

2017

Council of Delegates

10-11 November 2017

Power of humanity
RED CROSS RED CRESCENT



Introduction

The 2017 Council of Delegates

will gather...

The 2017 Council of Delegates will gather the 190 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

will achieve...

Together, building on our common Movement Vision, we will guide the Movement's humanitarian work towards a more effective response that better meets rising needs in the face of an increasingly fragmented and unpredictable operating environment. We will do so together in recognition of the breadth and complexity of today's humanitarian challenges, where violence and instability are both causes and consequences of recurring armed conflict and suffering and where natural disasters, environmental problems and socioeconomic crises further exacerbate situations of chronic vulnerability and hardship.

We will do so knowing that by facing these challenges together and coordinating our approaches, we will deliver more and reach further to build communities' resilience and offer protection and assistance in times of need or peril.

Our achievements will be reflected in our decisions, discussions and rich exchange of experience – all of which will continue to enhance our common endeavour to better serve those who need us most.

We will also take the opportunity of this gathering to assess where we stand on the implementation of the outcomes of previous Statutory Meetings, to accelerate progress in the coming two years and to consider the outcomes we wish to see at the 33rd International Conference.

The road to the 2017 Council...

This concept note sets out an initial view of the content and shape of the 2017 Council of Delegates, including a broad outline of the substantive agenda and possible topics for decision and/or debate. Please consider this concept note as an invitation for input. We count on the active involvement of all participants to ensure that the agenda is informed by humanitarian realities on the ground and that the outcomes serve to enable our effective action.

How can you contribute to defining the agenda and the content?

National Societies are encouraged to provide their feedback on the suggested agenda items and objectives and also to propose additional topics to be addressed by the 2017 Council of Delegates. Any National Society/ies proposing topics should ideally be prepared to lead/co-lead consultations in advance of the 2017 Council of Delegates and the 33rd International Conference in 2019.

In addition to the formal consultation (see timeline below), the organizers wish to facilitate rich and regular communication with National Societies in the lead-up to the meeting. This will include a series of preparatory discussion sessions (process and thematically-oriented webinars), newsletters and other tools to assist National Societies in their preparations and meaningful participation in the Council of Delegates.

The meetings website will continue to serve as a central resource for all information on the Council of Delegates. Consult it for more information and for the latest documents and take part in the preparations for the meeting:

<http://rcrcconference.org/>

We would also be glad to receive your ideas, suggestions and questions!

conferences@rcrcconference.org

Our agenda

We propose to cluster the agenda topics of the 2017 Council of Delegates under the three broad headings below in order to provide a complete and balanced frame for discussions. Under this framework, we will scan the horizon to identify and assess emerging and future trends and how they may impact people and influence Red Cross Red Crescent action and humanitarian action more broadly. These discussions on trends will inform debates and decisions at the Council on how we work together as a Movement as well as on our approach to major humanitarian issues.

The following pages present a first look at possible agenda items and the objectives for each. Some of the topics represent new angles or directions for the Council based on current humanitarian developments and concerns. Others are included as specific follow-up items relating to previous decisions of the Council of Delegates or the International Conference.

**Future trends
impacting
people and
humanitarian
action**

**Working as
a Movement
to better
anticipate and
respond
to crises**

**Major
humanitarian
issues of today**

Exchanging – Learning – Interacting

The agenda will be intentionally full and varied, and it is expected that participants will prioritize their participation during the meeting but also throughout the consultations over the coming months. Following the spirit of the 32nd International Conference, the 2017 Council of Delegates will be dynamic and participative. Session design will vary by topic, based on input from participants as to how they would like to shape discussions and outcomes. Across the different formats (workshops, plenaries, side-events, exhibitions, etc.), participants will have the opportunity to meet, exchange and collaborate.

The Council of Delegates will also be preceded by the “Red Cross Red Crescent Forum (RC² forum)” featuring sessions on the future and innovation. This one-day event and the activities leading up to it will feed into and connect with discussions at the Council, specifically those under the heading “future trends impacting people and humanitarian action”.

(For more information on the RC² forum, see the separate concept note).

Future trends

Future trends impacting people and humanitarian action

The point of departure for debates and discussions over the two days of the 2017 Council of Delegates will be an exploration of emerging and future trends. This will draw on our experience and the many innovations we are integrating into our activities everyday around the world. It will provide an opportunity to reflect on our ability to predict complex social, demographic and technological changes, to consider their effects on the people with whom we engage and discuss how we need to be changing right now to adapt to the already shifting environment.

