



Our world. Your move.

Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross
and Red Crescent Movement

Geneva, 26 November 2011 – For humanity



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COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

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WORK OF THE STANDING COMMISSION

Follow up report

Document prepared by
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Executive summary

Since the Council in Nairobi, the Standing Commission has focused its attention and work on the preparation of this year's important statutory meetings – the Council of Delegates and the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

No ad-hoc working group was invited for the task as it was hoped that improved consultations could replace its input. Although clear progress can be recorded on improved consultations, more can still be done for a fully participatory process in preparing Movement level meetings.

As in previous years, the advisory Group of Ambassadors has proven most useful in preparing both substance and structure for the International Conference. A further improvement has been regular general briefings on the Conference preparations for the Permanent Missions in Geneva. National Societies participated in the latest briefing in September 2011.

The MoU between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in Israel has been high on the Commission's list of priorities. It has followed progress made and sought to positively encourage implementation in order to achieve completion by the time of the statutory meetings in November 2011.

Another area of attention has been the Strategy for the Movement. After 10 years, the Commission felt it is reasonable to assume that the 10 actions would be completed, or near completion this year. The Nairobi Council requested an evaluation of the achievement of the strategic objectives and the 10 actions in the Strategy. It also asked the SC to complete its work on Movement fora, or Action 4, and to present its proposals for change to this Council. Further, the 2009 Council asked the Commission to examine the necessity of and to prepare a strategic framework for the Movement as a continuation of the present Strategy, based on the findings of the evaluation. A fourth area of concern expressed by the Nairobi Council was that ICRC and the Federation enhance their monitoring mechanisms, involving their regional structures for improving feedback from NS, thereby promoting better implementation of the outcomes of statutory meetings.

The evaluation of the Strategy is completed and its report and recommendations are available to this Council. The complexity of issues involved in Movement fora and developing strategic directions for the future meant that not all was achieved as expected by the Nairobi Council. The outgoing Commission has expressed its wish in a draft resolution to this Council to mandate the incoming Commission to continue work on open issues and bring its proposals to the 2013 CoD.

In conclusion the Standing Commission wishes to thank all National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation, their members and staff for their commitment, participation and contributions, which have added value and important experience to the various working processes and preparations.

1. Introduction

The 30th International Conference (IC) in 2007 elected the 15th Standing Commission (SC or Commission) of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The Commission, the functions of which are determined in Article 18 of the Statutes of the Movement, has worked in the following composition since its previous biannual report to the 2009 Nairobi Council:

- Five members in their personal capacity:
 - Dr Massimo Barra (Italy) – Chair 2010-11
 - Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid (Jordan) – Vice Chair 2010-2011
 - Mr Steven Carr (USA)
 - Mr Eamon Courtenay (Belize)
 - Mr Adama Diarra (Mali)
- Two ex officio members from the ICRC:
 - Dr Jakob Kellenberger, President
 - Dr Philip Spoerri, Director, International Law and Cooperation within the Movement
- Two ex officio members from the International Federation:
 - Mr Tadateru Konoe, President
 - Mr Bekele Geleta, Secretary General

The Commission continued its work after the highly successful Council of Delegates in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2009. The resolutions of that Council and work already in progress determined the second 2-year Plan of Action of this Commission.

2. Role and tasks of the Standing Commission

The Standing Commission is the trustee of the International Conference, which elects its 5 National Society (NS) members. Furthermore, it is *the* permanent Movement body, where all components are represented and which meets regularly. During the reporting period (2010-2011) the Commission met five (5) times.

The Commission provides strategic guidance in matters, which concern the Movement as a whole, respecting the specific mandates of the components and not involving itself in operational work. It relies on the ICRC, the International Federation and National Societies for the implementation of its decisions. It has continuously emphasised the importance of the participation of and consultation with NS in its work for better understanding of their realities and the demands posed by external developments to ensure that all RCRC work serves victims and the most vulnerable beneficiaries.

3. Work of the Commission since the 2009 Council

The SC Plan of Action (PoA) 2010-11 is based on its statutory mandate and on resolutions of the Council of Delegates (CoD) and the International Conference (IC). Examples of tasks outlined in CoD resolutions are the general monitoring and promotion of the Strategy for the Movement and, in particular, the actions where the SC has the lead. Another example is following the implementation of the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures, on which the Commission receives regular annual reports. Finally, the PoA builds on work-in-progress, tasks and functions agreed upon and stemming from any of the above.

The 2-year PoA is accompanied by a 2-year budget, which is the joint financial responsibility of the International Federation, the ICRC and the National Societies, on the basis of 1/3 each with the National Society contributions continuing on a voluntary basis. (Resolution 1 / 2007 CoD)

3.1. Core activities

Preparation of Statutory Meetings

The main task has been the preparation of the 2011 Council of Delegates (CoD) and the 31st International Conference (IC). The SC set in March 2011 the overall objective for the Conference: to strengthen IHL and humanitarian action. Under the slogan 'Our World. Your Move – for humanity', the Conference will address new vulnerabilities in armed conflict, in other situations of violence and in disaster situations as well as gaps in the enabling environment. Migration was added as an agenda item under strengthening local humanitarian action, as initiated by a number of National Societies.

