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
Commisions 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
Commisions 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 Shôken 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