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**30th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

Geneva, Switzerland,
26-30 November 2007

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE 28th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
(2004-2007)**

INTRODUCTION

**Document prepared jointly by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

Geneva, October 2007

FOLLOW-UP TO THE 28TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (2004-2007)

INTRODUCTION

Resolution 1 of the 28th International Conference requested: *"all members of the Conference to inform the ICRC and the International Federation on progress made with the implementation of the Declaration and the Agenda for Humanitarian Action, with a view to the presentation of a report on implementation to the International Conference in 2007"*.

1. Background information

In Resolution 1, the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (2003) adopted by consensus a Declaration and the Agenda for Humanitarian Action. These two documents highlighted commitments made by States and the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the "Movement")¹ on crucial humanitarian questions. They also proposed priorities, objectives and actions relating to the theme of protecting human dignity. Conference participants made individual and collective pledges, complementing these consensus-based results.

In the light of these ambitious humanitarian decisions, it was left up to members of the Conference and other interested parties to take action, and to establish the partnerships needed to build the necessary momentum.

The ICRC and the International Federation have produced this report on the follow-up to the 28th International Conference on the basis of information received from members before 31 July 2007. The report will be presented in plenary to the 30th International Conference and will be supplemented with up-to-date information at the time of the Conference.

§ Resolution 1 and the Declaration "Protecting human dignity"

Resolution 1 and the Declaration of the 28th International Conference affirmed the commitment of States and the components of the Movement to protecting human dignity in all circumstances, by enhancing relevant laws and by reducing the vulnerability of populations to the effects of armed conflict, disaster and disease. In particular, the Declaration reaffirmed the responsibility to apply and promote the principles and rules of international humanitarian law in armed conflict. It also underlined the need to enhance respect for humanitarian principles and values and to promote tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for diversity among all peoples, in order to reduce the vulnerability of people affected by disaster, infectious disease and armed conflict.

¹ The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is composed of the International Committee of the Red Cross (referred to herein as the "ICRC"), the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (referred to herein as the "National Societies") and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (referred to herein as the "International Federation"). Throughout this document, the term "Movement" covers all the aforementioned components.

§ Structure and content of the Agenda for Humanitarian Action

The Agenda for Humanitarian Action focused on four humanitarian objectives, the purpose of which was to enhance protection in armed conflict and reduce the impact of disaster and disease on vulnerable groups.

- **General Objective 1:** Respect and restore the dignity of persons missing as a result of armed conflicts or other situations of armed violence and of their families.
- **General Objective 2:** Strengthen the protection of civilians in all situations from the indiscriminate use and effects of weapons and the protection of combatants from unnecessary suffering and prohibited weapons through controls on weapons development, proliferation and use.
- **General Objective 3:** Minimize the impact of disaster through implementation of disaster risk reduction measures and improving preparedness and response mechanisms.
- **General Objective 4:** Reduce the increased vulnerability to diseases arising from stigma and discrimination and from lack of access to comprehensive prevention, care and treatment.

The Agenda for Humanitarian Action set out a number of clear, measurable, realistic objectives and actions for Conference members. It is an action-oriented document, intended to complement, not duplicate, existing efforts to address similar issues in other international forums.

§ Pledges

Members were also invited to make individual or collective pledges, whereby they undertook unilaterally to carry out significant humanitarian initiatives linked to the objectives of the Conference. The importance attached to this new type of commitment was confirmed at the 28th International Conference, where 128 National Societies, the ICRC, the International Federation, 69 Governments and 7 Observers submitted 372 pledges. Resolution 1 of the 28th International Conference requested *"the members of the Conference to report to the International Conference in 2007, on the follow-up given to their pledges."*

Most of the pledges submitted by participants were closely linked to the Agenda for Humanitarian Action. Many pledges therefore served to promote and implement specific measures recommended in the Agenda or the Declaration at national, regional and international level.

