

Nairobi, Monday, 23 November 2009

N°1

# Daily bulletin

## Council of Delegates tackles today's Solferinos

**T**his week, the Movement will address several key humanitarian challenges, including internal displacement, the deadly impact of weapons, migration and the protection of health care in situations of armed conflict.

It's a heavy weight agenda for the Council of Delegates, which is meeting for the first time in Africa.

"We have a lot of work to do, but I am convinced that by discussing these challenges together and meeting them head on, we will reach consensus on some of the most pressing issues facing humanity," said Philip Spoerri, ICRC's director in charge of cooperation within the Movement.

"A hundred and fifty years ago, Henry Dunant recognized a major need and moved decisively to address it. Today's Solferinos demand a similar approach."

While the Council will tackle global issues, delegates will take advantage of its location in Kenya to examine challenges of particular concern to the continent during Tuesday's workshop on Africa.

Other workshops will focus on the humanitarian consequences of climate change, non-discrimination and respect for diversity, relations



with actors outside the Movement, humanitarian access and collective responsibility.

The Council is taking place under the banner of **Our world. Your move.** – a global campaign aimed at showing the power of individuals to make a difference and engaging young people in helping others.

Monday's opening will highlight the success of the campaign, which has generated more than 460 events in over 130 countries during the past seven months, from Armenia to Zimbabwe.

"I can't think of a more fitting theme for this Council of Delegates, which takes place during a year of special significance to the Movement, which saw us mark several important anniversaries, including the 60<sup>th</sup> of the Geneva Conventions, the 90<sup>th</sup> of the IFRC and the 150<sup>th</sup> of Solferino," said Ibrahim Osman, IFRC deputy secretary general.

## Closing of the 17th Session of the General Assembly

The 17th General Assembly - and a Red Cross Red Crescent era – officially closed on 21 November with a ceremony recognizing the work of IFRC president Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero.

Master of Ceremonies Monique Coulibaly, Red Cross Society of Cote d'Ivoire president, spoke of the outgoing president's distinguished Red Cross Red Crescent career, from his early days as a youth volunteer in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria to his eight years at the helm of the IFRC.

Coulibaly then invited a number of National Society leaders, on behalf of the whole network, to say a few words about Mr Suárez del Toro, and the highlights of their interactions with him.

The speakers were Tahar Cheniti, Bengt Westerberg, Francois-Xavier Buyoya, Nuchrawaty Ulla, Isabel Amaral Guterres, Elvis Matute, the ICRC's Philip Spoerri (speaking on behalf of President Jakob Kellenberger) and IFRC Secretary General Bekele Geleta.

Suárez del Toro was praised for his wisdom and leadership skills, his commitment to capacity building and empowering youth, and also for his warmth and accessibility.

Coulibaly said, "Mr President, you have heard striking and sincere statements here today that come from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you. Enjoy the gratitude of all the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies." In response, the President told the Assembly: "You are in my heart."

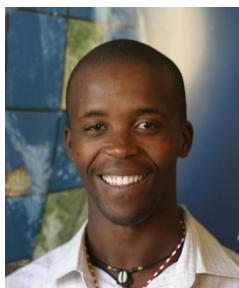
In addition to the election of governance and the unanimous adoption of *Strategy 2020*, the General Assembly also supported the IFRC policy on humanitarian diplomacy. The policy is designed to enhance collective Red Cross Red Crescent capacity, to secure and protect humanitarian spaces and to ensure that the voices of the world's most vulnerable are heard.

As well, delegates also endorsed the first-ever policy on migration and have committed to effectively promoting the participation of young people within Red Cross Red Crescent leadership, nationally and globally.



## Youth leaders speak at CoD opening event

Two remarkable young people have been invited to take part in the opening event of the Council of Delegates on Monday. Here's a look at who they are.



**Siphwe Kutta**, national youth chairperson at the South African Red Cross, appreciates the Red Cross for giving young people a platform to discuss issues affecting them and their communities. The escalating number of households led by children, whose parents have died of AIDS, keeps him up at night. He also worries about the poor access to antiretroviral treatment

and the overwhelming poverty people must endure on a daily basis. Siphwe has been a volunteer since 1997. He believes in Mahatma Gandhi's words: "Be the change you want to see in the world".



**Ashanta Osborne-Moses**, chair of the Guyana Red Cross youth commission, became a volunteer in 2002 because she wanted to occupy herself with something meaningful. At first, she was trained in first aid and was soon out volunteering daily and even on weekends. Over the past seven years, Ashanta has been involved in all aspects of Red Cross work. Currently,

she is a senior youth leader and advisor in her National Society and the focal point for the Caribbean Red Cross Youth Network coordinating committee. She was also named chair of the Red Cross Red Crescent youth commission during the General Assembly.



