



STANDING COMMISSION  
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT  
COMMISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT-ROUGE  
COMISIÓN PERMANENTE  
DE LA CRUZ ROJA Y DE LA MEDIA LUNA ROJA

## CONVOCATION

To the Members and Observers of the  
COUNCIL OF DELEGATES  
Sydney, Australia

17-18 November 2013

Geneva, 10 May 2013

Dear friends,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the next meeting of the Council of Delegates will take place in Sydney from 17 to 18 November 2013 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, following the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Australian Red Cross has put considerable effort into their part of the preparations for the statutory meetings – and will continue to do so until the events are over – and I am sure we shall all have an interesting and stimulating time.

One improvement on past practices is that, through the use of video conferencing, the host National Society for the Council of Delegates has been much more involved in the Geneva-based Joint Organising Committee. This is certainly something to maintain for future meetings outside Geneva.

### *Provisional annotated agenda*

Please find enclosed the provisional annotated agenda prepared by the Standing Commission. The agenda and the programme for the meeting build on the many comments and suggestions received in response to my letter of 29 January 2013 and on the deliberations of the Standing Commission – which has played a much more active role in this regard than may have been the case in the past.

The 2013 Council of Delegates will be held under the overarching theme of “150 years of humanitarian action,” commemorating the founding of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the first National Societies.

Under this theme, the discussions will be organized into three broad plenary topics:

- The changing face of humanitarian action in the 21st century
- The Fundamental Principles in action
- Relations among components of the Movement

These three headings are meant to reflect the need for the components of the Movement to find our bearings in the broader context, as well as to focus on our common roots in principles, values and a shared understanding of how to work together in the interests of victims and vulnerable people worldwide.

### *Substantive issues for decision*

The 2013 Council of Delegates intends to address a wide range of humanitarian concerns and to pave the way for new policies and strategies. The Council will adopt a forward-looking stance, laying the groundwork for the 2015 Council of Delegates and the 32nd International Conference.

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During its plenary meetings the Council will discuss and adopt resolutions on a limited number of important issues for the Movement. The Standing Commission will endeavour to ensure that draft resolutions and background reports on each substantive agenda item are shared in advance with National Societies. This will ensure that the process is truly participatory and that we are ready to take a decision when those issues are brought before the Council.

Follow-up reports on Resolutions adopted at previous Councils will be shared in advance with participants. The floor will be open for questions and comments during the Council's plenary session upon request.

### **Workshops**

Central to the work of the Council will be a series of workshops, which will form an integral part of the Council's agenda. The Standing Commission sincerely hopes that discussions in the workshops will be thorough and creative and will provide a road map for the future work of the components of the Movement in the areas covered.

The selection of topics for these workshops has been made on the basis of the outcome of the consultations with National Societies that took place between January and March 2013 and yielded rich feedback, including 10 proposals for workshops and plenary debates.

### **Next steps**

Rule 6.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement requires that the Standing Commission receive observations, amendments or additions to the provisional agenda at least 60 days before the opening of the Council. The official deadline for any such communication is therefore 18 September 2013.

However, as the Standing Commission meets on 16 September, I would appeal to you to submit your comments **no later than 11 September** to reach the said meeting. They can be sent to the address below, faxed (+41 22 730 4975) or e-mailed to [contact@standcom.info](mailto:contact@standcom.info)

Secretariat of the Standing  
Commission of the Red Cross and  
Red Crescent  
19, Avenue de la Paix  
1202 Geneva  
**SWITZERLAND**

The working documents for the Council of Delegates will be sent to all participants 45 days before the opening of the meeting.

Please also note that a joint opening ceremony and celebration of the statutory meetings (General Assembly and Council of Delegates) will be held on the morning of 12 November. More details on this new initiative will reach you in due course.

I look forward to welcoming you and your colleagues in Sydney and to your active participation in the many and important discussions that will take place there.

Yours sincerely,



Greg Vickery  
Chairman  
Standing Commission