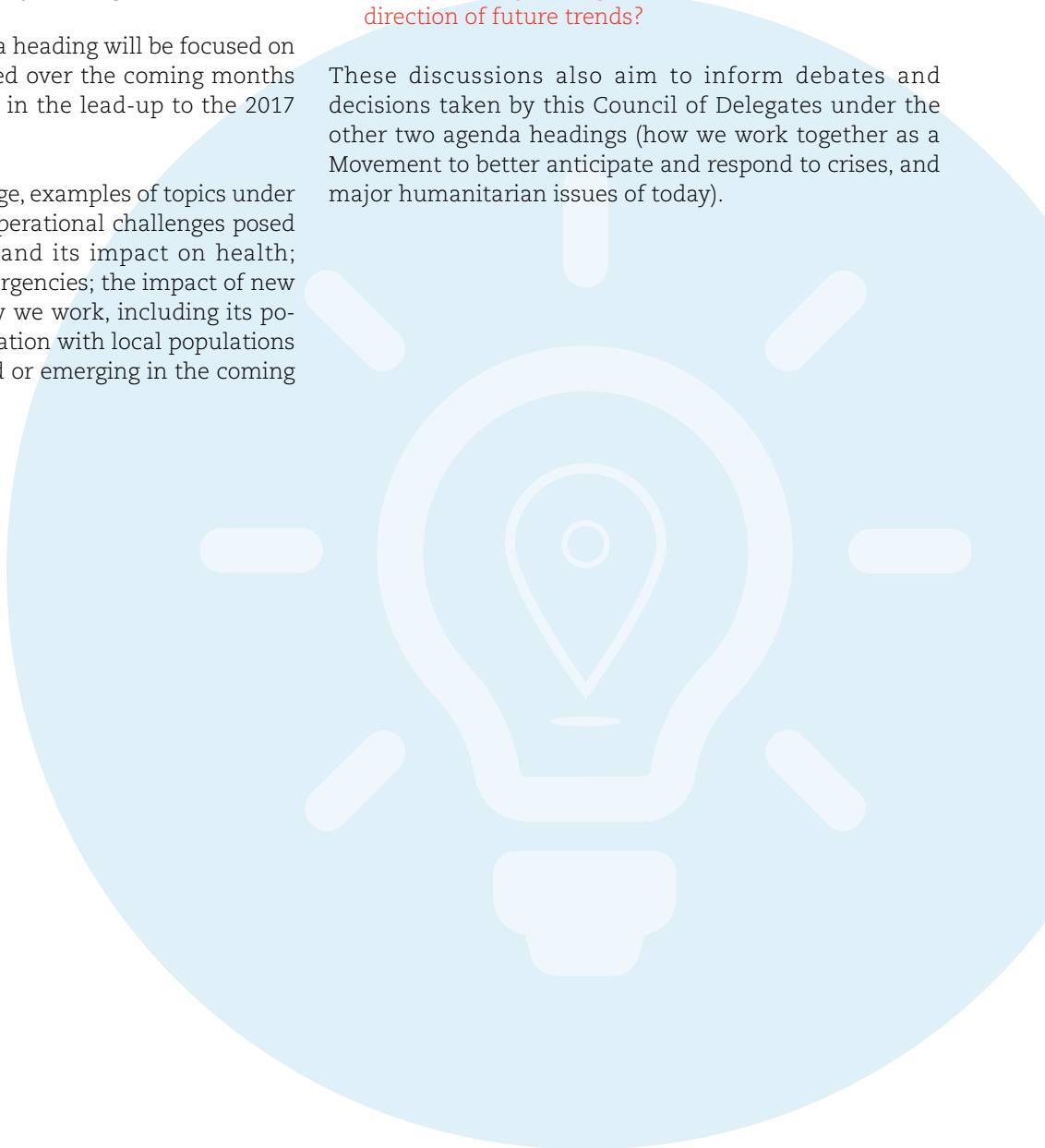
Discussions under this agenda heading will be focused on a selection of trends identified over the coming months through a series of activities in the lead-up to the 2017 Statutory Meetings.

To prompt thinking at this stage, examples of topics under this heading could include: operational challenges posed by increasing urbanization and its impact on health; armed conflict and other emergencies; the impact of new digital technology on the way we work, including its potential to increase communication with local populations or any other subject proposed or emerging in the coming months.

Taken together, these discussions should set us up to answer critical questions driving the future of Red Cross and Red Crescent action:

- What must the Movement do now to be able to respond to the crises of the future, through principled humanitarian action?
- How can the Movement make most use of its influence at community and global levels to influence the direction of future trends?

These discussions also aim to inform debates and decisions taken by this Council of Delegates under the other two agenda headings (how we work together as a Movement to better anticipate and respond to crises, and major humanitarian issues of today).



Working as a Movement

Working as a Movement to better anticipate and respond to crises

The Council of Delegates, as the main forum in which Movement components decide on how to collectively improve the impact of our work, will address ongoing

efforts aimed at enhancing our internal functioning, including follow-up on previous commitments as well as new initiatives.

Strengthening Movement coordination and cooperation (SMCC)

Building on Resolution 1 of the 2015 CoD, the IFRC, ICRC and National Societies are jointly working to optimize the Movement's humanitarian response through the implementation of the SMCC Plan of Action.

A progress report, integrating concrete results from the country labs and from other field operations as well as conceptual developments by the Joint Implementation

Teams will be presented to the Council. It will include detailed information about the progress that has been achieved to date for each of the eight objectives and outline the remaining challenges. The Council will be invited to discuss and review the results and to decide the way forward, possibly through the endorsement of a revised Plan of Action.

