



**Power of humanity**

Council of Delegates of the International  
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

10-11 November 2017, Turkey



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

Antalya, Turkey  
10–11 November 2017

**Provisional Agenda  
and Programme**

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

Geneva, May 2017

# **Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

## **Provisional Agenda and Programme<sup>1</sup>**

*A joint opening ceremony for the Council of Delegates and for the IFRC General Assembly will take place on Monday, 6 November 2017.*

**Friday, 10 November 2017, morning**

### **I. Opening 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**
- 4. Opening panel on future trends impacting people and the humanitarian action of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

### **II. Items for discussion and decision in plenary**

#### **5. Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC)**

Building on Resolution 4 of the 2013 Council of Delegates and Resolution 1 of the 2015 Council of Delegates, the topic will be presented for debate along with a new resolution, a progress report and a revised plan of action. These documents will capture the concrete advances made on the topic and will propose a set of new time-bound actions to consolidate and further the improvements made collectively on Movement coordination, preparedness and response, not only in large-scale emergencies but also in day-to-day situations. The proposed new approach to the plan of action will be lighter, while addressing more complex and transformational issues that will allow the Movement to tackle humanitarian needs of affected populations in a more efficient, complementary, accountable and cost-effective manner.

#### **6. Movement-wide vision and principles for resource mobilization**

At the Council of Delegates in December 2015, Movement components committed to pursue an inclusive process to develop Movement-wide principles for resource mobilization through the resolution on the adoption of the Movement logo (CD/15/R2). A Movement Reference Group was established to undertake this process leading towards a resolution. The resolution aims to approve a vision and principles for Movement-wide resource mobilization as

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<sup>1</sup> The numbering of items is not indicative of the running order of the items in the meeting, which is the prerogative of the Chair of the meeting.

well as several proposed work programmes to enhance the Movement's capacity to realize its true fundraising potential.

#### **7. Protecting and responding to the needs of vulnerable migrants**

A joint statement on the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants will be proposed for adoption by the Council of Delegates. It will build on Resolution 3 of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to reiterate the Movement's humanitarian concerns and commitment to respond to the assistance and protection needs of all migrants, including irregular migrants, with a particular focus on groups that are often most at risk. The statement will aim to channel the Movement's voice to States and urge them to take action to ensure the safety and dignity of all migrants and to make action-oriented commitments in relevant national, regional and international processes, including in the negotiations of the two Compacts.

#### **8. Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons**

A new resolution and plan of action will be presented. The resolution will be introduced by a report that will include a progress report on Resolution 1 of the 2013 Council of Delegates on "Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: Four-year action plan". The resolution will contain the Movement's response to the outcome of the 2017 "United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination" and adopt a new plan of action inviting increased efforts by all components of the Movement for the next four years to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again and that they are prohibited and eliminated, based on existing commitments and international obligations, as called for by Resolution 1 of the 2011 Council of Delegates.

#### **9. Education in situations of armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies**

Out of the estimated 65 million children and adolescents aged 3–15 most directly affected by armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies around the world, approximately 37 million are out of school. The rising number of conflicts, disasters and other emergencies heighten the risks of children and adolescents having their education disrupted, receiving poor-quality education or dropping out of school and pose serious psychosocial, safety and protection concerns overall. This is why education is systematically cited as a priority by those living in such situations, alongside other essential humanitarian needs such as food, shelter and water.

The Council of Delegates will be presented with a resolution that will affirm the Movement's position and commitment to further responding to education-related needs of affected populations, with a particular focus on risk reduction, protection, safety and access, bearing in mind the different roles and mandates of the Movement's components. It will aim to provide a framework and general directions for further action by the Movement's components in this sector. The resolution will build on objective 2 contained in Resolution 2 "4-year action plan for the implementation of international humanitarian law", adopted at the 31st International Conference. It will also build on the workshop held at the 2013 Council of Delegates, the side-event at the 32nd International Conference and

two 2015 pledges: “Strengthening the protection of education during armed conflict” and “Changing minds, saving lives and building resilience through values-based education for all”.

**Friday, 10 November, afternoon – Saturday, 11 November, morning**

### **III. Topics for discussion in workshops**

Please note that workshops will only take place once, with simultaneous interpretation in all languages. The exact schedule of workshops will be provided together with the official documents (26 September 2017).

