



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



OUTLINE OF WORKSHOP 8

**Making the most of the International Conference:
Outcomes of the 31st International Conference (2011) and preparations for the
32nd International Conference (2015)**

Chair : tbc (Chair of 31st International Conference proposed, or member of the Standing Commission Working Group on Movement Fora)

Rapporteur : tbc

Technical support : Muftah Etwilb and Victoria Gardener

Rationale/Objectives

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.

Background

At the 31st IC, in 2011, Conference members reached agreement on a number of important areas relating to the Movement's work. They adopted nine resolutions and made over 390 pledges to achieve the overall objectives of:

- Strengthening international humanitarian law;
- Strengthening disaster laws;
- Strengthening local humanitarian action;

- Addressing barriers to health care.

The real impact of these resolutions and pledges, however, will depend on how they are implemented. Resolution 9 of the 31st IC invites all Conference members to review, in 2013, progress made with respect to the implementation of the resolutions and pledges. This workshop will review the initial findings of the Mid-Term Review, conducted to that end.

As the 2013 Council of Delegates falls at the midway point between the 31st and 32nd IC, it offers an excellent opportunity both to assess progress made so far and to boost implementation for an even greater impact before the next IC. The Council of Delegates, and this workshop in particular, also provide an opportunity to draw lessons from the experience of the 31st IC and its follow-up, and to develop strategies to better prepare for future ICs and better leverage their outcomes.

Methodology

After a brief overview by the chair, the floor will be opened for participants to debate the three main issues described above. The questions below should serve as a guide for the discussions:

- 1. How can the Movement and States make the most of the International Conference to achieve humanitarian outcomes?**
- 2. Overcoming challenges in implementation of pledges and resolutions:**
 - What are the main barriers to implementation?
 - What steps can the various Movement components take to overcome the challenges and how can they support one another in this effort?
- 3. What should be done differently for the 32nd International Conference, in 2015?**
 - What lessons should we draw from the experience of the 31st International Conference and the progress made to date in implementing its outcomes?
 - How might we prepare for the 32nd International Conference differently from in the past, in light of these lessons?

Expected outcomes

- Participants gain an overview of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the 31st IC.
- Practical measures are put forward for improving implementation of those outcomes.
- Ideas are shared on how to prepare for the 32nd IC in a way that will enhance its effectiveness.
- Ideas are generated on how to improve the IC to better leverage the engagement of States and Movement components for greater humanitarian impact.
- Participants learn from each other's experiences in pursuing those goals.

Workshop length: 120 minutes