

daily bulletin

Details of draft resolution presented to the International Conference

Following interventions from the floor on Wednesday morning, there were two speeches to explain the draft resolution by François Bugnion, ICRC director of International Law and Markku Niskala, secretary general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Mr Bugnion described the resolution as containing “only minimal amendments, just those which are necessary to take account of the Third Additional Protocol”.

He noted that the amendments do not in any other way affect the obligations of States and National Societies.

“It does not affect the name of our Movement, nor the name of the International Federation or of the ICRC,” he said.

Mr Bugnion said that the Third Additional Protocol emblem as it is described in the Protocol would henceforth be known as the red crystal, a name in informal use for several years.



Mr Bugnion, ICRC director of International Law, said that the Third Additional Protocol emblem as it is described in the Protocol would henceforth be known as the red crystal.

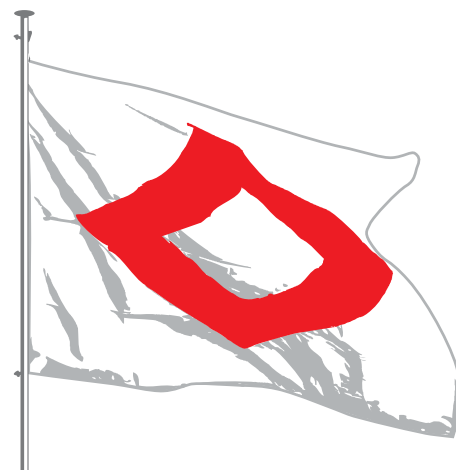


Jorge Perez/International Federation

"Indeed, the name red crystal has many advantages," he said. "It is identical in all three of the Movement's working languages – English, French and Spanish – and in many other languages. It was tested in a number of languages and no negative connotations could be identified."

He added: "Crystals are symbols of purity and transparency, and they bring to mind water, the source of life." ■

*Mr Bugnion,
ICRC director of International Law*



Unique circumstances of Palestine Red Crescent



Jorge Perez/International Federation

*Markku Niskala,
Secretary General of the
International Federation*

Markku Niskala, Secretary General of the International Federation, then commented on the last paragraph of the draft resolution.

He noted that according to the Statutes, National Societies can only be constituted on the territory of an independent state. The neutrality of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement prevents it from taking a stand on this question, he said.

He explained that the Memorandum of Understanding was signed last year to facilitate the adoption of the additional emblem and pave the way for the admission of both National Societies (Israeli and Palestinian) to the Movement.

Mr Niskala noted that the last paragraph indicates the Movement will work towards this objective, but in a way that does not create a precedent for the admission of future societies.

After the presentations the chairman invited the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC group to speak. Ambassador Masood Khan outlined four proposed changes to the draft resolution.

The chairman then announced that the conference would break and resume when the drafting group working on the wording of the resolution had finished its work. ■



Jorge Perez/International Federation

*Ambassador Masood Khan,
representative of Pakistan*