#### **WS 1 Setting the resilience agenda: Showing leadership in disaster and climate policy**

The world is facing increasing risks from disasters, fuelled by climate change and exacerbated by rising vulnerability associated with uncontrolled urbanization and growing inequality. Responding to these threats, States have made strong commitments in the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Sustainable Development Goals to build resilience and strengthen domestic policy and practice in disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA).

In the context of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, States have repeatedly invited National Societies to raise their voices to support them in setting the resilience agenda. In 2007, the 30th International Conference adopted joint goals to address the humanitarian dimensions of climate change, including through well-integrated DRM and CCA policies. At every International Conference since 2003, States have called for National Society support in developing strong and effective disaster law and policy.

National Societies have followed through, exercising influence on new disaster laws and regulations in over 25 countries and, more recently, contributing to national adaptation plans and approaches. While taking stock of progress over the last decade, this session will look ahead to how National Societies can better harness their auxiliary role to influence investments, laws, policies and plans to manage disasters, tackle rising climate risks and build more resilient communities.

The session will also provide the opportunity for National Societies to discuss how to further advance implementation of related commitments from the 32nd International Conference, with a focus on strengthening legal and policy frameworks, including implementing lessons from ongoing research on “Gender in Disaster Law and Policy”.

#### **WS 2 Protecting health care and respecting the emblems: How the Movement can lead the collective effort**

Attacks against the wounded and sick as well as against health-care personnel and facilities, and medical transports – Movement and non-Movement actors alike – remain a common occurrence and a grave humanitarian concern. In times of armed conflict, this is concomitant with a lack of respect for the distinctive emblems, recognized under the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and their protective function.

The 2017 Council of Delegates offers a valuable opportunity for Movement components to engage in further dialogue on key issues, best practices and achievements in the follow-up to

Resolution 4 on Health Care in Danger adopted by the 32nd International Conference and in ensuring respect for, and correct use of, the emblems. The discussion will build on the diverse initiatives and on past International Conference and Council of Delegate resolutions concerning Health Care in Danger, international humanitarian law, the Safer Access Framework, Movement branding, Movement cooperation and coordination, and accountability to affected populations. In the lead-up to the 33rd International Conference, the proposed workshop will aim to recall the roles and responsibilities of National Societies as well as showcase good practices in promoting the Health Care in Danger objectives and in ensuring respect for the emblems.

### **WS 3 Upholding independence, neutrality and impartiality in the face of State responses and public reactions to contemporary global challenges**

The Movement's Fundamental Principles (especially neutrality, impartiality and independence) provide an ethical compass guiding the Movement's action in all contexts and enabling its components to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found.

Current dynamics, especially polarization and heightened security concerns at global, regional and national levels, cause exclusion, discrimination and significant suffering to vulnerable people. These dynamics put pressure on the Movement's ability to act in full abidance of its principles. It is urgent to address some of the contemporary pressures on these principles. The focus of this workshop will be on how both public opinion and the adoption and implementation of restrictive policies linked to State security may place constraints on the ability of National Societies to implement their activities in an independent, neutral and impartial manner.

The debate is relevant for many fields of action. This session will focus on three of the most prominent: 1) State policies and public opinion on migration and how the two interrelate; 2) State and UN policies on preventing or countering violent extremism (P/CVE); and 3) the Movement's contribution to combating xenophobia and discrimination.

### **WS 4 Community engagement and accountability: A Movement-wide approach**

Community engagement and accountability to affected people (CEA) ensures local actors and communities are equal partners in humanitarian response and that programmes and operations are driven by needs and realities on the ground. It is increasingly recognized as an essential priority pivotal to operational success, acceptance and trust and to building long-term community resilience.

Today CEA is a key value of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as reflected in its programmatic approach and several commitments of the ICRC, IFRC and National Societies (including the Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance and the IFRC General Assembly Beneficiary Communication decision GA/13/40). In addition, the Movement has committed to more systematic and better documented approaches to communicating, engaging with and being accountable to the vulnerable people we support through pledges made in the context of the Grand Bargain launched at the World Humanitarian Summit.