2. Implementation reports from members

§ Reporting and questionnaires

States, the components of the Movement and observers were provided with a follow-up questionnaire to help them report on their actions. The structure of the follow-up questionnaire is directly inspired by the structure of the Agenda for Humanitarian Action, and the implementation report follows the same structure. The ICRC and the International Federation have produced the present follow-up report mainly on the basis on the actions reported in questionnaires received from members. They also used other public information resources, in particular the ICRC web database that draws together information regarding ratification and implementation of international humanitarian law (<http://www.icrc.org/ihl-nat>).

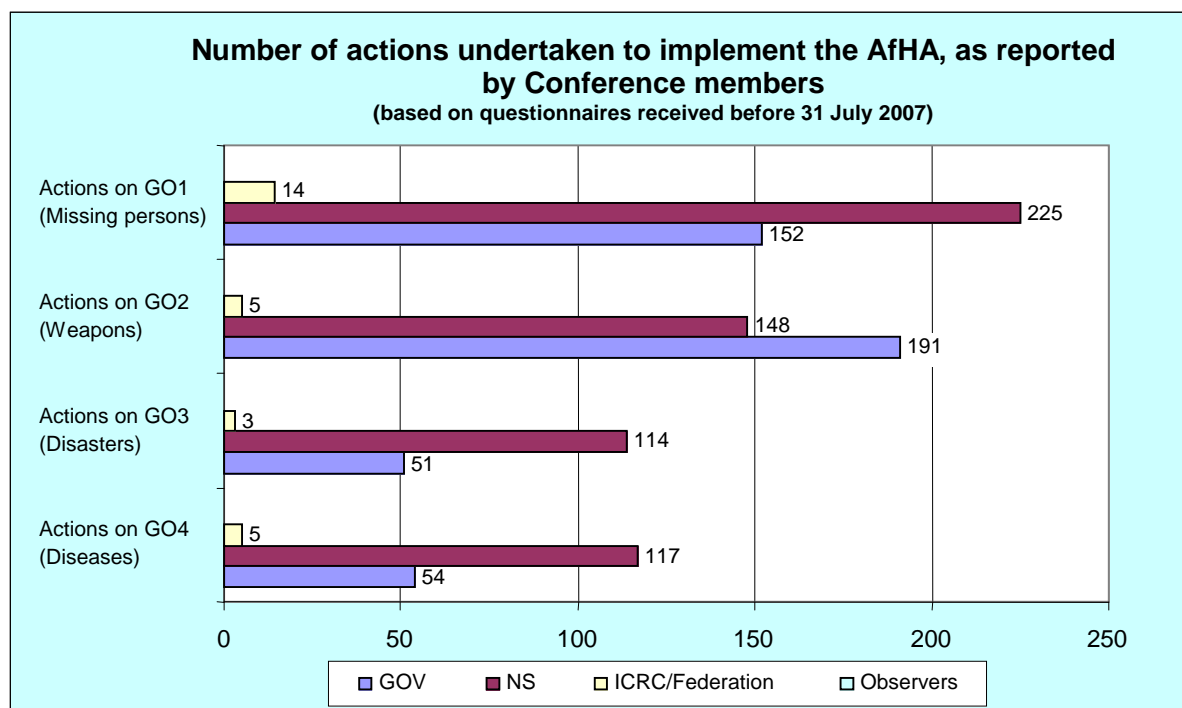
By 31 July 2007, the ICRC and the International Federation had received 104 questionnaires (see *Annex 1: List of questionnaires on the follow-up to the Agenda for Humanitarian Action*

received before 31 July 2007), including 65 from National societies, 37 from States and 2 from the ICRC and the International Federation. More feedback has been received from members this year; 27% more members completed the questionnaire than in 2003. The implementation report of the Plan of Action for the years 2000-2003 released on the 25th of October 2003 and submitted to the 28th International Conference contained replies from just 85 members.² Although the feedback received this time was more substantial, the number of questionnaires completed remains limited. This follow-up report cannot, therefore reflect the whole range of activities undertaken during the reporting period of 2004-2007.

§ Web database and statistics

The *Follow-up to the 28th International Conference* database is available on the ICRC website.³ It contains all the information on implementation of the Agenda for Humanitarian Action and of the Declaration that members have submitted. It also incorporates information on the follow-up of individual and collective pledges made by participants. Conference members are encouraged to consult this database for a full and up-to-date picture of all the measures taken so far to implement the Agenda for Humanitarian Action and the Declaration.

