



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



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

Sydney, Australia
17-18 November 2013

WORK OF THE STANDING COMMISSION

FOLLOW UP REPORT

Document prepared by the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Geneva, October 2013

1. Introduction

The 31st Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva, November 2011, elected the 16th Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The Members of the new Commission since then have been:

- Elected *ad personam*:

Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid (Jordan)
Dr Massimo Barra (Italy)
Mr Steve Carr (United States of America)
Min (Hon) Pär Stenbäck (Finland)
Mr Greg Vickery (Australia)

- Ex officio members

- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):

Until July 2012 : Dr Jakob Kellenberger, President
From July 2012 : Mr Peter Maurer, President
Throughout : Dr Philip Spoerri, Director, International Law and
Cooperation within the Movement

- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the International Federation)

Mr Tadateru Konoé, President
Mr Bekele Geleta, Secretary General

The Commission constituted itself with Mr Greg Vickery (Australia) as Chairman and Mr Steve Carr (United States of America) as Vice Chairman.

2. Role and tasks of the Standing Commission

The Standing Commission is the trustee of the International Conference between two Conferences¹. The role and tasks of the Standing Commission is derived from Article 18 of the Statutes of the Movement².

The Commission has an important formal role in the preparations for the Council of Delegates and the International Conference. As the only permanent body of the Movement, it is a forum for reflection on and development of issues of Movement-wide significance, and has a role in settling differences of opinion, promoting harmony in the Movement, and promoting the implementation of decisions of the International Conference.

In the course of its work, the Standing Commission carries out extensive consultations with the ICRC and the International Federation and with National Societies across the world.

¹ See Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, (adopted by the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross in Geneva in 1986, amended in 1995 and 2006), <http://www.standcom.ch/download/general/statutes/Statutes-EN-A5.pdf>, p 17.

² See Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, (adopted by the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross at Geneva in 1986, amended in 1995 and 2006), <http://www.standcom.ch/download/general/statutes/Statutes-EN-A5.pdf>, pp 18-19

3. Work of the Commission since the 2011 Council

The Standing Commission has met for regular meetings six times since it was elected, and held one special, extended meeting.

It bases itself on a Work Plan which contains two elements: *Core Activities*, primarily those relating to the statutory role of the Commission; *Other Activities*, which are mostly work undertaken in response to decisions of the Council or the Conference, but also initiatives taken by the Commission itself. Finally, and by definition not included in the Work Plan, there are activities undertaken in response to unforeseen circumstances appearing between Councils.

The 2-year Work Plan is accompanied by a 2-year budget, which is the joint financial responsibility of the International Federation, ICRC and National Societies, on the basis of 1/3 each with the National Society contributions continuing on a voluntary basis³.

Special Meeting of the Standing Commission

The Standing Commission met, outside its regular work programme for a special meeting in Geneva on 27 May 2013. The Vice Presidents of the ICRC and the International Federation were invited to take part and senior managers from both organizations were invited to contribute. The main topic was co-ordination and co-operation within the Movement which was debated under the heading "The Movement Framework".

This debate led to a decision that the current instruments and mechanisms available to regulate co-operation and co-ordination across the Movement (such as the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures and the Principles and Rules for Disaster Relief) need to be updated to take account of modern communications and a fast changing world. A small working group of four senior managers had already been established to study the current situation and develop a vision for future co-operation within the Movement. They were also tasked with drafting a new Movement Framework for improved co-ordination to be submitted to the Standing Commission in September 2013 and thereby to the Council of Delegates.

3.1. Core activities

Preparation of Statutory Meetings

The dominant task has been the preparations for the Council of Delegates. The Commission had its first discussion of the Agenda at its 3rd meeting held in September 2012. This took place on the basis of ideas submitted by the Joint Organising Committee and by the Australian Red Cross. The Joint Organising Committee was tasked to develop these further and submit a set of more clearly defined options after the autumn meeting of the Governing Board of the International Federation.

Having received these at its 4th meeting, the Standing Commission agreed that Council meetings should be as celebratory, stimulating and inspiring as possible; that the proceedings at the Council should be a result and a reflection of inclusive consultation and dialogue in advance, making greater use of modern technologies; that consultations that might be required to agree on resolutions should, if possible, be concluded before a resolution is brought forward to a decision-making forum; and that the number of topics should be further limited.

³ (Resolution 1 / 2007 CoD), see <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/resolution/council-delegates-resolution-1-2007.htm>

With that in mind it provided additional guidance to the Joint Organising Committee and the Secretariat for the production of a document that could be shared with National Societies prior to formal consultations.

This preliminary draft, which was sent to National Societies, received positive interest from National Societies as evidenced by the receipt of comments and proposals from over 40 of them – individually and in groups.