Movement-wide vision and principles for resource mobilization

Following Resolution 2 of the 2015 CoD, a Movement vision and set of principles for resource mobilization will be presented for discussion and adoption.

The 2017 CoD will also be an occasion to share the outcomes of related consultations held *inter alia* on

the objectives and business model for a proposed "Centre of Excellence" and an investment mechanism for Movement fundraising best practices in Movement fundraising and feedback on successes, lessons learned and challenges related to the use of the Movement logo for global initiatives.

Movement communication: alignment and strategic importance

The Council of Delegates will explore alignment, ideas, tools and inspiration for the Movement to leverage its global potential as the leading humanitarian voice locally and globally. Discussions will focus on:

- recognizing the strategic and cross-cutting importance of communication for Movement operations, credibility and competitiveness
- promoting and strengthening National Society leadership and positioning
- strengthening Movement outreach, impact, trust and reputation
- harnessing the power and potential of the Movement's collective network for global humanitarian leadership through strategic coordinated communications.

Strengthening National Societies' statutory and legal base

The Council of Delegates will discuss issues related to the strengthening of National Societies' statutory and legal base instruments, based on past commitments undertaken by National Societies. This is in light of the ongoing review process of the Guidance document on National Society Legal and Statutory Base and of the Movement's modes of support to National Societies in this field.

Comments or other topics to suggest?

Major humanitarian issues of today

The Council of Delegates will discuss some of the most pressing humanitarian challenges today and the Movement's related action. These include ongoing activities of the Movement in key areas, some of which have

been the subject of previous decisions by the Council of Delegates or the International Conference. Others are current issues of major concern raised for debate and decision at this meeting.

Specific follow-up on previous resolutions

International Humanitarian Law

- Implementation of Resolutions 1 and 2 of the 32nd International Conference (on strengthening respect for IHL and the protection of persons deprived of their liberty)
- Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the update of the Customary IHL database

Restoring Family Links

- Sharing the main orientations emerging in the consultations on a new RFL Strategy toward its adoption in 2019

Progress reports on previous resolutions

- Movement Branding Initiative
- Strategic framework for disability inclusion
- Vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Weapons and IHL, and nuclear weapons
- The work of the Standing Commission
- The Empress Shōken Fund

Proposed issues for the agenda

What is the role of Movement components at local level in regard to public health?

- Are we losing the war on immunization? Can we turn the tide and save lives?
- How prepared are we to face the next pandemic?
- Initial steps toward the development of a policy framework on mental health and psychosocial support?

How do we protect and respond to needs of vulnerable migrants?

- How can we assist authorities to reduce the incidence of death, victimization and discrimination against migrants, asylum seekers and refugees?
- How can we contribute to a stronger global framework for the governance of migration towards the adoption in 2018 of the UN Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration?

Access to education in armed conflicts, disasters and other emergencies

- This session proposes to address the question of protection of education in situations of armed conflict, disasters and emergencies. It also proposes to debate what the respective Movement components can do to ensure the safety of and enable access to education for those affected by armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies.

Xenophobia and extreme violence

- Addressing xenophobia and extreme violence: the Movement's mission and its social inclusion and violence prevention programmes may be seen with new relevance in a world characterized by political divisions and a rise in violence and extremism. The CoD provides an opportunity to share experiences, explore questions and unpack challenges, opportunities and necessary safeguards for the Movement's work in this area.

Other topics suggested?

From the 32nd to the 33rd International Conference

A series of workshops are proposed to focus on assessing progress on commitments made at the 32nd International Conference and build momentum towards the next International Conference. Topics proposed by the IFRC and ICRC are: sexual and gender-based violence, strengthening legal frameworks for disaster

response, risk reduction and first aid; safety and security of humanitarian volunteers; health care in danger; and accountability and community engagement.

National Societies are invited to propose additional topics to be discussed in a workshop format with the objective of exploring the interest and potential of a formal outcome at the 33rd International Conference in 2019.

Timeline

- **January-February 2017:**
consultation on concept and agenda
- **10 May 2017:**
mailing of convocation and provisional agenda; registration opens
- **mid-May to mid-June 2017:**
consultation on draft elements of resolutions
- **31 May 2017:**
cut-off date for input to the mid-term report on the outcomes of the 32nd International Conference
- **mid-July to mid-August 2017:**
consultation on draft “0” resolutions
- **26 September 2017:**
dispatch of official documents (resolutions, background documents, workshop outlines)
- **10-11 November 2017:**
Council of Delegates convenes



National Societies are now invited to provide feedback on this concept note – on the proposed topics for the agenda and on the objectives for each of them and to propose additional topics to be addressed by the 2017 Council of Delegates, whether in plenary or workshop format. The draft provisional agenda will be developed based on the feedback received by **28 February 2017** at conferences@rcrcconference.org.

The content of resolutions to be adopted by the 2017 Council of Delegates, now already in the early stages of consultation for several topics, will be developed through rounds of consultation following the timeline shown above. Written contributions will be supplemented by more interactive opportunities for input, including dedicated thematic meetings and webinars.

All documents for consultation, as well as practical information, will be posted on the website www.rcrcconference.org as they become available throughout the year.