The following chart gives a statistical overview of the information in the database. It shows how many actions the different categories of Conference member have reported under each General Objective of the Agenda for Humanitarian Action, but does not reflect the quality or content of the action taken. Please see the web-based database for full details of these actions.



² Between the time of the implementation report of the Plan of Action for the years 2000-2003 was sent and the time of the 28th International Conference in December 2003, co-organizers received 24 questionnaires, in addition to the 85 members. Therefore a total of 109 members provided feedback on their follow-up to the 27th International Conference.

³ The *Follow-up to the 28th International Conference* database is at http://www.icrc.org/Applic/p128e.nsf/va_navPage/PBP?openDocument&CollapseView

3. Presentation of the implementation report

The present report provides an overview of the steps taken to implement the 2003 Agenda for Humanitarian Action, Resolution 1 and the Declaration, between 2004 and 2007. It is divided into five booklets:

- **Introduction** to the follow-up report (30IC/07/10.1.0);
- **Part 1: Implementation of General Objective 1 (missing persons and their families)**, produced by the ICRC (30IC/07/10.1.1);
- **Part 2: Implementation of General Objective 2 (weapons)**, produced by the ICRC (30IC/07/10.1.2);
- **Part 3: Implementation of General Objective 3 (disaster preparedness and response)**, produced by the International Federation (30IC/07/10.1.3);
- **Part 4: Implementation of General Objective 4 (diseases)**, produced by the International Federation (30IC/07/10.1.4);
- **Part 5: Implementation of Resolution 1 in the field of international humanitarian law (30IC/07/10.1.5)**, produced by the ICRC

Parts 1 to 4 are dedicated to General Objectives of the Agenda for Humanitarian Action, and follow the structure of the Final Goals. Each section provides concrete illustrations of steps taken by Conference members, along with best practices for carrying out the action proposed by the Agenda for Humanitarian Action.

In Part 5, the ICRC reports on implementation of important commitments related to international humanitarian law, contained in Resolution 1 and the Declaration of the 28th International Conference. This part takes account of the large quantity of data from members regarding action taken in this field.

The present follow-up report cannot be exhaustive, nor can it reflect all the work undertaken during the reporting period. It was often difficult to draw general conclusions, observations or trends because of the limited and sometimes abstract nature of the responses. However, the main measures, activities and endeavours described in this report constitute a valuable source of information, and should encourage and inspire all Conference members and other participants to intensify their efforts, review their own practices and take further steps as required. More detailed and updated information on feedback from members is in the *Follow-up to the 28th International Conference* database.

Other documents presented to the 30th International Conference are also related to the implementation of decisions of the 28th International Conference:

- The International Federation will present a separate report on the implementation of its pledge on non-discrimination and respect for diversity.
- The *Draft Restoring Family Links Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (2008-2018)* (30IC/07/10.2 and CD/07/4.1) is also attached, as it is related to various parts of the Agenda for Humanitarian Action (especially General Objective 1 on missing persons and General Objective 3 on disaster preparedness). The Council of Delegates will be considering this strategy for adoption prior to the opening of the International Conference. Its presentation to the 30th International Conference is an opportunity for the Movement to call upon State authorities to renew their commitment to support tracing activities and the Family Links Network of the

Movement. The aim of such support is to increase the ability of National Societies to help people separated from or without news of their loved ones as a result of armed conflict, other situation of violence, disaster, population movement or other situation requiring a humanitarian response.

