

Together for humanity
Ensemble pour l'humanité
Juntos por la humanidad
معاً من أجل الإنسانية



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COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

**OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Geneva, Switzerland
23-24 November 2007

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMISSION TO THE 2007 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

(Item 2 of the provisional agenda)

**Document prepared by
the Standing Commission
of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

Geneva, October 2007

Executive summary

When the Council met in Seoul in November 2005, there were great expectations in the air regarding the 'comprehensive and lasting solution to the question of the emblems'. The Diplomatic Conference was about to meet in Geneva to discuss and adopt the draft additional Third Protocol to the Geneva Conventions. The Movement was preparing to take the final steps on its part to introduce the expected consequential changes into its Statutes.

Much of the work of the Standing Commission since November 2005 focused on the above. After the adoption of the Protocol on 8 December 2005, intensive preparations began for the 29th International Conference, which was convened for June 2006. Its major task was to make the necessary changes to the Statutes of the Movement, which were brought about by the adopted Third Protocol. These included recognizing the additional new emblem in the Statutes and establishing a name for the new emblem – the Red Crystal. Further, there was the need to create the framework for enabling the simultaneous recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent and the Magen David Adom in Israel into the Movement.

With the ICRC and the International Federation, the Commission participated in the preparatory process involving the "Friends of the Chair" – a Group of Ambassadors representing the Permanent Missions in Geneva – extensive discussions with main stakeholder National Societies (NS) and participation at a range of NS meetings and conferences to pave the way for the expected outcomes. In the early morning hours of June 22nd 2006 the Movement could welcome the two new National Societies, after the Conference had adopted the necessary changes to the Statutes. Regrettably, this happened by vote in spite of intensive negotiations to seek a consensus solution.

After the 29th International Conference, the Commission turned to the preparations of a 'regular' next or 30th Conference, which was convened for November 2007 and of the preceding Council of Delegates. A new and different approach was sought for this Conference. It will, in the first part, debate the major humanitarian consequences of current developments to seek to establish an agenda for the Movement for the coming years on how to address these challenges in partnership with States, in the spirit of 'Together for humanity'.

The Strategy for the Movement continued to demand the attention and work of the SC. The specific focus has been on action 4, which is reported on separately at this Council. Recommendations and guidelines were developed encouraging voluntary procedures by NS to try to ensure fair geographic representation when electing members to the Commission.

The Commission has continued to involve NS in its work. The contributions by NS personalities assisting the Commission to prepare for this year's statutory meetings with colleagues from the ICRC and the International Federation are highly appreciated. Members of the Commission have participated at all regional conferences and many sub-regional meetings as an opportunity to further consult NS on Movement issues.

The SC thanks the NS for their generous voluntary contributions and support to the work of the Commission and the ICRC and the International Federation for their coverage of the core costs of the Commission. This Council has before it a proposal for revising the sharing key of financing the work of the Commission. The SC hopes that the Council will continue to advocate for such support from the components to enable it to efficiently and effectively carry out its statutory obligations in continued consultations involving NS and by participating at various Movement meetings.

1. Introduction

The Standing Commission (SC or Commission) of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, elected in December 2003, has continued its work on issues of concern to the Movement as a whole, in accordance with its functions as defined in Article 18 of the Statutes of the Movement or as referred to it by decisions of the Council of Delegates in Seoul in 2005.

Dr Philip Spoerri replaced Dr François Bugnion as ICRC representative in the Commission in September 2006. With this change, the current composition is as follows:

- Five members elected in their personal capacity:
Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid (Jordanian Red Crescent) - Chairman
Ambassador Philippe Cuvillier (French Red Cross)
Ms Janet Davidson (Canadian Red Cross) – Vice Chair
Dr Freddy Karup Pedersen (Danish Red Cross)
Ms Zoy Katevas de Sclabos (Chilean Red Cross)
- Two ex officio members from the ICRC:
Dr Jakob Kellenberger, President
Dr Philip Spoerri, Director for International Law and Cooperation within the Movement
- Two ex officio members from the International Federation:
Mr Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro, President
Mr Markku Niskala, Secretary General

2. Role of the Standing Commission

The Standing Commission is the trustee of the International Conference between two Conferences, which is the supreme deliberative body for the Movement. It is the Movement body on a permanent basis, where all components are represented. It can be convened by its Chairman, either on his/her initiative or at the request of three of the Commission's members. During the reporting period (2006-2007) the Commission had eight (8) regular meetings.