Across the humanitarian sector there is a gap between rhetoric and reality in both policy and operational reviews. Improving the CEA approach and performance is an operational imperative and an ethical responsibility.

This workshop will lay down the strategic orientations for a consolidated Movement-wide approach to CEA over the next two years and debate some of the critical questions raised in the 32nd International Conference, such as: How can we listen better, more attentively and more consistently? How can we become as proficient in engagement and accountability as we are at building water pumps and giving first aid?

#### **WS 5 Movement communications: Alignment and strategic importance**

In today's ultra-connected world, information and communication have become the central piece of any business or activity. Reputation and image are key, and new business models disrupt the establishment. In order to stay relevant, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement needs to be ready and to act!

The workshop will focus on recognizing the strategic and cross-cutting importance of communications for Movement operations, credibility, fundraising and positioning while looking at areas of investment and research for the coming years in order to strengthen Movement outreach, impact, trust and reputation.

Building on the Nairobi Declaration of the 2014 Global Communication Forum, this workshop will explore, discuss and define alignment and strategies for the Movement to foster engagement and leverage its global communication potential as the leading humanitarian voice locally and globally.

#### **WS 6 Use of explosive weapons in populated areas**

Armed conflicts are increasingly fought in population centres but often with weapon systems that were originally designed for use in open battlefields. When used in populated areas, explosive weapons with wide-area effects are a major cause of civilian casualties and of damage to critical infrastructure, with consequent disruption of services essential for the survival of civilians, such as health care, water, the electricity supply and sanitation services.

In Resolution 7 of the 2013 Council of Delegates on "Weapons and international humanitarian law", the Movement called on States to strengthen the protection of civilians from the indiscriminate use and effects of explosive weapons and to avoid using explosive weapons with a wide impact area in densely populated areas.

This workshop aims to raise awareness of the direct and indirect humanitarian consequences of these weapons, of the issues they raise under international humanitarian law and of good practices that can be applied by armed forces when choosing means and methods of warfare in populated areas. It will also be the opportunity for the ICRC to present its observations and recommendations on preventing unacceptable civilian harm caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

#### **WS 7 Mental health and psychosocial effects of armed conflicts, disasters and other emergencies**

Armed conflicts, collective violence and other emergencies give rise to extensive mental health problems and psychosocial suffering among millions of men, women, boys and girls around the world. The humanitarian impact is extensive and affects communities and societies as a whole.

The mental health and psychosocial needs of victims of armed conflicts, disasters and other emergencies are not adequately addressed today. This workshop is an opportunity for the

Movement to initiate a process to develop a common framework to harmonize mental health and psychosocial approaches and improve the effectiveness of its response, including the psychosocial well-being of the Movement's volunteers and staff. The conclusions will inform the selection of specific topics to be discussed further at the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2019.

## **WS 8 RFL strategy development and missing persons and their families**

Countless people go missing and families are torn apart when war devastates entire countries, natural disasters bring havoc and people are forced to flee their homes and embark on perilous journeys; not knowing what happened to a loved one causes tremendous suffering. Clarifying the fate and whereabouts of missing persons and restoring family links represents a century-old core task of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which is the recognized leader in this field, due to its long-standing experience, worldwide grassroots network, its respect for the Fundamental Principles and its protection of personal data.

The current RFL Strategy of the Movement comes to an end in 2018 and while new technologies are developing rapidly and the humanitarian landscape evolves, the Movement must take a critical look at its capacities and rethink its way of working. We are at a crucial point, midway through the development of a new RFL Strategy, and it is essential that the leaders of the Movement provide direction to this process based on preliminary strategic orientations outlined in the report to the Council of Delegates.

This workshop will debate selected strategic orientations of the new RFL Strategy with the aim of informing its further development. The discussion will include important dimensions related to missing persons and their families.

### **Saturday, 11 November, afternoon**

#### **IV. Items for decision in plenary**

##### **10. Health and well-being**

Ten years have passed since the commitment was included in Resolution 1 of the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent "to strengthen health systems and develop national health plans with the involvement of National Societies, and to include the empowerment of volunteers and affected groups". The 2017 Council of Delegates provides an opportunity to review the role of its components, in light of current and emerging global health trends and threats, and approve a plan of action for working with governments to improve national-level preparedness and response to epidemics and pandemics and strengthening the core capacities identified in the International Health Regulations, with a view to adopting an updated Movement approach to epidemics and pandemics at the 33rd International Conference. The resolution will also address the development of a Movement policy framework on mental health and psychosocial support to be adopted at the following Council of Delegates.