On that basis a revised preliminary agenda was produced by the Joint Organising Committee and submitted to the Commission at its 5th meeting, in March 2013. At this meeting the Commission also decided to, as a result of the work of the Working Group on Movement Fora as well as its own deliberations, to introduce a joint opening session for the International Federation and the Council of Delegates. It also set the themes for the Council, and tasked the Joint Organising Committee with the further elaboration of the Provisional Agenda and the programme for the Council and to submit these to National Societies with the Convocation.

On the basis of feedback from National Societies, both through the Secretariat of the Standing Commission and through the ICRC and the International Federation, the Commission at its 6th meeting in September 2013 further modified the agenda and programme and adopted the version to be submitted to the Council itself.

Implementation of Resolutions

The Commission is entrusted by the Statutes of the Movement “*to encourage and further the implementation of resolutions.*”⁴

The Council in 2009 called “... *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.*”

While the ambitions expressed in this resolution were only partially achieved in 2011, the two organizations have initiated a mid-term review whose findings will be presented at the 2013 Council and form part of the basis for one its workshops. It will also focus on looking ahead to the 32nd International Conference.

Resolution 3: Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement Strategy)

Decision on Movement Fora

This is a separate item on the agenda for the Council, and the subject of a report to it. The decision called on the Standing Commission to appoint a working group to finalise the work on Movement Fora. The working group was to base its work on reviews already undertaken 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 group was composed of

- Mr Steve Carr (United States of America), Chairman

⁴ Statutes of the Movement Article 18.3.b, See <http://www.standcom.ch/download/general/statutes/Statutes-EN-A5.pdf>

- Mr Fernando Jose Cardenas (Colombian)
- Mr Mads Espersen (Denmark, Youth Commission)
- Ms Fatima Gailani, (Afghanistan)
- Dr Muctarr Jalloh (Sierra Leone)
- Ms Susan Johnson (Canada)
- Sir Nicholas Young (United Kingdom)
- Dr Matthias Schmale (International Federation)
- Dr Philip Spoerri (ICRC)

It met three times and communicated between meetings through electronic means.

Strategy for the Movement

In accordance with the decision contained in Resolution 3 of the 2011 Council of Delegates, the Standing Commission reviewed the present Strategy with a view to updating its open-ended actions in order to implement them and consequently report to the 2013 Council.

The Commission determined that the current Strategy has, by and large, been implemented and that those elements that remain relevant should be incorporated in a new and much shorter document, to be developed as a rolling plan for consideration by each Council of Delegates and with a special focus on strategic issues facing the Movement.

A separate report on this matter along with a proposed replacement of the current Strategy for the Movement will be presented to the Council as the basis for further consultation and with a view to its adoption at the Council of Delegates in 2015.

Resolution 6: Historical and Cultural Heritage⁵

Although the resolution of the Council concerning the historical and cultural heritage of the Movement does not specifically ask the Standing Commission to take action, three small projects have been initiated and should be completed before the statutory meetings in 2015. These are:

- researching and writing a miniature biography of those individuals who have received the Henry Dunant Medal;
- researching and writing a miniature biography of those individuals who have been members of the Standing Commission;
- collecting and systematizing all decisions of the International Conference in one database.

The results of all three initiatives will be published on-line and, in the case of the first two, perhaps as a booklet, depending on whether resources are available.

3.2. Other activities

Seville Agreement and the Supplementary Measures

Given the developments arising from the Special meeting, no additional work has been undertaken on the question of the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures. The substantial issues involved have been dealt with separately and are the subject of a separate agenda item at the Council.

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

⁵ CD/11/R6, Preserving the historical and cultural heritage of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, available at http://www.standcom.ch/download/cod_2011/cod_2011_resolutions/item_6/CD11_R6_Heritage_EN.pdf

The election of the Independent Monitor, Min. (Hon) Pär Stenbäck, to the Standing Commission, allowed the Standing Commission to follow the implementation of the MoU even more closely than in the past, and a briefing by the Monitor has been a regular feature of the agenda for meetings of the Commission.

On two occasions, the Commission circulated a note to all Permanent Missions in Geneva to express concern over delays in full implementation of the provisions of the MoU.

Henry Dunant Medal

Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity

In accordance with the criteria for the Henry Dunant Medal, adopted by the Standing Commission in 1998 and published in the International Review of the Red Cross in December 1998, the Standing Commission decided to award the Medal to several individuals to honour their extraordinary achievements and commitment to the Movement.

The Standing Commission also awarded the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity to one National Society.

50th Anniversary of the Fundamental Principles: 32nd International Conference in 2015

The Standing Commission decided to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2015, and recommended this for a theme for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May, 2015, with a view to kick-starting the celebrations that should culminate at the International Conference.

