



150 years of humanitarian action
**Council of Delegates of the International
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**
Sydney, Australia, November 2013



Council of Delegates

**17-18 November 2013
Sydney, Australia**

Draft agenda [Annotated]

Adopted by the Standing Commission on 17 September 2013

I. Elections, agenda and procedural matters

- 1. Opening of the Council**
- 2. Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretaries of the Council**
- 3. Adoption of the agenda of the Council of Delegates**

II. Awards ceremony

- **Henry Dunant Medal**
- **Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity**

III. Issues for debate and decision in plenary

A number of issues are brought up for discussion and decision in the plenary because previous Councils have decided to do so.

4. Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons

The resolution will annex a plan of action to implement Resolution 1 of the 2011 Council of Delegates: Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. The plan of action will outline measures that National Societies, with the support of the ICRC and the Federation, may take to implement Resolution 1, in particular operative paragraph 4, i.e. engaging in "activities to raise awareness among the public, scientists, health professionals and decision-makers" of the humanitarian and IHL issues associated with the use of nuclear weapons, and in a "continuous dialogue with governments and other relevant actors" on these issues.

5. Strategy for the Movement

5.1. Report and draft resolution

The Standing Commission has discussed the Strategy for the Movement and possible avenues for its renewal or replacement and the Council will, when it meets, have before it a report and proposal.

5.2. Standing Commission Working Group on Movement Fora: Report and draft resolution

Resolution 3 of the 2011 Council of Delegates,¹ Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement Strategy), called on the incoming Standing Commission:

“2.1. to finalize the work on Movement fora and to submit change proposals, as relevant, for decision by the 2013 Council of Delegates, and to this end create an ad hoc working group representing National Societies with a wide range of expertise, including a youth representative;

2.2. to base this work on the outcomes of the comprehensive reviews already undertaken by the outgoing Standing Commission on the Movement with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete changes in the interest of greater efficiency and effectiveness and reduced costs and environmental impact of meetings involving all Movement components.”

The working group was established during the first half of 2012 and met three times before submitting a report to the Standing Commission in September 2013; the Council of Delegates will receive a report based on the one prepared by the working group.

6 Movement coordination and cooperation – Working together in the Movement: Issues and ways forward

A report will be circulated setting out the findings, recommendations and key conclusions from a sample of recent humanitarian coordination experiences where Movement coordination has been particularly successful or challenging. This report and the consideration of challenges posed by the humanitarian environment (in lieu of the report on the Seville Agreement and Supplementary Measures) will inform discussions on the need to revisit the Movement’s existing coordination practice and frameworks.

Under this heading, the components of the Movement will have an opportunity to explore options for cooperation in the future, and to agree on a way forward regarding the process to be put in place, with a view to reaching a consensus at the 2015 Council of Delegates. A resolution on strengthening Movement coordination and cooperation will be proposed.

¹ Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Geneva, 26 November 2011, Resolution CD/11/R3, Strategy for the Movement. Guidance for the incoming Standing Commission regarding the Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, available at http://www.standcom.ch/download/cod_2011/cod_2011_resolutions/item_3/CD11_R3_SfM_EN.pdf

In addition, the senior management of the Federation and the ICRC have jointly prepared a document ("vision paper") that outlines their vision for strengthening delivery of the Movement's humanitarian response.

Moreover, humanitarian diplomacy, relations with the UN and other external actors, and other shared concerns may all find a place in discussions on this subject.

7. Memorandum of Understanding between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in Israel

The 2011 Council of Delegates requested "the ICRC and the International Federation to arrange for the provision of a report on implementation of the MoU to the next Council of Delegates and through it to the International Conference."²

The 2013 Council of Delegates will have available to it the Final Report of the Independent Monitor, issued in early 2013, and will receive an update on subsequent progress in implementation.

8. International Branding Initiative

At the 2011 Council of Delegates, the Chairman stated that the components of the Movement would work together to develop a better understanding and response to the global challenges posed by the different Red Cross and Red Crescent "brand" identities. The Chairman added that, as part of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Branding Initiative, a common definition of what branding means for the Movement, and a branding positioning statement, would be agreed in order to help manage and enhance the reputation and influence of components of the Movement.