##### **11. RFL strategy development**

The 2015 report on the implementation of the Restoring Family Links (RFL) Strategy (2008–2018) to the Council of Delegates (CoD) announced the upcoming development of a new RFL Strategy for the period after 2018. The

report to be submitted to the CoD 2017 outlines the main preliminary strategic orientations of the new RFL Strategy in development as a result of the consultations carried out within the Movement and with external stakeholders. A resolution will be presented, taking note of the report, welcoming the work undertaken and encouraging it to be continued, reaffirming the validity of the current RFL Strategy until 2019 and inviting the Implementation Group to submit a new RFL Strategy for adoption by the next CoD.

## **12. International humanitarian law**

A general resolution on IHL matters will take note of the progress report on the implementation of Resolutions 1 and 2 of the 32nd International Conference on “Strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty” and on the Intergovernmental Process on Strengthening Respect for IHL, respectively.

It will also note a report on the ICRC’s Customary IHL Study and Database, highlighting the crucial role of the Movement in making this important contribution to the protection of victims of armed conflict. Since 2007, the ICRC, in partnership with the British Red Cross and supported with practice contributions by other National Societies, has been working on updating the practice underpinning the Study. Since 2010, the full Study and regular practice updates have been readily available on the ICRC’s online CIHL Database.

## **V. Follow-up and progress reports in plenary**

The reports listed below will be submitted as working documents to all members of the Council 45 days prior to the opening of the Council.

Members of the Council wishing to comment on these reports are invited to send their written comments. **None of the following reports will be introduced during, or discussed by, the Council unless a request to do so is submitted in advance by a member.**

### **13. Progress report on Resolution 7 of 2013 on “Weapons and international humanitarian law”, also containing updates on implementation of the Movement Strategy on Landmines /Explosive Remnants of War.**

### **14. Vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

Following up on Resolution 11 of the 2015 Council of Delegates, the Standing Commission will present a report on the follow-up to the Vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

### **15. Progress report on “International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Branding Initiative: Adoption of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement logo”**

Following up on Resolution 2 of the 2015 Council of Delegates, the ICRC and the IFRC will present a report on instances in which the Movement logo has been used and on the results achieved and lessons learned.

**16. Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Operational Arrangements, dated 28 November 2005, between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and Magen David Adom in Israel**

Resolution 10 of the 2015 Council of Delegates requested “the ICRC and the International Federation to provide logistical and technical support to the monitoring process and to ensure the provision of a report on implementation of the MoU to the next Council of Delegates and through it to the 33rd International Conference”. The 2017 Council of Delegates will be provided with the final report of the Independent Monitor and will receive an update on subsequent progress in implementation.

**17. Promoting disability inclusion in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

In follow-up to Resolution 4 of the 2015 Council of Delegates, a progress report will be presented, outlining the achievements to date and showing progress against baseline data.

**18. Empress Shôken Fund**

The Joint ICRC/International Federation Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund will present its biennial report.

**19. Progress report on the revision of National Society statutes and legal base**

Regular report of the Joint ICRC/International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes to the Council of Delegates, accompanied by a presentation of the key points and progress of the current statutory and legal base review process.

**20. Report on the work of the Standing Commission**

Regular report to the Council of Delegates

**21. Mid-term review of the outcomes of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

In follow-up to Resolution 10 of the 32nd International Conference, the Council will be presented with a report on the progress made in implementing the resolutions of the International Conference and pledges made in this respect.

**VI. Presentation of the Chairman’s paper**

The Chairman will present a message reflecting on the key themes of the Council and highlighting the importance of the work of the Movement in today’s world.

**VII. Closing of the Council**

**22. Date and venue of the 2019 Council of Delegates**

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**The organizers invite you to attend the  
joint awards ceremony to be held on 9 November for the Henry Dunant Medal, the  
Prize for Peace and Humanity, the Henry Davison Award and the Volunteering and  
Youth Awards**

*followed by a cocktail reception*