50th Anniversary of the Henry Dunant Medal in 2015

The Commission requested its member, Dr Massimo Barra, to explore the option of creating a special Henry Dunant award for the anniversary, including the option of awarding it to someone from outside the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Having consulted extensively with National Societies and with past leaders in the Movement, and having heard from Dr Barra, the Commission agreed to pursue the following ideas:

- Placing a plaque at the museum listing former recipients
- Raising awareness of the medal
- Improving the award ceremony
- Loosening criteria to permit awards to people still in positions
- Continuing to make posthumous awards only in exceptional cases
- Investing in identifying deserving candidates among volunteers and field staff
- Considering a special Henry Dunant Medal linked to the Anniversary and allowing that to be awarded to outsiders

Participation in External Meetings

The Standing Commission, its Chairman and individual members have continued to attend, as and when invited, regional and sub-regional conferences and meetings. These have included

- General Assembly of the Arab Secretariat
- Inter-American Conference
- Pan-African Conference
- MENA Conference
- Annual General Meeting of NEPARC

- Asia-Pacific Red Cross Cooperation Forum, Beijing
- Anti-nuclear weapons in Hiroshima

In co-operation with the Permanent Representative of Australia in Geneva, a reception was organised for members of the diplomatic community in March 2013.

Newsletter of the Standing Commission

The Newsletter has, as in the past, been published in conjunction with the meetings of the Standing Commission and is used primarily to raise awareness of its activities and decisions.

Website of the Standing Commission

The website has been maintained more or less unchanged, and modifications restricted to the bare minimum in terms of maintenance and publication of the newsletter.

International Conference website

The International Conference website has been maintained and occasional documents uploaded but otherwise kept as it was. More widespread use is anticipated as the 32nd International Conference approaches.

3.3 Activities relating to issues emerging during the period

Issues relating to Cyprus

Following recognition of the Cyprus Red Cross Society and the divergent opinions that arose in the wake of that decision the Standing Commission at its 2nd meeting, in March 2013, decided to appoint its member, Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, as its representative on matters related to Cyprus. Dr Al-Hadid was subsequently appointed Chair of a small working group of the Governing Board of the International Federation on the same issue. In those two roles, Dr Al-Hadid has been in close contact and consultation with all parties concerned and gradually developed proposals for a solution to the issues at hand which were designed to enable the Cyprus Red Cross Society to achieve membership of the International Federation by acclamation.

Options for Modification of the Elections to the Standing Commission

The Commission, which lacks representation from Africa and which consists exclusively of men, decided to look into how the International Conference elects its members and whether it would be possible to alter the procedure to ensure fairer geographical representation.

The Commission concluded that for the time being such changes would not be desirable, but that the actual ballots used should, henceforth, clearly indicate the regional origin of each candidate.

Secretariat

The long-serving Head of Secretariat, Ms Helena Korhonen, retired after the 2nd meeting of the new Commission. The Commission expressed its gratitude to Ms Korhonen for her long and effective service to the Movement.

In her stead, the Commission appointed Mr Tore Svenning. Otherwise there have been no changes to the Secretariat of the Standing Commission.

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.”*

In 2012, 46 National Societies contributed a total of Sfr169,427 to the budget of the Standing Commission, while the ICRC and the International Federation contributed Sfr188,533 respectively.

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, generously, contributed to the budget of the Standing Commission by the time this report was written. The Standing Commission wishes to reiterate its thanks to each and every one of them.

American Red Cross	Monaco Red Cross
Andorran Red Cross	Moroccan Red Crescent
Angola Red Cross	Nepal Red Cross
Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross	Netherlands Red Cross
Australian Red Cross	New Zealand Red Cross
Austrian Red Cross	Norwegian Red Cross
Azerbaijan Red Cross	Qatar Red Crescent Society
Bangladesh Red Crescent	Sri Lanka Red Cross Society
British Red Cross	Swedish Red Cross
Bulgarian Red Cross	Swiss Red Cross
Canadian Red Cross	Thai Red Cross Society
Chad Red Cross Society	Tonga Red Cross
Chinese Red Cross	Turkish Red Crescent Society
Colombian Red Cross	Turkmenistan Red Crescent
Costa Rica Red Cross	Vanuatu Red Cross Society
Croatian Red Cross	Vietnam Red Cross Society
Cyprus Red Cross	
Danish Red Cross	
Egyptian Red Crescent	
Estonian Red Cross	
Ethiopian Red Cross	
Fiji Red Cross	
Finnish Red Cross	
French Red Cross	
German Red Cross	
Honduran Red Cross	
Irish Red Cross	
Israeli Magen David Adom	
Italian Red Cross	
Ivory Coast Red Cross	
Japanese Red Cross	
Jordanian Red Crescent Society	
Korean Red Cross	
Latvian Red Cross	
Liechtenstein Red Cross	
Lithuanian Red Cross	
Luxembourg Red Cross	
Madagascar Red Cross	
Mexican Red Cross	