The Commission's purpose is, in consultation with the ICRC, the International Federation and National Societies, to provide strategic guidance in matters, which concern the Movement as a whole. It is not operational. In addition to the specific tasks assigned to it in the Movement Statutes, it prepares and follows Movement-wide issues such as the Strategy for the Movement and the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures. The 2005 CoD took major decisions regarding both mentioned issues, which will be dealt with later on in this report.

The Commission relies on the ICRC, the International Federation and National Societies for the implementation of its decisions. It has emphasised the importance of the participation of and consultation with NS in order to stay in touch with their realities and with external developments to position the Movement to best serve victims and other beneficiaries.

The Commission's main functions are described in Article 18 of the Statutes of the Movement. Within the framework of the Statutes, the Council and the International Conference have in various resolutions requested the Commission to lead on specific tasks. Until June 2006, the overriding specific task on the SC agenda – since 1995 – was that of the emblem. Other examples of such tasks have related to the Strategy for the Movement

and development of ways to enhance and strengthen cooperation within the framework of the Seville Agreement.

3. Work of the Commission since the 2005 Council

The previous SC transmitted its views on tasks, future challenges as well as ‘unfinished business’ for this Commission for the period 2004-2007¹ to which this Commission largely agreed.

During the last two years, the challenge of finalising “a comprehensive and lasting solution to the **emblem** question for enhanced protection and universality of the Movement” demanded most attention. A more detailed report on this is in the section on the ‘Emblem’.

Another important task has been the **preparations of this Council and the 30th International Conference** (IC). As has been the tradition, National Society (NS) personalities have been involved and NS have been consulted in the process. In January 2006 the SC adopted Terms of Reference for and decided on the composition of the working group on Statutory Meetings, as per annex 1. The group was chaired by Ambassador Philippe Cuvillier with Ms Janet Davidson as Vice Chair.

Work with the **updated Strategy for the Movement**, adopted by the CoD/2005, and with actions, for which the SC was assigned the lead responsibility has also been among its main tasks. In particular, questions of how to develop the Council and other major Movement fora, encouraging participatory planning and furthering the follow-up of the implementation of its decisions by all components have been analysed. The Commission invited a small group, led by professor Freddy Karup Pedersen, to be in charge of this work. Resulting recommendations are submitted to this Council for adoption. The work is reported on in more detail under a separate report on the ‘Strategy for the Movement’.

Work on the **Seville Agreement and the Supplementary Measures** was concluded with the adoption of Resolution 8 at the CoD in 2005. Since then, the SC has followed the work of the ‘Group’ established by the said resolution through regular updates by the Chair of the ‘Group’. To direct and improve reporting, as called for in the Agreement itself, the SC adopted a framework for the annual implementation reports by the ICRC and the International Federation. It is addressing specific issues facilitating the SC role in following the implementation in the interest of “promoting harmony in the work of the Movement and, in this connection, co-ordination among its components” as stated in the Statutes for the Movement.

The SC also addressed recommendations and guidelines for future SC elections with a view to preparing, within the framework of the present Movement Statutes, recommendations that could be applied by the 30th IC. The expected outcome was a preparatory process to ensure proper geographic representation and fulfillment of other established criteria in future Commissions. The previous Commission had introduced the nomination form, the posting of nominations on the Standing Commission’s website and reaffirmed the Profile for Candidates, adopted 12 years ago by the Council in 1995.

The recommendations, developed by Janet Davidson with representatives of the ICRC and the International Federation (annex 2), were adopted to promote voluntary practises without any changes to the present Movement Statutes / Rules of Procedure. Further guidelines for the electoral process (annex 3) were prepared by the same group and adopted in May 2007.

¹ See SC Report to CoD 2005

The Commission also set aside time in the programme of the 30th IC, outside its formal agenda, for candidates to meet with Government and NS delegations before the election.

The SC decided to have **Arabic as working language** at Movement statutory meetings and conferences. This follows the practice of the International Federation, where Arabic already has been a working language. Translation and interpretation into Arabic will thus be provided at all mentioned meetings as of 2007.