## ***Assisting migrants and IDPs requires distinct but coordinated action***

Worldwide, it's estimated that there are around 200 million migrants, 15 to 20 per cent of whom have been deemed "irregular", causing them to live outside or on the fringes of health, legal and social systems.

It's also estimated that around 26 million people are displaced within their own countries due to armed conflict and violence, while many more have been forced to flee their homes due to natural disasters and other factors.

The vulnerability of both groups is of growing and particular concern to National Societies, the ICRC and the IFRC, yet the operational approach and legal regulations that apply to migration and internal displacement are quite different, requiring coordinated humanitarian action from the various components of the Movement.

"When it comes to internal displacement, the main objective is to try to prevent it from happening in the first place," explains Angela Gussing, Deputy Director of Operations for the ICRC. "But if it does happen, then relief and care for IDPs and their host communities becomes the priority, followed by efforts to enable them to return home safely. The Movement is already doing a lot in this respect."

By contrast, migration isn't a negative phenomenon as such, which is one of the reasons that distinct but complementary Movement policies addressing the individual issues are being presented to the Council of Delegates, according to Thomas Linde, the IFRC's special representative on migration.

"In terms of migration, our action must not seek to prevent it, but rather alleviate the pressures that force people to migrate against their will and desire, and address the long-term needs of vulnerable migrants," says Linde.

Both the IFRC and ICRC agree that the plans complement each other and play to the Movement's strengths.

"Together, they will reinforce the roles of each of the components of the Movement, and guide us in jointly addressing the humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities of internally displaced populations and migrants," Gussing points out.

"The role of National Societies and their access to communities is definitely underscored in each document," Linde adds. "The main actor for the Policy on Internal Displacement is clearly the Movement as a whole, while the primary actors dealing with migration are, first and foremost, National Societies, supported by the IFRC and ICRC. I think both policies will go a long way in helping and protecting these at-risk groups."



## Our World – At War reveals hope

*As part of the Movement's Our world. Your move. campaign, the ICRC asked five well-known war photographers to document the impact of armed violence on people's day-to-day lives in eight countries: Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Haiti, Lebanon, Liberia and the Philippines. The exhibit offers a first-hand look at what war and armed violence do to people's lives – from the heartbreaking loneliness of the internally displaced to the unbridled joy of two young brothers reunited after being separated by fighting.*

*The images depict the reality and brutality of armed conflict, but they also show that even in the darkest hours of despair there is a sense of hope and pride. They also show that while war and violence can strip people of many things, the one enduring and universal thing we all share is human dignity.*



### < AFGHANISTAN

The life of a paraplegic with spinal-cord injuries is extremely difficult, but even more so in Afghanistan. Relatives play an important role in care and rehabilitation for patients. This photograph shows patients at the ICRC's orthopaedic centre in Kabul exercising with callipers with help from their relatives. Training patients and their relatives to cope with the challenges before them takes a minimum of two months. © CICR/VII/NACHTWEY, James

### CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF) >

Roger Bimael is a 17-year-old who was separated from his family and given up for dead by his mother in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He was reunited with his loved ones by the ICRC.

Every year, the ICRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies help hundreds of thousands of people get back in touch with their families or learn the fate of missing relatives. © CICR/VII/HAVIV, Ron



### < COLOMBIA

In 2009, 20-year-old Francisco and a friend unknowingly strayed into a minefield. Francisco's right foot was blown off and his friend permanently blinded.

Anti-personnel landmines and leftover unexploded ordnance still do great damage in many rural communities in Colombia. It is impossible to farm land contaminated by these weapons. Because of them, people are forced to leave their homes and unable to return. © CICR/VII/PAGETTI, Franco



### < GEORGIA

Vasilii Zigibarts is one of the 250,000 Georgians who fled Abkhazia during the conflict 16 years ago. Since then, he has lived in this bare room in a collective centre for the displaced in Zugdidi, Western Georgia.

The region bordering Abkhazia continues to struggle to absorb the large population of displaced persons, most of whom live in abject poverty. © CICR/VII/KRATOCHVIL, Antonin



## and dignity in the midst of despair



### < HAITI

Roudeline Lamy and her daughter sleep on slabs of concrete in a shack that floods every time it rains. In 2006, Roudeline was shot in the stomach during a gun battle between rival armed gangs in Cite Soleil. Her three-month-old baby, whom she was carrying, fell out of her arms and onto the ground.