The challenge has been to improve consultations with National Societies, as requested by the 2009 CoD resolution 2, which *"calls on the Standing Commission, the ICRC and the International Federation to take concrete steps to improve the dialogue with and the involvement of National Societies in the preparation of the 2011 statutory meetings in the interest of better ownership and implementation of the results of those meetings"*.

The same call was made by NS leaders in interviews in connection with the Strategy for the Movement -work on Action 4 (See separate report on the Strategy for the Movement).

For setting the agendas of the CoD and IC, in close cooperation with the ICRC and the International Federation, it was hoped that improved consultation mechanisms would compensate for not inviting an ad hoc working group of NS, as has been the practise in the past.

Substantive progress has been recorded in the consultation process. In the early stages of preparing the substance for the 2011 statutory meetings, regional conferences and meetings were used to record feedback on agenda items developed by the ICRC and/or the International Federation but also to collect initiatives from NS. The SC website (www.standcom.ch) posted early on elements towards an agenda for both the Council and the Conference, in the hope of inspiring internal discussions within NS and response to the Commission. This was in general positively received.

At a later stage, after the convocation of the statutory meetings, feedback and comments were received from NS as well as governments on the background document accompanying the convocation. Furthermore, discussion papers and draft elements for resolutions on the main themes for the 31st Conference were for the first time at such an early stage shared with all NS and governments alike for input.

Four General briefings on the preparations for the Conference were organised for the Permanent Missions in Geneva – another 'first'. NS participated in the last briefing in September in connection with the Legal Advisers' Meeting.

A Group of 30 Ambassadors was invited as an advisory body to the SC and the co-organisers building on previous positive experiences. The constructive dialogue with the

group, representing different regions and groupings, has proven helpful in advancing the agenda and shaping the content of the International Conference.

The Commission wishes to acknowledge and express its gratitude to the Swiss government for its substantial financial support to the Conference and for appointing Ambassador Jean-François Paroz as Commissioner for the 31st Conference, in support of the Commission and the co-organisers.

A significant new development was the establishment of an International Conference website (www.rcrcconference.org) under the auspices of the Standing Commission and financed by it. Its first and foremost goal is to be a reference or document base and an information centre on the Conference. The site carries, in all four working languages, all documents and practical information for participants along with links to registration and relevant additional information relating to themes and agenda items on the websites of the ICRC and the IFRC. During the Conference, there will be webcasts and Daily Bulletins in video format to inspire NS and others interested to follow it, at least partially, in real time. This site will also serve the preparations for future RCRC Conferences and, as a documentary base, carry all outcomes of the 31st and coming Conferences.

Implementation of Resolutions

The Commission is entrusted by the Statutes of the Movement ‘*to encourage and further the implementation of resolutions*’. For this a functioning monitoring and follow-up of the outcomes of the 2009 CoD was to be enhanced and shared with the SC as per Resolution 2 of the same Council, which “... *calls on the International Federation and the ICRC, to enhance their monitoring mechanisms, involving their regional structures, for improved feedback from National Societies on the implementation of resolutions adopted by this Council and coming statutory meetings and to share the findings with the Standing Commission.*”

The ambitions outlined in this resolution have not been achieved and systematic monitoring with relevant reporting mechanisms is still to be developed. The SC review, which sought to establish to what degree Council and Conference resolutions have been implemented, revealed gaps. The main reason for non-implementation was a sense of lacking relevance of the outcomes to the reality of everyday work and activities of the NS, something that the improved consultations have sought to address.

It is recommended that the incoming SC review and follow up, as relevant, progress in this regard and seek to have a mechanism in place for regular updates on the implementation of the resolutions together with the ICRC and the International Federation.

Conferences and regional/sub regional meetings

The SC Chair and members have participated at regional conferences and other regional/sub regional meetings and events, as invited and as relevant. Such opportunities have also been used to consult NS on issues the SC is working on and to be informed of developments relevant to its tasks. In the 2-year period of this report the focus has been on work on the Movement Strategy and on the preparation of the 2011 statutory meetings.

3.2 Other activities

Strategy for the Movement

Work on the Movement Strategy and its Action 4 on the complexities of Movement fora was guided by work carried out before the Nairobi Council, as reported to it, and by resolution 2 of the same, which “... *invites the Standing Commission to continue its work on reducing the complexities of the Movement fora in close consultation with National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation and to present its proposals for change, as relevant, to the 2011 Council of Delegates.*”

There has been no ad hoc working group; Mr Steve Carr continued to lead the process seeking the engagement of all SC members. The aim was to bring options and proposals for change, as requested by the resolution, to the 2011 Council, which proved to be too ambitious. An extensive review process involving two rounds of structured interviews with a representative sample of NS leaders was carried out. The review mapped views and proposals for improving the efficiency of the various Movement fora. Although there is substantive clarity of direction for needed changes, more in-depth analysis of options are required to develop concrete change proposals. It is hoped that the incoming SC will conclude this work and present such options, as relevant, to the 2013 CoD.