Consultations with NS have been on-going. In addition to sounding out NS on various issues, personalities from NS, representatives of the ICRC and the International Federation have been members of working groups and contributed to the work of the Commission. The Secretary of the Standing Commission has coordinated work on such issues and that of the Commission. The Standing Commission wishes to thank all the NS, the ICRC and Federation members involved for their commitment and participation, which has brought experience and added value to the substance under preparation.

The Chairman and other members of the Commission attended all major regional and sub-regional conferences. These included the MENA Conference in Marrakech, Morocco in May 2006; the General Assemblies of the Arab Secretariat in Abu Dhabi, UAE in February 2006 and in Doha, Qatar in February 2007; the Mediterranean Conference in Athens, Greece in March 2007; the International Federation Regional Conferences of Europe in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2007 and of the Americas in Guayaquil, Ecuador in June 2007; the Donor Forum -meetings in the United States in July 2006 and in Qatar in September 2007. Relevant Movement issues at the time were addressed with input from the Commission.

The new **SC website** (www.rcstandcom.info) was introduced in 2006. Regular information about the role, work and decisions of the SC has been posted on it as well as documents and backgrounds in preparation for the statutory meetings in 2006 and in 2007. Information to NS and Permanent Missions in Geneva has also been provided through Newsletters, issued after each SC meeting.

4. The emblem

Since the year 2000, when the draft Third Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions was developed, it was referred to in numerous resolutions of statutory Movement meetings as an "acceptable working basis" for "a comprehensive and lasting solution to the question of the emblem" and for the resumption of negotiations when circumstances permit.

Continued strenuous work by the Movement on the issue along with evolving 'circumstances' permitted the Swiss Government as Depositary of the Geneva Conventions to convene the Diplomatic Conference of States Parties for 5 - 7 December 2005 to adopt the third additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions. This happened by vote on December 8, 2005.

The Memorandum of Understanding, signed on 28 November 2005, by the Chairman of Magen David Adom in Israel (MDA) and the President of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) was noted positively by the Diplomatic Conference as paving the way for both Societies to become members of the Movement, desirably at the same time. The Standing Commission, the ICRC and the International Federation supported this objective, which was considered fully consistent with the principle of Universality.

The adopted Third Protocol meant that the Movement could look forward to mobilize support for all of its emblems, including the red crystal, to ensure that the emblems contributed to the reinforcement of measures for the protection of war victims, medical personnel and humanitarian workers in all circumstances – a primary objective for the Protocol. Early on in

the process the Movement had formulated two main reasons for the need to establish an additional emblem: the need to enhance protection in situations of war and conflict and the desire to achieve the principle of universality.

With the adoption of the Protocol, a long chapter in the history of the Movement concerning the emblems was closed. The issue had been on the Movement's agenda since 1949, more markedly so since 1995, when the then newly elected Standing Commission appointed a first ad hoc working group chaired by the first Special Representative on the Emblem, Mrs Christina Magnuson of Sweden.

The adoption of the Third Protocol enabled the Movement to proceed to the consequential amendment of its own Statutes to complete the task. That would finally make possible the recognition and entry into the Movement of NS that had been unable to use either the red cross or the red crescent.

The Standing Commission requested on December 15, 2005 the ICRC and the International Federation to co-host the **29th International Conference** convened for 20 - 21 June, 2006 in Geneva. It was to be preceded by a General Assembly of the International Federation and by a meeting of the Council establishing the agenda and a list of officers for the 29th IC.

For the "red crystal" to be fully incorporated into the Statutes and Rules of the Movement, the statutes had to be amended, notably paragraph 5 of article 4 concerning the conditions for recognition of National Societies.

The purpose of the IC was determined as follows:

- 1) to consider and adopt amendments to the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement consequent upon the adoption on 8 December 2005 of the Third Protocol,
- 2) to consider and decide upon the proposed name of "red crystal" for the distinctive emblem of the Third Protocol and
- 3) to create a framework for the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

To advise it in the preparations, the SC invited a Group of Ambassadors as 'Friends of the Chair'. Intense consultations involving the SC, the ICRC and the International Federation and the 'Friends of the Chair' were conducted towards a resolution in response to the established purpose of the Conference. Ardent negotiations at the Conference itself, led by its Chairman, Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, were hoped to achieve adoption of the proposed resolution by consensus. Regrettably that aim did not materialize. Progress concerning the MoU between the Palestine RC and the MDA in Israel and the ICRC initiative to provide medical services to the population of occupied Golan became issues in the debate. The Conference heard reports on both these issues by the Swiss government, which had the role of monitoring the implementation of the MoU, and by Dr Jakob Kellenberger, President of the ICRC, on the Golan initiative.