Finally, certain official working documents produced for the 30th International Conference have direct links to Resolution 1 of the 28th International Conference:

- As requested under General Objective 3 of the Agenda for Humanitarian Action, the International Federation will submit to the 30th Conference a progress report on the compilation of laws, rules and principles applicable to international disaster response: *Strengthening the legal frameworks for international response to disasters* (background document 30IC/07/9.1 and draft resolution 30IC/07/9.2).
- The International Federation has produced a report on its work regarding the characteristics of a balanced relationship between States and National Societies, in consultation with States: *The specific nature of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in action and partnerships and the role of National Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field* (background document 30IC/07/7.1 and draft resolution 30IC/07/7.2).
- The ICRC has produced reports on international humanitarian law that directly refer to the Agenda for Humanitarian Action and to the Declaration:
 - *Reaffirmation and implementation of International Humanitarian Law "Preserving human life and dignity in armed conflict"* (background document 30IC/07/8.1 and draft resolution 30IC/07/8.2);
 - *Study on customary international humanitarian law* (30IC/07/8.3),
 - *International humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts* (30IC/07/8.4)

The Agenda for Humanitarian Action remains a relevant and comprehensive framework for addressing:

- the immense suffering caused by family separation and the continuing tragedy of people missing in armed conflicts and other situations of violence;
- the human cost of the misuse and uncontrolled availability of weapons in armed conflicts;
- the need to reduce the risk and impact of disasters and to improve preparedness and response mechanisms;
- the need to reduce the risk and impact of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases as they affect vulnerable people.

Members of the International Conference are therefore encouraged to continue and, if possible intensify their efforts to implement this Agenda for Humanitarian Action, the 2003 Declaration and their pledges.

ANNEX 1:

LIST OF QUESTIONNAIRES ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE AGENDA FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

RECEIVED BEFORE 31 JULY 2007

Total: 104 questionnaires

NATIONAL SOCIETIES: 65	DATE QUESTIONNAIRE RECEIVED	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 3	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4
ARMENIA	31.05.2007	X	X	X	X
AUSTRALIA	29.05.2007	X	X	X	X
AUSTRIA	13.06.2007	X	X	X	X
AZERBAIJAN	11.05.2007	X	X	X	X
BARBADOS	01.06.2007			X	X
BELGIUM	07.06.2007	X	X	X	X
BOLIVIA	31.05.2007	X	X	X	X
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA	31.05.2007	X	X	X	X
BULGARIA	11.05.2006 + 31.05.2007	X	X	X	X
BURUNDI	26.05.2007		X	X	X
CANADA	06.07.2007	X	X	X	X
CHAD	18.05.2007	X	X	X	X
CHILE	04.05.2006 + 02.06.2007	X	X	X	X
COLOMBIA	27.06.2006	X	X	X	X
CONGO (REPUBLIC OF THE) (JOINT NS/GOVERNMENT QUESTIONNAIRE)	08.06.2007	X	X	X	X
CROATIA	29.05.2007	X	X	X	X
CUBA	31.05.2007	X	X	X	X
CZECH REPUBLIC	11.06.2007	X	X	X	X
DENMARK	03.07.2007	X	X	X	X
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	29.06.2007	X	X	X	X
ECUADOR	01.06.2007	X	X	X	X
EGYPT	30.04.2007	X	X	X	X
EL SALVADOR	24.05.2007	X	X	X	X
ESTONIA	04.06.2007			X	X
FINLAND	04.06.2007	X	X	X	X
FRANCE	31.05.2007	X	X	X	X
GEORGIA	31.05.2007	X		X	X
GERMANY	15.05.2007	X	X	X	X
GREECE	29.05.2007		X	X	X
GUATEMALA	08.06.2007	X		X	X
GUYANA	01.06.2007	X		X	X
HONDURAS	28.05.2007	X	X	X	X
ICELAND	05.06.2007	X	X		X
IRAQ	17.07.2007	X	X	X	X
ITALY	07.06.2007			X	X
KAZAKHSTAN	11.06.2007			X	X
KUWAIT	26.06.2007		X	X	X

