



Geneva, October 2003

28th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

2 - 6 December 2003

International Conference Centre of Geneva

AGENDA AND PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 2 December 2003

17:00 – 18:45

WELCOMING CEREMONY

1. Speakers: *Chairman of the Standing Commission
President of the Swiss Confederation*
2. Multimedia presentation
3. Presentation of the Fundamental Principles
4. Welcome address: *Authorities of the Republic and Canton of Geneva and of
the City of Geneva*

18:45 – 21:00

RECEPTION

(not part of the formal agenda of the Conference)

*Offered by the Swiss Federal Council and the authorities of the
Republic and Canton of Geneva and of the City of Geneva*

Wednesday, 3 December 2003

9:00 – 12:30

FIRST PLENARY MEETING

1. **Opening of the first plenary meeting**
2. **Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, Secretary General, two Assistant Secretaries General and other officers of the Conference**
3. **Establishment of the Conference's subsidiary bodies**
 - 3.1 Commissions
 - 3.2 Drafting Committee
4. **Information on the procedure for electing the members of the Standing Commission, adopting the Conference Declaration and Agenda for Humanitarian Action, and recording pledges**
5. **Contemporary humanitarian challenges and protecting human dignity**
 - 5.1 Keynote address by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross
 - 5.2 Keynote address by the President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
6. **General debate on contemporary humanitarian challenges and protecting human dignity**
7. **Information on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the years 2000-2003 adopted by the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**
8. **Special report *Women and War***
International Committee of the Red Cross

12:30

OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION WOMEN AND WAR
(not part of the formal agenda of the Conference)

Opening of the exhibition by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan

14:00 – 16:30

FIRST PLENARY MEETING (continued)

9. Introduction of the Declaration

- 9.1 Protecting human dignity by enhancing respect for international humanitarian law
- 9.2 Protecting human dignity by mobilizing humanity to reduce violence, discrimination and vulnerability

10. General debate on contemporary humanitarian challenges and protecting human dignity including on the Declaration

14:00 – 18:30

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

17:00 – 18:30

WORKSHOPS (provisional titles and list of organizers)
(not part of the formal agenda of the Conference)

- ❖ **Workshop 1: “International humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts”**
Organizers: Government of Switzerland, International Committee of the Red Cross
- ❖ **Workshop 2: “Children and armed conflict: protecting and rebuilding young lives”**
Organizers: The Human Security Network: Austria, Canada, Chile, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa (observer), Switzerland, Thailand in cooperation with the Canadian Red Cross
- ❖ **Workshop 3: “National Societies in civil-military cooperation – Questions, Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects”**
Organizers: Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, The Netherlands Red Cross, Governments of Germany and Denmark, Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) - Bochum (Germany)
- ❖ **Workshop 4: “Biotechnology, weapons and humanity”**
Organizers: Canadian Red Cross
Government of Canada, Norwegian Red Cross

Thursday, 4 December 2003

9:00 – 12:00

COMMISSIONS (debate on the Agenda for Humanitarian Action in parallel Commissions A2 and B2)

1. Commission A2: Enhancing protection in armed conflict

Humanitarian aspects of the issue of persons missing in connection with armed conflict

- ❖ introduction
- ❖ discussion

2. Commission B2: Reducing the risk and impact of disaster and disease

Reducing the risk and impact of disaster and improving preparedness and response mechanisms

- ❖ introduction
- ❖ discussion

14:00 – 16:30

COMMISSIONS (debate on the Agenda for Humanitarian Action in parallel Commissions A3 and B3)

3. Commission A3: Enhancing protection in armed conflict

Confronting the human costs of the use of certain weapons in armed conflict

- ❖ introduction
- ❖ discussion

4. Commission B3: Reducing the risk and impact of disaster and disease

Reducing the risk of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases on vulnerable people

- ❖ introduction
- ❖ discussion

9:00 – 12:30
and
14:00 – 18:30

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

17:00 – 18:30

WORKSHOPS (provisional titles and list of organizers)
(not part of the formal agenda of the Conference)

❖ **Workshop 5: “Small Arms and Human Security – Humanitarian Impacts and Options for Action”**

Organizers: The Human Security Network: Austria, Canada, Chile, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa (observer), Switzerland, and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

❖ **Workshop 6: “Health and HIV/AIDS – Prevention, care and treatment, stigma and discrimination – four years of action against HIV/AIDS by the Red Cross and Red Crescent”**

Organizers: Swedish Red Cross, Ethiopian Red Cross, Kenya Red Cross, French Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross

❖ **Workshop 7: “Domestic implementation of the Statute of the International Criminal Court”**

Organizer: Government of The Netherlands

❖ **Workshop 8: “The role of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in disaster risk reduction and the relevant links with governments and other key actors”**

Organizers: Nepal Red Cross, Uzbekistan Red Crescent, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), ProVention, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

Friday, 5 December 2003

8:30 – 12:00

SECOND PLENARY MEETING

1. **Election of the members of the Standing Commission**
 - ❖ roll call
 - ❖ launch of the election
2. **Amendments to the Regulations of the Empress Shōken Fund**
3. **Special report: *Auxiliary Role of National Societies***
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
4. **Report on Resolution 3 of the 27th International Conference on Emblems**
5. **General debate on contemporary humanitarian challenges and protecting human dignity** (continued)
6. **Standing Commission election: initial results and continuation of election**

14:00 – 16:30

SECOND PLENARY MEETING (continued)

7. **Special report: *Customary International Humanitarian Law***
International Committee of the Red Cross
8. **Special session on *International Volunteer Day***
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
9. **General debate on contemporary humanitarian challenges and protecting human dignity** (continued)
10. **Standing Commission election: Proclamation of results or continuation of election**

9:00 – 12:30

and

14:00 – 19:00

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

17:00 – 18:30

WORKSHOPS (provisional titles and list of organizers)
(not part of the formal agenda of the Conference)

❖ **Workshop 9: "Civil society participation in international public/private health partnerships. Challenges and lessons learnt"**

Organizers: Sierra Leone Red Cross, American Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

❖ **Workshop 10: "Where disasters meet: similarities and distinct factors involved in NS preparedness to respond in contexts affected by both conflict and "natural" disasters"**

Organizers: Government of the United Kingdom (DFID), British Red Cross, Uganda Red Cross Society
Government of Uganda

❖ **Workshop 11: "Operational challenges in carrying out humanitarian activities in a changing environment"**

Organizers: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Committee of the Red Cross

18:45 – 19:00

SECOND PLENARY MEETING (continued if necessary)

11. Election of the Standing Commission: Proclamation of results

Saturday, 6 December 2003

9:00 – 12:00

THIRD AND FINAL PLENARY MEETING

- 1. Overview of the workshops**
- 2. Overview of the pledges**
- 3. Report on the work of the Commissions**
- 4. Report of the Drafting Committee**
- 5. Adoption of the resolutions of the Conference (Declaration, Agenda for Humanitarian Action ...)**
- 6. Closing ceremony**