The 29th IC finally adopted the resolution, confirming all set objectives, by vote. In the SC Newsletter of October 2006 Dr Al-Hadid, as Chair of the Conference, noted that "importantly, the Movement came out of the conference united. Further evidence of this is the fact that the two new members, the PRCS and MDA, were unanimously admitted into the International Federation at the nightly session of its General Assembly immediately after the close of the Conference."

5. The Strategy for the Movement

The update of the Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement Strategy) was adopted in Seoul. The main changes compared to the 'original' Strategy adopted in 2001 can be summarised as follows:

- The three strategic objectives remained unchanged;
- Work completed and combining actions reduced the number from 17 actions to 10;
- A consequential reduction in the number of expected outcomes and implementation points and added emphasis on expectations regarding NS implementation.

Resolution 6/CoD 2005 on the Strategy for the Movement, in its operative paragraph 3, "*requested* the SC to establish a mechanism to see to the implementation, in consultation with all components of the Movement, of Action 4 of the Strategy for the Movement in order to secure a review of the entire construct of Movement fora and make recommendations on reducing unnecessary complexities and improving effectiveness, and to present the review and recommendations to the Council of delegates in 2007."

Prof. Freddy Karup Pedersen, assisted by the SC secretariat, has lead the work on action 4 with Mr Jean-Luc Blondel from the ICRC, Mr Luc de Wever, later replaced by Mrs Malika Ait Mohamed-Parent, from the International Federation secretariat and in consultation with vice president Tadateru Konoe of the Federation. Based on progress reports received, the SC encouraged the group to continue its deliberations and "not to shun away from more bold issues in analyzing the Movement fora at large as per the accepted working definition".

The work focused on short term immediate needs in aligning and coordinating the agendas and issues to be dealt with by various existing Movement fora while also analyzing some more long term development needs within the context.

A separate report on the work and recommendations for adoption is submitted to this Council under agenda item 7 on the Strategy for the Movement.

6. Preparation of the Statutory Meetings 2007

The WG on the 2007 statutory meetings proposed in September 2006 to the SC that "...substance planning [for the IC] is to continue focusing on "auxiliary" and "humanitarian challenges" as main themes, including relevant IHL developments and challenges." It adhered to the adopted SC recommendation that Council meetings "preceding a Conference, should be shorter (1.5 days) and allocate a major part of its agenda on issues to be dealt with by the Conference". This Council thus debates as Movement-wide concerns the long-term Strategy for Restoring Family Links (RFL) and issues pertaining to the Strategy for the Movement. Much of its agenda is dedicated to preparing the substance and Movement positions for the IC.

The SC established in February 2007 the major themes for the 30th IC: to address "the benefits of partnerships with components of the Movement in light of and within the framework of the auxiliary role of in particular National Societies in relation to states" and major humanitarian challenges setting an agenda for the Movement for the years ahead.

With the latter in mind, the Conference would examine – within the framework of partnership - **the humanitarian consequences of**

- § Environmental challenges, such as climate change,
- § Migration
- § Violence in urban settings
- § Emergent and recurrent diseases and other public health challenges.

By analyzing the *consequences* of the mentioned developments for vulnerable people the world over, it is hoped that the Conference could formulate a joint approach to address, in partnership, the needs arising especially on national level and to draw global attention to developments affecting hundreds of millions of vulnerable populations. This is anticipated in the spirit of *Together for humanity*, which was adopted as the motto for the Conference, highlighting the theme of partnership. The motto is foreseen to be used in connection with various Movement meetings until the next Conference in 2011.

The general debate on the humanitarian challenges will be introduced by a panel of experts with a RCRC youth representative to highlight the Movement context to the debated developments and their humanitarian consequences.

