



DELEGATES ENDORSE THE DRAFT RFL STRATEGY

During the third and last day of the Regional Conference, the General Rapporteur, Antonia Spanaki (ICRC), and the rapporteurs of the three working groups – Luis Fernando Hernandez (Brazilian Red Cross), Tom Corl (American Red Cross) and Carlos Frenier Figueroa (Mexican Red Cross) – presented the Final Report and Recommendations, which summarize the issues addressed during the intense deliberations and consultations.

“Family separation is a silent disaster.”

Jacques Moreillon

The delegates underlined the importance of developing a common approach to restoring family links. They confirmed their commitment to this key humanitarian activity and their wish to develop the Family Links Network. They also endorsed the draft Strategy. However, they maintained that the wording must be more detailed in some areas.

The delegates confirmed the goals and actions proposed in the document, and drew attention to the following points:

- Within the National Societies a strong organisational foundation for RFL was clearly recognised as essential. This must be reflected in the strategic and the disaster preparedness plans. Stronger links between RFL and other activities carried out by NS must be developed.
- The International Federation confirms its support to National Societies in RFL through its role in organisational development and disaster preparedness and response.
- National Societies can develop their knowledge of other actors involved in activities related to RFL. The ICRC/CTA should develop guidelines on how the Movement cooperates with other actors in emergency response, and disseminate these guidelines throughout the Movement and with other actors.
- Dialogue with the authorities is key in order to define roles and responsibilities.
- Communication on RFL activities is essential in order to increase visibility and create awareness of their importance.
- New technologies should be incorporated in RFL response, keeping in mind, however, that these may compromise confidentiality and protection of personal data.
- The participants recommended that the International Federation include migration, one of the major concerns of the region, and the issue of RFL, in the agenda of the Inter-American Meeting in Ecuador in 2007.
- The adoption of the RFL Strategy for the Movement will entail a collective obligation to disseminate and implement it. Successful implementation will require effective cooperation among all components of the Movement, as well as collaboration with beneficiaries.

Finally, after congratulating the ICRC and the Advisory Group on the work carried out, and recommending that the ICRC take note of the comments in the Final Report, the Conference requested the ICRC to take forward the RFL Strategy for the Movement and present it to the Council of Delegates in 2007 for adoption.

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Restoring Family Links Regional Conference



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