At the 2013 Council of Delegates in Sydney, a Red Cross and Red Crescent Branding resolution will be presented with the intention of promoting consistent representation of the Movement and to facilitate education and capacity building on branding-related issues.

The proposed resolution will aim to define the elements that make up the Red Cross and Red Crescent identity and brands and will recognize the importance of branding for enhancing the Movement's position and voice as a global humanitarian network. The resolution will also include two documents in annex – a branding toolkit containing guidance on a number of challenges including brand development, branding in the digital sphere and social media, managing transnational crises of reputation, and branding for youth audiences, and a document providing dos and don'ts guidance for displaying the emblems and logos in communication, marketing and fundraising.

9. Weapons and IHL: Preventing the humanitarian consequences originating from the development, use and proliferation of certain types of weapons

² Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Geneva, 26 November 2011, Resolution CD/11/R5, Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Operational Arrangements dated 28th November 2005 between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in Israel, paragraph 7. Available at http://www.standcom.ch/download/cod_2011/cod_2011_resolutions/item_5/CD11_R5_MoU_PRCS_and_MDA_EN.pdf

This omnibus resolution will cover recent developments on arms matters that are of interest to the Movement (including those raised in previous resolutions of the Council of Delegates) and require follow-up and work in the coming years, as well as highlighting forthcoming opportunities, with a view to mobilizing components of the Movement.

10. Strengthening legal protection for victims of armed conflicts: implementing Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

This resolution will thank the ICRC for the report on the implementation of Resolution 1 to be submitted to the Council of Delegates. The report outlines the steps undertaken so far to implement Resolution 1, including the main outcomes of consultations held with States on strengthening the law in two areas: (1) the protection of persons deprived of their liberty in non-international armed conflict (the detention track); and (2) the effectiveness of IHL compliance mechanisms (the compliance track). The report also outlines the planned way forward for the consultation process. The resolution will invite National Societies to provide comments to the ICRC on the implementation of Resolution 1, and will seek the support of all Movement components in encouraging States to participate actively in the on-going consultation process.

IV. Issues for introduction in plenary and discussion at the workshops

The topics of the workshops will be introduced in plenary under three broad headings:

The Changing Face of Humanitarian Action

The Fundamental Principles in Action

Relations among Components of the Movement

Each workshop will be held either once or twice, in different language combinations, in the course of the two days. Consolidated reports from each of the eight workshops will be compiled for presentation to the plenary session at the end of the Council.

The debate at the workshops may or may not result in a specific written outcome. However, participants may choose to come up with recommendations or, in accordance with the Statutes, to determine how to take these recommendations forward at the Council or elsewhere.

WS1 Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The year 2015, when the 32nd International Conference is scheduled to take place, also marks the 50th anniversary of the Proclamation³ⁱ of the Fundamental

³ 20th International Conference of the Red Cross, Resolution VIII, **Proclamation of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross**

Principles of the Red Cross at the 20th International Conference of the Red Cross in Vienna in November 1965.

In preparation for their 50th anniversary celebration, the Federation and the ICRC initiated, in 2013, a Movement-wide consultation on the Fundamental Principles.

This workshop will present the outcome of the first, “scoping” phase, which sought to generate dialogue across the Movement about the challenges and opportunities presented by the implementation of the Fundamental Principles in today’s changing humanitarian and development contexts – from a personal, operational and institutional perspective.

The workshop will discuss how the Movement can reinvigorate application of the Fundamental Principles and decide on the way forward for the initiative, leading up to the 32nd International Conference.

WS2 Humanitarian Education Platform (HEP)

The “Humanitarian Education Platform,” a Movement initiative, will focus on innovations in humanitarian education. It will facilitate active sharing of ideas, projects and tools, as well as engagement in joint peer-to-peer initiatives for advancing the range of humanitarian education activities within formal and non-formal educational settings, including voluntary service. A special feature of this platform is the emphasis it places on children, while also promoting the involvement of young people and adults.

