



28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

How to proceed

(Approved by the Standing Commission on 17-18 February 2003)

**For internal
use only**

1. Concept

In addition to the resolutions, including the Declaration and the Agenda for Humanitarian Action, that are to be discussed and collectively adopted at the 28th International Conference, specific humanitarian commitments for the period 2004-2007 may be undertaken voluntarily by the participants, acting independently or jointly, in the form of pledges.

2. Sponsors

Each participant in the Conference (i.e. National Societies, governments, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and observers) is free to make an individual pledge, to sponsor – individually or jointly – a proposal for a collective pledge or to endorse a collective pledge.

As a means of stimulating partnership within the Conference and group dynamics on humanitarian commitments of common interest, the sponsorship or endorsement of collective pledges is welcome.

Once a collective pledge is presented as final (see "Registration" below), its original sponsor(s) and all the subsequent signatories will be considered as **co-sponsors**.

3. Content

Each pledge should relate to the overall theme and the agenda of the Conference. In that regard, the non-paper ("Concept of the Conference") issued in October 2002 offers some initial points of reference. In the later stages of the 2003 preparatory process, the draft provisional agenda, the background documents (including the draft resolutions and the proposed Declaration and Agenda for Humanitarian Action) and the topics of the workshops will provide further indications.

The pledges should:

- preferably be drafted in such a way as to allow other interested participants in the Conference to endorse them;
- be reasonably short (maximum 10 lines);
- be **action-oriented, specific and indicate, in measurable terms, the objectives** to be reached in the period 2004-2007;
- state their link to the agenda and the general goals of the Conference;

4. Registration

As of 2 June 2003, all participants in the Conference are invited to submit their pledges on the enclosed "**Registration form for pledges**" (Annex 1).

Moreover, they will have the opportunity to publicize their draft pledges before the Conference opens – this should be of particular interest to those who wish to initiate group dynamics on collective pledges – in any of the following ways.

Prior to the Conference:

- From 2 June 2003 until the beginning of the Conference, participants may fill out and send in a registration form for pledges to the Secretariat of the Standing Commission (9-11 La Vy-des-Champs, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland; tel.: +41 22 730 20 32; fax.: +41 22 730 20 27; e-mail: standcom@bluewin.ch). The proposed pledges will be posted on the ICRC website (www.icrc.org).
- At the request of the sponsors, copies of the registration forms received before 1 October 2003 will be mailed to the other participants.

During the Conference:

- *A pledge stand will be open in the Conference venue from Tuesday 2 December (4 p.m.) to Friday 5 December (2 p.m.)* throughout the working hours of the Conference. (For National Societies, the stand will also be open during the Council of Delegates, 1-2 December). Draft pledges (including those sent in before the Conference) can be amended or finalized and new pledges registered at the stand until 2 p.m. on Friday 5 December.
- The pledge stand, which will be centrally located and easy to spot, will allow participants both to make their own pledges and to read the pledges made by others (these can also be accessed through the nearby computer bank). A team will be available throughout the working hours of the Conference to help delegations register and file their pledges.
- Copies of the registration form will be available at the stand in English, French and Spanish. Once completed, the pledges will be included in the *Honour Book*, under plastic cover and filed in alphabetic order by country name. The pledges will also be registered electronically on the Movement's website.

5. Announcement

Each *Daily Bulletin* of the Conference will contain a list of participants who made pledges the previous day and an overview of all the pledges made so far.

The results of the pledging will be announced at the *closing ceremony* on 6 December, following the presentation of the Conference resolutions, Declaration and Agenda for Humanitarian Action. An overview will be given by topic, and the names of the participants that have made pledges will be communicated.

6. Follow-up

In order to allow for appropriate follow-up on the fulfilment of pledges at the next International Conference (2007), the organizers propose the following steps:

- As the pledges are considered an integral part of the International Conference, the *resolution* adopting the Agenda for Humanitarian Action will welcome them and request their sponsors to report on their implementation at the next Conference.
- Summary information on the pledges will be given in the *Conference Report*.
- The sponsor of a pledge will be invited to clearly designate the person(s) signing that pledge and the authority that will be in charge of following up and reporting on its implementation. For collective pledges, the co-sponsors are free to designate a single follow-up mechanism (e.g.: one of the co-sponsors is appointed to issue a collective report) or to leave that follow-up to the individual responsibility of each.
- The Standing Commission and the co-hosts of the Conference will ensure that all pledges are kept posted on a *public website* until the next Conference. Sponsors will have the opportunity to report on the implementation of their pledges (i.e.: individual or collective progress or final reports) and to share that information with the other participants in the Conference on that website.

XXVIII^e

Conférence internationale

de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Genève 2003

Comité d'organisation

Case postale 372, CH-1211 Genève 19,
Suisse

XXVIIIth

International Conference

of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
Geneva 2003

Organizing Committee

P.O. Box 372, CH-1211 Geneva 19,
Switzerland

XXVIII

Conferencia Internacional

de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
Ginebra 2003

Comité de organización

Apartado postal 372, CH-1211 Ginebra 19,
Suiza