NATIONAL SOCIETIES: 65	DATE QUESTIONNAIRE RECEIVED	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 3	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4
LESOTHO (JOINT NS/GOVERNMENT QUESTIONNAIRE)	18.07.2007	X	X	X	X
LIBERIA	31.05.2007	X	X	X	X
LITHUANIA	01.06.2007	X	X	X	X
MALAYSIA	27.06.2007	X	X	X	X
MALI	31.05.2007		X	X	X
MALTA		X	X	X	X
MACEDONIA (FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF)	12.06.2007	X	X	X	X
MEXICO	14.06.2007	X	X	X	X
MOROCCO	06.08.2007	X	X	X	X
NETHERLANDS (THE)	15.06.2007	X	X	X	X
NICARAGUA	31.05.2007 + 15.06.2007			X	X
NORWAY	29.06.2007	X	X	X	X
PANAMA	04.06.2007	X	X	X	X
POLAND	31.05.2007	X	X	X	X
PORTUGAL	12.06.2007	X	X	X	
QATAR	31.05.2007	X	X		
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	20.06.2007	X		X	X
SLOVAKIA	31.05.2007	X	X	X	X
SOLOMON ISLANDS	05.06.2007	X	X	X	X
SWEDEN	28.05.2007	X	X	X	X
SWITZERLAND	27.07.2007	X	X	X	X
TAJIKISTAN	31.05.2007	X	X	X	X
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	28.05.2007	X	X	X	X
TURKEY	28.05.2007	X		X	X
TURKMENISTAN	31.05.2007			X	X
UKRAINE	15.06.2007	X	X	X	X
UNITED KINGDOM	28.06.2007	X	X	X	X
URUGUAY	26.07.2007	X	X	X	X
TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONNAIRES RECEIVED, BY GENERAL OBJECTIVE		54	53	63	62

GOVERNMENTS: 37	DATE QUESTIONNAIRE RECEIVED	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 3	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4
AUSTRIA	12.06.2007	X	X	X	X
AZERBAIJAN	26.06.2007	X		X	
BELGIUM	07.06.2007	X	X	X	X
BULGARIA	30.07.2007	X	X	X	X
BURKINA FASO	18.07.2007	X	X		X
CONGO (REPUBLIC OF THE)	08.06.2007	X	X	X	X
COOK ISLANDS	31.08.2006			X	

GOVERNMENTS: 37	DATE QUESTIONNAIRE RECEIVED	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 3	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	07.06.2007	X	X		
CROATIA	04.07.2007	X	X	X	X
CYPRUS	31.05.2007	X	X	X	X
CZECH REPUBLIC	28.06.2007	X	X	X	X
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	01.06.2007		X		
EL SALVADOR	31.05.2007	x	X	X	X
FINLAND	05.06.2007	X	X		X
FRANCE	26.06.2007	X	X	X	X
GERMANY	31.05.2007	X	X	X	X
GREECE	01.06.2007		X	X	X
HOLY SEE	05.07.2007		X		
ICELAND	01.06.2007	X	X	X	X
JAPAN	11.06.2007	X	X	X	X
LESOTHO (JOINT NS/GOVERNMENT QUESTIONNAIRE)	18.07.2007	X	X	X	X
MACEDONIA (FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF)	04.07.2007	X	X		
MADAGASCAR	29.05.2007	X	X	X	X
MALI	31.05.2007		X	X	X
MEXICO	31.05.2007	X	X	X	X
MONACO	21.05.2007		X	X	X
MOROCCO	31.05.2007+05.06.2007		X	X	
NETHERLANDS (THE)	01.06.2007	X	X	X	X
NICARAGUA	31.05.2007				X
NORWAY	25.06.2007	X	X	X	X
PERU	02.07.2007				X
POLAND	23.07.2007	X	X	X	X
SAN MARINO	19.06.2007	X	X	X	X
SWITZERLAND	16.07.2007	X	X	X	X
TURKEY	05.06.2007 + 10.07.2007	X	X	X	X
UNITED KINGDOM	04.07.2007	X	X	X	X
VENEZUELA	17.07.2007	X	X	X	X
TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONNAIRES RECEIVED, BY GENERAL OBJECTIVE		28	32	29	29

INTERNATIONAL COMPONENTS: 2	DATE QUESTIONNAIRE RECEIVED	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 3	REPORT ON GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4
ICRC	31.05.2007	X	X	X	X
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION	18.07.2007			X	X
TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONNAIRES RECEIVED, BY GENERAL OBJECTIVE		1	1	2	2