Her daughter, now three years old, is paralyzed from the waist down. As her husband was killed by the gangs, Roudeline and her daughter are forced to rely on the charity of friends. © CICR/VII/HAVIV, Ron

### LEBANON >

During the war with Israel in 2006, almost all the bakeries in Tyre, Lebanon, were shut. This bakery in Rashidiyeh and another in Tyre proper were left the task of feeding the entire population. Bread is a staple food in Lebanon.

With fuel and flour provided in part by the ICRC, the Rashidiyeh bakery was able to produce up to four tons of bread a day. This was enough for 100,000 people including both Palestinians and Lebanese. © CICR/VII/PAGETTI, Franco



### < LIBERIA

Amputee football has been the source of enormous hope and solace for one of the most marginalized groups in Liberia young men.

They are, most of them, victims of the war. That some of them took part in it only adds to the stigmatization of the group. Amputee football restores their hope. © CICR/VII/MORRIS, Christopher

### PHILIPPINES >

The ICRC provides rice, cooking oil, soap and tarpaulin sheets to people displaced by the fighting in the southern Philippines. Here, on the island of Mindanao, two men cross a frequently flooded section of road carrying much-needed food supplies for which they had waited for hours in blistering heat.

After heavy rain, this dirt road to an evacuation centre can become virtually impassable, isolating desperate civilians. © CICR/VII/NACHTWEY, James



***Over the past seven months, Our World – At War has travelled to more than 40 countries and can be seen at the Council of Delegates. It's expected to continue touring around the globe in the years to come.***

***The ICRC would like to thank National Societies for their tremendous support of the exhibit and the Our world. Your move. campaign as a whole.***

## ***Governance Group on HIV and AIDS***

More than 33 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. Each day, 6,000 more people will be infected. The pandemic's devastating social, economic, health and demographic impact is felt around the world, particularly in sub-Saharan African countries, the Caribbean and Asia. According to a UNDP assessment, HIV has inflicted the single greatest reversal in human development in modern history.

In the past two years, the Governance Group on HIV and AIDS group has met four times to discuss the guidance and advice of the IFRC, and to make recommendations for future Red Cross Red Crescent interventions. Issues discussed, and solutions considered, include:

- the formation of a 'Red Cross Red Crescent people living with HIV' network, or RCRC+, to tackle discrimination and stigma related to HIV/AIDS and become Masambo Fund champions within the IFRC
- the progress and future of the Global Alliance on HIV
- funding shortages for HIV programme implementation
- ways to strengthen current support for the increasing phenomena of children orphaned by AIDS, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa
- profiling IFRC work on HIV, through participation in different global forums such as International AIDS conferences
- contributing to IFRC's Strategy 2020
- the development of generic tools to support National Societies' capacity building
- assessing the IFRC's technical capacity to provide public health professionals on HIV to support National Societies' capacity building for scaled up interventions on HIV.

In 2008, nearly 23 million people were reached through prevention messages and received psychosocial support, according to the HIV programme performance global reports of 72 National Societies.

The group recommended the continuation of the mandate to advise the next Governing Board to maintain the momentum built to address the challenges of HIV and mitigation of its impacts.

## ***Masambo Fund***

The Masambo Fund Foundation was created in honour of Masambo Mundega, a Zimbabwean Red Cross volunteer who had AIDS. She cared for people that were HIV positive before dying in 2001.

If she had been able to access treatment she would probably still be with us today.

The Masambo Fund was formed to help keep dedicated volunteers and staff alive, by providing life-saving drugs, healthcare and nutritional care.

Since 2004, the Masambo Fund has provided access to life-saving anti-retroviral treatment for dozens of Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers across the world.

Demand for Masambo Fund support is increasing, while the number of donations has decreased. Without continued support the pandemic will continue to deplete our most important resource.

A contribution of only 80 Swiss francs a month is enough to keep a Red Cross Red Crescent colleague alive and ensure that their humanitarian work can continue.

Information on how to donate can be found on FedNet at <https://fednet.ifrc.org/sw10501.asp>.



## ***Side event: Capacity Building and Believe in Humanity***



More than 30 National Societies gathered late on the third day of the General Assembly to discuss new approaches to building capacity.

Capacity building has been at the heart of all Federation strategies and approaches for many years, and it has been successful in many cases. However, it is clear that more needs to be done to truly support the development and strengthening of National Societies.

The IFRC's recently-developed Intensified Capacity Building programme (ICB) aims to meet this need. The side event was arranged in part to raise awareness of the ICB and to outline the requirements that National Societies need to meet to be eligible for this focused assistance.

Crucially, the ICB approach aims to be holistic. Rather than segmenting capacity building from other streams of support, it is designed to enconce developmental assistance in a much broader sense.