Additional main objectives for the 30th IC are recognition of the specific nature of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in action and partnerships, in particular the unique value of the role of National Societies as auxiliaries to their public authorities in the humanitarian field; reaffirmation of the continued applicability and relevance of international humanitarian law for preserving human life and dignity in armed conflict and strengthening the legal frameworks for international response to disasters at the international, regional and national levels.

The SC also adopted guidelines for pledging and for workshop organisers as well as criteria for and a list of observers to be invited to the Conference. It submitted draft resolutions on the main issues and encourages voluntary pledges in support of the main themes as well as of the expected outcomes of the IC.

A Group of Ambassadors as an advisory body was invited building on the positive experiences from the past. The constructive dialogue with the group, representing different parts and groupings in the world, has proven helpful in advancing the agenda and shaping the content of the International Conference. National Societies and governments participated in an open preparatory consultation meeting for the IC in Geneva in early September.

7. Henry Dunant Medal and Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity

Highlighting the criteria for awarding the Henry Dunant Medal, adopted by the SC in 1998 and published in the International Review of the Red Cross in December 1998, the SC awarded the Medal to four (4) individuals to honour extraordinary achievement and commitment within the Movement.

It decided not to award the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity.

9. Finances and administration

The principle for financing the work of the SC was established by the Council in 1997 and has since remained unchanged, as each Council has reinforced it. Resolution 4/CoD 2005 “*requested* the SC to review the modes of financing its work and present its recommendations to the 2007 Council of Delegates”.

The SC analyzed a variety of financing options using financial data from the period 2001-2006. Based upon these analyses, the SC concluded the following:

- The SC will develop a two year plan of action that will cover the period between Council meetings;

- The plan of action will serve as the basis for the development of a two year consolidated budget;
- The ICRC, the International Federation and the NS (through voluntary contributions) will contribute equally (1/3 each).

This new sharing key is submitted to the Council for approval in the draft resolution on the Standing Commission.

The rationale behind the proposed new sharing key of 1/3 each is that the analysis done indicates that the contributions of the mentioned components have been approximately of the same magnitude, plus/minus CHF 200'000 per annum, despite a different sharing principle applied since 1997 with some modifications. That principle determined the sharing key as follows: the ICRC and the International Federation were to cover 50% each of the core costs; 50% of the ad hoc costs (working groups and consultations with NS) were financed by NS voluntary contributions leaving the remaining 50% of these to be shared equally by the Geneva institutions.

The expenditure in 2006 amounted to CHF 630'366. Exceptionally, the SC did not request contributions from NS in 2006 and covered their calculated share of CHF 157'000, according to the sharing formula in force, from the balance accumulated from their previous contributions. That reduced the balance by the beginning of the year 2007 to CHF 170'850. The budget for the current year 2007 is CHF 576'100 with anticipated contributions from NS amounting to 150'000. In early October, NS voluntary contributions reached the set target.

The Standing Commission warmly thanks the NS, the ICRC and the international Federation for their contributions, financial as well as participation in working groups and through other means in the work done over the last two years. Annex 4 lists the contributing NS.

Additional information is available from the SC Secretariat upon request.

Annex 1

Terms of Reference
Working Group on Statutory Meetings
2006-07

Adopted by the
Standing Commission
January 30, 2006

The general mandate of the Working Group (WG) is to advise the Standing Commission (SC) on preparations for the Council of Delegates (CoD) and the International Conference (IC) in 2007. The working group reports to the SC and it is chaired by Ambassador Philippe Cuvillier with Ms Janet Davidson as vice chair.

A. Tasks

The WG on the Movement's statutory meetings in 2007 is asked

1. to advise the SC regarding National Societies', the ICRC and the International Federation's views on priorities and specific issues and/or themes to be included in the agendas of the Council and the International Conference;
2. to prepare the draft agenda for the 2007 Council of Delegates meeting and, in the first phase, a concept for the International Conference 2007 to be followed by a draft agenda for the Conference, taking into account external trends, policies and strategies of the Movement needing priority attention by all components of the Movement and the resolutions from the 2005 Council of Delegates;
3. to take into account the recommendations regarding Council of Delegates meetings adopted by the SC in 2004 and to suggest any improvements deemed necessary regarding the organisation of the work of the Council and the Conference, the format of reports and resolutions and the preparation of documents for deliberation;
4. to advise the SC, the ICRC and the International Federation on the development of tools for sufficient follow-up and reporting on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Council by all Movement components.