The “Humanitarian Education Platform” workshop at the 2013 Council of Delegates will discuss the definition of humanitarian education as well as opportunities to contribute and advance on this Movement initiative through using and maximizing this online community as well as peer-to-peer approaches to networking and coaching.

WS3 Health Care in Danger: Health-care workers, volunteers and communities at risk

This workshop will give National Societies, the Federation and the ICRC an opportunity to reflect on the project’s progress, aims and impact, particularly with respect to measures being implemented by National Societies, States and the health-care community.

Workshop participants will consider the set of recommendations from experts’ workshops conducted since mid-2012, and explore in detail how they can promote and implement relevant concrete measures emanating from these workshops. To support this practically oriented discussion, a report analyzing the most pertinent recommendations will be circulated at the workshop.

The use of social media and other interactive tools will engage with as broad an audience as possible, including Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers, health-care NGOs and representatives of States. The conversation will focus on lessons learned in this project as well as the challenges and opportunities ahead as all stakeholders are further mobilized to ensure greater respect for health-care workers, volunteers and facilities.

Participants will be encouraged to reflect and consider what steps they can take to invigorate and strengthen their own National Society's response leading up to the 32nd International Conference.

WS4 Safer access and the protection of staff and volunteers

Central to the discussion is raising awareness of how National Societies can provide safer access to people and communities with humanitarian needs, while at the same time focusing on the importance and means of protecting their staff and volunteers from harm.

National Society operational security risk management practices and the advantages of positioning the National Society for acceptance will be explored in greater depth. This will include the measures that need to be taken with governments, partners and the general public, and Movement-wide security management practices for a coordinated Movement response.

The workshop seeks to demonstrate how these concepts and initiatives converge at the operational level and are pivotal to National Societies' ability to effectively carry out their mandates and roles in order to provide assistance and protection in sensitive and insecure contexts. Recommendations will be made for safer access in operations and for policy discussions at future statutory meetings.

WS5 Persons with disabilities

Many National Societies, the ICRC and the Federation have a long history of involvement in activities for individuals with disabilities that promote their greater inclusion among volunteers and staff as well as in society at large.

The International Conference has, twice, had this issue before it; first in 1981 when it met in Manila and adopted Resolution XXVII: International year of disabled persons and invited "National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the League and the ICRC to pursue and develop the cooperation with the disabled." The second time was in 1986 when, meeting in Geneva, it adopted Resolution XXVIII: The Movement and the United Nations Decade for Disabled Persons, which, in addition to asking States to support the Movement,

- recommended "that National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies seize every opportunity to strengthen the activities of existing national organizations which focus on the physical, mental and social needs of the disabled";*
- urged "National Societies to find ways of supporting national programmes which focus on the prevention of disability";*
- recommended "that National Societies take the necessary steps to ensure the fullest possible participation of the disabled."*

The issue came up most recently at the 31st International Conference in 2011, in resolutions related to IHL.

At the 2013 Council of Delegates in Sydney, at the suggestion of a group of National Societies and the ICRC, National Societies will have an opportunity to discuss these matters again, and to consider the topic “Promoting disability inclusion in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement,” about which a resolution will be proposed.

WS6 Promoting and Enhancing the Red Response: Working with External Actors

The Movement has never worked in isolation. Whether it is forging close partnerships with the private sector, other humanitarian agencies or governments – as embodied in the International Conference and the notion of National Society auxiliary status –, the Movement regularly combines its forces with external actors. We endeavour to harness such relationships without compromising our Fundamental Principles, reputation and community access and acceptance.

In an ever-changing humanitarian landscape of evolving needs and limited resources it is inevitable that relationships with external actors will change too. For example, National Societies in disaster-affected and disaster-prone countries are increasingly being approached by governmental and non-governmental donors directly to act as implementing and/or project partners. This entails new opportunities, challenges and demands.

