRC publications. Numerous bilateral meetings between civil society and ICRC representatives, including experts visiting New York, deepened dialogue on humanitarian issues.

UN media services and UN-accredited media included in their reports information based on ICRC news releases and interviews and briefings given by the delegation. Major UN-accredited media and the ICRC strengthened contacts during the year. Upon request, students and academics received briefings from the ICRC on IHL and humanitarian action.