For more details on the reviews, see *separate report on the Strategy for the Movement*.

The SC foresaw that the 10 actions in the Strategy would, by and large, be completed by 2011. The Nairobi Council, in Resolution 2, called for an evaluation of the “*achievement of the strategic objectives and the expected results of the ten actions*” of the Strategy. It called on the Commission to do the work with the ICRC and the International Federation.

The full evaluation report (in English) is available, *upon request*, to all members of the Council. The main findings and recommendations of the evaluator are presented in the separate report on the Strategy.

The Council also requested the Commission “*to examine the necessity of and to prepare a strategic framework for the Movement as a continuation of the present Strategy, as needed, taking into account experiences and lessons learnt from the evaluation and internal and external challenges facing the Movement*”.

Rather than submitting its own options on the issue of a possible future strategic framework, the outgoing Commission submits to the Council that it requests the incoming SC to further explore the matter and to present its proposals(s) to the 2013 CoD for decision.

Seville Agreement and the Supplementary Measures

The Commission received the report on the implementation, as stipulated in the Agreement itself. In that connection, it also heard updates of major recent operations (Haiti, Pakistan) along with reflections on how the Agreement served the components in these major undertakings.

A separate consolidated report, including experiences from NS, is presented to this Council as a follow-up report.

MoU

The SC has followed the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society giving it high priority. It received regular reports and considered ways of encouraging and ensuring full implementation in view of its importance for the 2011 statutory meetings. The Monitor participated in a meeting of the Commission for an in-depth discussion on the process and the complexities involved. The SC also requested the International Federation to identify, in consultation with the Monitor, an ad hoc group of National Societies, with a mandate to contact the parties involved in the implementation of the MoU, in preparation for the CoD and the IC.

A separate report on the MoU will be presented to this Council under that agenda item.

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

In accordance with the criteria for 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 decided to award the Medal to three 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.

5. Finance and administration

The Secretariat

The Secretariat has continued to prepare the SC meetings, formal and informal, and to coordinate work on the various issues and to liaise with the ICRC and the International Federation on all issues relevant for the Commission. It has issued Newsletters after SC meetings, which have been shared with all NS and the Permanent Missions in Geneva and with the ICRC and the International Federation's field representations. The Newsletter is published in all working languages of the Movement.

The website (www.standcom.ch) has carried key information on outcomes of statutory meetings, as a documentation base, and on the work of the SC, including preparations for the 2011 meetings as aforementioned. No additional funding for the standcom-site was sought during the period reported on as there was still CHF 35'783 in earmarked funds for the site at the end of 2010. The incoming Commission will have to decide on the future funding of the standcom-website.

A new website – www.rcrcconference.org – was established under the auspices of the Standing Commission in close cooperation and coordination with the ICRC, the International Federation and the office of the Commissioner of the 31st Conference.

The secretariat moved to the ICRC premises in April 2010 and expresses its appreciation of the good cooperation and services it enjoys from the ICRC.

Finances

The principle for financing the work of the SC, established by the Seville Council in 1997, was revised by the 2007 Council in its Resolution 1, which stipulated that the future financing *“shall be based on a two-year Plan of Action and budget to be the joint financial responsibility of the International Federation, the ICRC and the National Societies, on the basis of 1/3 each with the National Society contributions continuing on a voluntary basis.”*

The expenditure in 2010 amounted to CHF 548'212 and the budget for the statutory meeting –year 2011 is CHF 580'700. The cost for the new Conference website is estimated at CHF 35'000 and was approved by the SC outside the annual 2011 budget.

NS contributions in 2010 amounted to CHF 162'445 while the ICRC and the IFRC contributed CHF 230'000 and CHF 200'000 respectively. The NS contributions fell slightly short of the request as some NS failed to contribute their share, which is calculated using the Federation approved barême.

At the time of writing this report (September 2011), NS have contributed a total of CHF 97'626. Additional information is available from the SC Secretariat upon request.

The Commission wishes to thank all National Societies, the ICRC and the international Federation for its support in both human and financial resources. Without such support it could not function.

Annex

The following National Societies have contributed to the Standing Commission in 2010 (CHF 162'445) and in 2011 (CHF 97'626 as of 21 September):

1. Andorra	26. Korea, Republic of
2. Austria	27. Kuwait
3. Australia	28. Lebanon
4. Bahrain	29. Libya
5. Belgium	30. Lichtenstein
7. Bulgaria	31. Luxemburg
8. Canada	32. Malaysia
9. Czech Republic	33. Mexico
10. Chile	34. Monaco
11. China	35. Mongolia
12. Colombia	36. The Netherlands
13. Croatia	37. New Zealand
14. Denmark	38. Norway
15. Egypt	39. Panama
16. Finland	40. Portugal
17. France	41. Poland
18. Germany	42. Qatar
19. Iceland	43. Spain
20. India	44. Sweden
21. Ireland	45. Switzerland
22. Israel	46. Thailand
23. Italy	47. Turkey
24. Japan	48. United Arab Emirates
25. Jordan	49. United Kingdom
	50. United States