B. Working methods

1. The Working Group shall meet 2 times a year, in principle in Geneva, taking into account the sessions of the SC. The group may share the responsibility for further analysis and work on specific tasks among its members. The members are requested to maintain close contact with National Societies in their regions and with the International Federation secretariat and the ICRC respectively to secure their input into the planning process;
2. The Chairs of the WG will prepare the meetings in consultation with the Secretary of the SC, also the secretary of the WG, who in turn will consult with the ICRC and the International Federation members in the WG.

3. The Chairs of the WG will maintain regular contact with the Geneva-based institutions in particular on implementation and promotion of implementation of the outcomes of the 2005 statutory meetings. They are invited to make any recommendations needed for improvement to the SC and to keep the WG informed in view of its work on the upcoming statutory meetings;
4. The WG shall report to the SC and specify decisions needed by the Commission.

C. Composition

Chair: Philippe Cuvillier
Vice chair: Janet Davidson

Members:

Africa:

Mr M. Adama Diarra, Mali
Ms Theresa Leigh-Sherman, Liberia

Americas:

Mr Gerald Sawyer, Bahamas
Mr Peter Weil, Colombia**

Asia:

Ms Fatima Gailani, Afghanistan
Ms Pum Chantini, Cambodia

Europe:

Dr Elzbieta Mikos-Skuza, Poland
Mr Ulfar Hauksson, Iceland

Youth: Dr Naglaa Thabet, Egypt

ICRC: Bruce Biber (Angela Gussing)

Fed: Frank Mohrhauer

Standing Commission Secretariat:
Helena Korhonen (coordinator)

** resigned from the WG in April 2007

Standing Commission Electoral Process

Recommendations endorsed by the
Standing Commission
September 13, 2006

Background

The issue of Standing Commission elections has arisen repeatedly over the years. There have been numerous attempts from mid 50's until present to improve the process without requiring changes to the statutes.

Key issues have been fair geographic representation and, to a lesser extent, the qualifications of the candidates. The latter issue was addressed by the previous Standing Commission (SC XIII) which developed the voluntary nomination form to achieve consistency in presenting the candidates.

As regards geographic representation, in 1999 there were no members elected to the Standing Commission from Africa or the Americas. In 2003, there were no members elected from Africa. The Statutes of the Movement only provide for 'consideration' of geographic representation. It is not required nor are there any rules to ensure it. Without amendments to the Statutes or Rules, fair geographic representation is difficult to achieve unless regions develop some internal mechanisms to agree on candidates. When regions submit more than one candidate for consideration and/or when there are questions about the suitability/qualifications about candidates, this may further exacerbate the problem.

As regards the qualifications, the previous Standing Commission reaffirmed the profile of candidates developed by the Council of Delegates in 1997 and introduced several mechanisms to highlight the criteria for members. These mechanisms included a standard nomination form, the publishing of the nominations on the Standing Commission's website, and provision to have the nomination forms translated into the working languages of the International Conference.

Over the last two years, informal consultations have taken place and it has become clear that for National Societies, the issue of representation is important; whereas, for States participating in the International Conference, the qualification of the candidates and how to assess them is paramount.

A small working group led by Janet Davidson, Vice Chair of the Standing Commission, with representatives of the ICRC and the Federation Secretariat considered ways to address these issues without revising the Statutes of the Movement or the Rules of Procedure of the International Conference and submitted the following recommendations to the Standing Commission for its endorsement:

Recommendations

To build on the best practices established by the previous Standing Commission in 2003 and the Council of Delegates in 1997, it is recommended that:

- 1) To review the 2003 Nomination Form and make any revisions to ensure that the information collected is consistent and adequately reflects the criteria developed by the 1997 Council of Delegates;
- 2) The Standing Commission continue the measures implemented for the 2003 elections such as the use of a standard nomination form, posting nominations on the SC website, providing for translation of nominations, proposing realistic timelines for the submission of nominations, distributing candidates' nominations at the Conference in advance of the elections and other means at its disposal.