Red Cross/Red Crescent skills and resources are also increasingly being called upon by government civil-protection forces raising questions about “Red Response” priorities, use of emblems, and Movement coordination and cooperation principles.

This workshop focuses on the Movement’s future strategy towards external actors and asks: How can we best respond to emerging opportunities and the demands of these actors as well as make better and more systematic use of the tools and policies guidance we have developed? How do we promote a distinct but complementary Movement-wide humanitarian response (the so-called “Red Response”) that reflects the Movement’s unique capacity to alleviate human suffering?

WS7 Addressing the humanitarian impact of “external shocks” on vulnerable migrants, host populations and National Societies

In the consultations connected to the development of the Council’s agenda, several National Societies brought up issues that might be collectively described as “external shocks.” These are shocks that affect them by creating new or increased needs while at the same time affecting their ability to mobilize resources to meet these needs. This is particularly the case with sudden financial and economic crises.

The inclusion of this topic in the agenda for the Council of Delegates gives National Societies, the Federation and the ICRC an opportunity to exchange views and experiences on coping with such events, and to look at the options available to National Societies faced with crises of this nature and the tools available for mobilizing international solidarity among Sister Societies affected.

WS8 Making the most of the International Conference: Outcomes of the 31st IC and preparing for the 32nd IC in 2015

The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent is a unique event that the Movement can capitalize on to achieve its humanitarian objectives, including strengthening partnerships with States. No other humanitarian organization enjoys the privilege of convening State representatives at such a high level, of setting an agenda based exclusively on humanitarian concerns, and of facilitating agreement on collaborative action to achieve the States' and the Movement's common humanitarian goals.

However, in order to sustain the relevance of the Movement and leverage its power, we must be more systematic and strategic in deciding which issues to bring to the International Conference (IC) and in promoting and monitoring the follow-up given to its outcomes. It is also important for us to consider how the IC interacts with other humanitarian fora and contributes to the resolution of today's humanitarian challenges.

This workshop will draw on the outcomes of the 31st International Conference Mid-Term Review and on the report submitted to the 2013 Council of Delegates by the Standing Commission Working Group. Taking stock of lessons learnt from the 31st IC, the workshop will focus on what should be changed to ensure that we make the most of the engagement of governments and Movement components to optimize the humanitarian impact of the 32nd IC. It will discuss ways and means of further enhancing implementation of the resolutions and pledges of the 31st IC in the lead-up to the 32nd IC, in 2015.

WS9 Movement responses to sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict and disasters

The objective of this workshop is to promote understanding, awareness and information-sharing about operational activities within the Movement to respond to and prevent sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict and disasters. It will aim to identify future areas of collaboration and coordination within the Movement on this issue, particularly in the lead-up to the 32nd International Conference in 2015.

V. Follow-up to the 2011 Council of Delegates

The follow-up reports will be submitted as working documents to all members of the Council 45 days before the opening of the Council of Delegates.

National Societies wishing to raise issues stemming from the reports should inform the Standing Commission in advance for such requests to be added to the agenda of the Council of Delegates. Written comments on the reports are welcomed in advance of the Council of Delegates.

No follow-up reports may be introduced or discussed at the Council unless requested by a National Society as per the above procedure.

1. Report on the work of the Standing Commission
(Regular report to the Council of Delegates)
2. Report on the Empress Shôken Fund
(Regular report to the Council of Delegates)
3. Report of the Joint ICRC/International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes
(Resolution 4 of the 2011 Council of Delegates)
4. Report on implementation of the Movement Strategy on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and other Explosive Remnants of War: Reducing the Effects of Weapons on Civilians (Resolution 6 of the 2009 Council of Delegates)
5. Implementation report on National Societies Preparing for and Responding to Armed Conflict and Other Situations of Violence (Resolution 7 of the 2011 Council of Delegates)
6. Progress report on Health Care in Danger (Resolution 5 of the 31st International Conference of 2011)

VI. Closing of the Council

Confirmation of date and venue of the 2015 Council of Delegates