Successful applicants receive support in planning – they are given detailed but practical support to design their own strategy for their growth – and in development assistance to implement their plans. To date, 29 National Societies have benefited at the planning level, and, of these, 13 have secured additional development level support.

Both the Burundi and Macedonia Red Cross Societies were presented as examples, showing the success of ICB, and the Australian Red Cross shared their findings on programme sustainability.

---

## ***Kenya Red Cross volunteers: Lending a helping hand***



Dotted about the UN complex, at the airport, in hotel receptions, delegates have been met and assisted by smiling Kenya Red Cross volunteers. Instantly recognizable in their red t-shirts, they have provided an invaluable contribution to the smooth running of the Nairobi meetings.

Nearly 200 volunteers were involved with the General Assembly and will continue throughout the Council of Delegates. Intense preparations began two weeks before the General Assembly started, as volunteers were trained in first aid, public relations, welcome service, international relations, venue orientation and background of the event.

Linda Ngesa, one of the volunteers, was at the venue days before everything started, preparing her exhibition stand and mounting pictures for the 'Our World -at War' gallery.

It has been tiring but rewarding," she says to be part of hosting such an important meeting in Africa.

Dorothy Shivere, youth volunteer coordinator for the Kenya Red Cross, explains the process: "Beginning in early August we started recruiting volunteers from language schools and universities. These young people have really shown the virtues of patience and incredible commitment. They arrive early in the morning, and continue working until tasks are accomplished. It's impressive."

"It has been such a great experience to be part of the team for this big event. I am learning many new skills, especially interpersonal as well as international relations, which is truly worth it," added Dorothy.



## Profile: John Sibi Okumu

### Host - Council of Delegates opening event



**This is the first time that the world's biggest humanitarian network is meeting on this scale in Africa. Do you view this as significant?**

Most certainly, and for the sad reason that many of the world's major conflicts are on our continent. We yearn for the day when Africa will not be regarded in the general consciousness as the continent of poverty, conflict and disease. But in the meantime, it is fitting that we go some way in exploding the perception that all is doom and gloom in Africa. This meeting should focus a positive spotlight on us.

**What role can African celebrities, like yourself, play in mobilising support for people affected by armed conflict, disasters, disease and climate change?**

*The Council of Delegates will start with an opening event, highlighting the success of the **Our world. Your move.** campaign and the power of young people to make a difference.*

*The event will be hosted by Kenyan writer, presenter and actor-director, **John Sibi Okumu**, who is known internationally for his role in the films, *The Constant Gardener* and *Shake Hands With The Devil*.*

*He is also a highly sought-after public speaker and former host of the TV interview show, *The Summit* and currently, the *Zain Africa Challenge*.*

*The Daily Bulletin asked him a few questions.*

With celebrity there comes responsibility. However, celebrities have to be given a credible context in which to exercise this responsibility to influence other human beings. And they have to speak from intimate knowledge of the issues, rather than uninformed vanity. I have had the privilege of narrating two films for the ICRC and of being asked to be MC for this important ceremony, so this gives me an understanding of the work of your Movement.

**You'll be speaking to two rather extraordinary young people during Monday's opening event. How do you see youths making a difference in Africa and beyond?**

You're inviting me to indulge another passion of mine... Aside from my artistic pursuits, I have been a teacher for close to 30 years and for me, our hope and indeed the hope of successive generations, lies undoubtedly in the young. Even more so in their good health and good education.

## Quick guide to UNON facilities

### Security measures at UNON

All delegates, staff, volunteers and guests attending the statutory meetings or visiting the venue must wear an accreditation badge at all times.

### Bank

A branch of the Kenya Commercial Bank is based inside the UNON conference compound, close to the plenary room. Currency exchange service is provided and ATM machines will be available. The bank is open from Monday – Friday, 8:30 to 16:30.

### Shuttle service

A shuttle service will run mornings and evenings between the respective hotels and UNON. A daily transport schedule will be posted in the lobby of each hotel as well as at the Red Cross Red Crescent transport desk, near the exhibition area at UNON. Delegates are requested to arrive on time.

### Public transport

Please only use "Princess Taxi" – +254 (0) 733 758 997 or +254 (0) 722 724 637 – or hotel-approved cabs for transportation. Do not use public transportation.

### Restaurant/Café/Bar

There are three restaurants on the UNON compound, where payment is only accepted in cash (KSH).

The main restaurant, closest to the plenary room, will serve lunch until 15:00; snacks and drinks will be available until late evening.

Please note that it is strictly forbidden to take food or drinks into the meeting rooms. Bottled water will be provided at each delegate's seat.