



CONVOCAATION

**To the members and observers of the
31ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
Geneva, Switzerland, 28 November – 1 December 2011**

Geneva, 25 May 2011

Sir, Madam,

The Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent has determined the place and date of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The event will be held in Geneva from 28 November to 1 December 2011. As co-organizers of the Conference, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies look forward to welcoming you:

**on Monday 28 November 2011
at 9.00 a.m at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (ICCG)
Rue de Varembe, 15 – 1211 Geneva**

“**Our world. Your move – for humanity**” is the slogan of this Conference, which will focus on strengthening international humanitarian law and humanitarian action.

Please find enclosed the following preparatory documents:

1. **The provisional agenda**, prepared by the Standing Commission;
2. A **background document** that explains the rationale and desired outcomes for the substantive issues set out in the provisional agenda;
3. The **guidelines for pledging**, inviting participants to undertake voluntary specific humanitarian commitments to implement Conference resolutions for the period 2012-2015, either individually or collectively with other members and/or observers;
4. An information note on the **registration of participants**.

Please also refer to the following documents, which are available on the websites of the Standing Commission, the ICRC and the International Federation:

- ▶ **The Guiding Principles for the Election of the Standing Commission and the Statutes and Rules of Procedure** of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (new edition).

The Standing Commission will decide on a limited number of workshops to be held. These will provide participants with an opportunity to debate important humanitarian issues that are not on the formal agenda of the Conference. Further information on the workshops will be provided to participants at a later stage.

This convocation is addressed to all the members of the International Conference, who, pursuant to Article 9 of the Statutes of the Movement, are:

- ❖ the duly recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- ❖ the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- ❖ the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- ❖ the States party to the Geneva Conventions.

In accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement, this convocation is also addressed to all observers invited to attend the Conference.

Members of the Conference are invited to give feedback on the enclosed background document, preferably by 30 June.

Rule 6.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement requires that the Standing Commission receives observations, amendments or additions to the provisional agenda no later than 60 days before the opening of the Conference (29 September 2011). However, we would appreciate receiving all comments by 30 August.

Any paper submitted by a member of the Conference for inclusion as an official working document must be received by the Standing Commission no later than 90 days before the opening of the Conference (30 August 2011).

The official working documents for the various agenda items of the Conference, including draft resolutions, will be sent out 45 days before the opening of the Conference (12 October 2011).

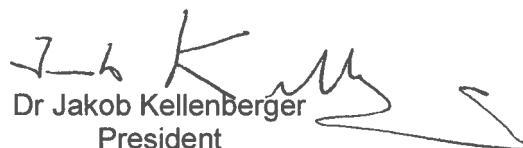
The address and contact details of the Secretariat of the Standing Commission and the other organizers of the Conference are enclosed.

The Standing Commission welcomes Ambassador Jean-François Paroz as Commissioner of the Conference. The Government of Switzerland has offered its services to the Standing Commission and the co-organizers to assist in the preparations for the Conference.

Please accept, Sir, Madam, the assurance of our highest consideration.



Tadateru Konoé
President
International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies



Dr Jakob Kellenberger
President
International Committee
of the Red Cross

Encl.