Recognizing that fair geographic representation amongst elected members to the Standing Commission is desirable, it is recommended that

- 3) the Standing Commission accept the Federation's grouping of National Societies in four (4) constitutional regions (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe);
- 4) the Standing Commission secretariat ensure that a candidate's region be indicated in any listing of the candidates' names (such as on the website, the nomination form and ballots);
- 5) the Standing Commission encourage National Societies (through its Newsletters or other forms of communication) to dialogue amongst themselves at regional conferences or other meetings with a view to presenting one fully qualified nomination from their respective regions;
- 6) the Standing Commission set aside appropriate time in the program of the International Conference and/or the Council of Delegates for National Societies to meet by region to consider nominations and that during the Conference itself, an informal session be organized for all candidates to meet and dialogue with both Government and National Society delegations;
- 7) the Bureau of the International Conference consider issuing reminders to delegates leading up to the first and any subsequent rounds of voting about the desirability of geographic representation on the Standing Commission.

Recognizing that the election process at the International Conference is conducted according to its own Rules of Procedure which differs from other international fora and the Federation's General Assembly, it is further recommended that

- 8) the Standing Commission adopt and disseminate a 'statement of guiding principles' to which candidates would be encouraged to comply (May 2007).

Guiding Principles

Election of the Standing Commission
(adopted by the Standing Commission on 11 May 2007)

The Statutes of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement define the Standing Commission (SC) as “*the trustee of the International Conference between two Conferences, carrying out the functions laid down in Article 18*”.

Further, the Statutes require that the Standing Commission shall comprise nine members:

- Five *members* of different National Societies, *each elected in their personal capacity* by the international Conference;
- Two representatives of the ICRC, one of whom shall be the President;
- Two representatives of the International Federation, one of whom shall be the President.

Trustee of the International Conference

The SC performs its functions as outlined in article 18 of the Statutes of the Movement. In addition to being the Movement body responsible for the agenda of the Council of Delegates and the International Conference, it is also – more generally – expected to

- promote harmony in the work of the Movement and, in this connection, coordination among its components;
- encourage and further the implementation of resolutions of the International Conference;
- examine, with these objects in view, matters which concern the Movement as a whole.

To safeguard the principle of independence of the Movement, members of the SC are expected to adhere to and be guided solely by the principles of the Movement. It is therefore in the interest of the Movement that the SC election process is totally independent and is not linked to any other elections internal or external to the Movement.

Nomination of candidates

Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement states that *personal qualities and the principle of fair geographical distribution should be taken into account* when nominating candidates.

Further, the same Rule states that nominations shall be delivered to the Chairman of the bureau at the Conference 48 hours before the meeting in which the election will take place.

However, in the interest of improved transparency and to allow sufficient time for States and National Societies, who elect the members to the Commission, to acquaint themselves with the candidates, the Standing Commission *recommends* that

- Nominations should be submitted preferably by the end of September 2007

- Candidates complete the *nomination form* introduced in 2003 based on the agreed profile for members of the SC by the Council of Delegates in 1995 (attached) and return the form to the secretariat of the Standing Commission in Geneva
- The submitted forms are translated and posted on the Standing Commission website www.rcstandcom.info in all working languages to assist delegations preparing for the Conference.

Considerations before nomination

Membership in the Standing Commission entails substantive involvement, requires sufficient commitment regarding time and availability and preparedness to travel;

Members benefit from *extensive experience* within the Movement in different positions, national and international, as outlined the profile for candidates;

Although elected in a personal capacity, the fair geographic distribution requirement implies that members should be in a position to bring to the attention of the Commission views and concerns of National Societies from all parts / different regions of the world;

In this context the Standing Commission considers 'regions' to be the Federation's constitutional regions, namely Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe;

Ideal qualities for membership on the Standing Commission can be summarized as follows: *leadership, motivation, character, knowledge, experience and availability to attend meetings and handle Commission affairs;*

Given that membership on the Commission implies a high level of commitment towards the Movement's ideals, utmost respect for ethical and professional responsibility is an overriding qualification. Members should be inspired at all times in their decisions and actions by the fundamental principles of the Movement.

Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
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1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
contact@rcstandcom.info

Annex 4

The following National Societies have contributed to the Standing Commission in 2005 and/or in 2007:

Andorra
Austria
Australia
Bahrain
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Croatia
Denmark
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Iran
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Korea, Republic of
Kuwait