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31st International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent
Geneva, 28 November–1 December – For humanity



Furthering the auxiliary role: Partnership for stronger National Societies and volunteering development

(Commission B)

Concept note

Objective

The objective of this Commission is to give opportunities to States and National Societies to discuss and exchange on how they can implement the resolution to effectively develop, manage and extend productive partnerships that contribute to strengthen National Societies and their volunteer base to deliver services according to their mission and for as long as needed.

Rationale

Developing relationships between National Societies and governments can significantly strengthen National Societies, leading to increased capacity to address immediate and emerging vulnerabilities country-wide. This may take place at all levels of public administration and National Society, and may include the resourcing of some of the National Society activities and development, as well as contributing to an enabling environment for effective volunteer engagement.

Guiding questions

- How can National Societies and their respective public authorities pursue and enhance partnerships with clear and reciprocal responsibilities at all levels of the public administration and of the National Society organisation?
- How to ensure a predictable and regular flow of resources to enable effective functioning and sustainable development of National Societies?
- How to promote enabling environments for volunteering?
- How the International Federation and the ICRC can support both National Societies and States in furthering the auxiliary role along the lines of the resolution?

Expected outcomes

- Shared understanding on the resolution and how it can be implemented
- Identification of best practices and recommendations on the guiding questions.

Practical details

The thematic commission will be held twice on Tuesday 29 November (from 09.00-11.30 and 13.30-16.00).

The Chair will open the Commission by providing a short overview of the theme, the guiding questions and introducing the four presenters who will then take the floor and do short introductions. An open discussion will follow, with questions to the presenters or exchange of observations between the participants of the session, subject to time availability. The Chair will then summarise the discussion and close the Commission.

The Chair for both Commissions is Dr. Dragan Radovanovic, President of the Red Cross of Serbia.

The Introduction presenters for both Commissions will be as follows:

	Session 1 09:00 to 11:30	Session 2 13:30 to 16:00
Presenter 1	Dr. Zhao Baige, Executive Vice-President, Chinese Red Cross	Dr. Zhao Baige, Executive Vice-President, Chinese Red Cross
Presenter 2	Valery Malashko, Chairman, Belarus Red Cross and Deputy Governor of Mogilev region	Valery Malashko, Chairman, Belarus Red Cross and Deputy Governor of Mogilev region
Presenter 3	Mr. Ebrima Sanneh, President, Gambia Red Cross	Mr. Ebrima Sanneh, President, Gambia Red Cross
Presenter 4	<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>To be confirmed</i>

Delegates are invited to limit their statement to three minutes and to respond to the 4 guiding questions presented above. Delegates speaking on behalf of a group of participants may extend their statement to five minutes. At the end of each Commission Session, the Chair will make some concluding remarks.

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Reference to official working documents

- “Furthering the auxiliary role: Partnership for stronger National Societies and volunteering development”, Draft resolution and Background report.
- “Report on the implementation of Resolution 2 – Specific Nature of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in action and partnerships and the role of National Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field
- Advocacy report on Volunteering in Emergencies, 2011
- Global Volunteer Conference Declaration, Budapest 2011
- IFRC Youth and Volunteering Policies
- Burundi Red Cross Case Study on “Building sustainable local capacity in the branches of the “Burundi Red Cross