

**Power of humanity**

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

8 December 2019, Geneva



**2019 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES**

**OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS**

**AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Geneva, Switzerland,

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**OUTLINE OF PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS**

## OUTLINE OF PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS FOR THE 2019 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The 2019 Council of Delegates will gather together the 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to discuss matters which concern the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as a whole.

The overarching objective of the Council of Delegates is to enhance the effectiveness of the Movement's humanitarian action and establish a strong, unified and unique Movement position on key topics ahead of the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The Council of Delegates will take place on the day before the International Conference, which is where the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions join the Movement components to take decisions and engage in debates on key issues of humanitarian concern. The Council of Delegates will have the unique task of adopting the provisional agenda of the International Conference and its proposed officers, and will take place over one day, on 8 December 2019. The Council of Delegates will work in plenary only during its meeting in 2019.

This document sets out an initial overview of the proposed topics to be addressed at the 2019 Council of Delegates. These topics have been grouped into two main areas: **accountability and integrity**, and **addressing needs and vulnerabilities**. These areas, and the topics within them, reflect key dimensions of the Movement's work today which require action and have a significant impact for people and communities on the ground. They are areas where it is anticipated that decisions may be adopted, or discussions required, and they include topics which have been either set down by previous resolutions or proposed by workshops held in previous meetings of the Council of Delegates.

Please consider this document as an invitation to engage and provide further feedback on the topics listed below. We are counting on the active involvement of all Council of Delegates participants to ensure that the agenda is informed by the humanitarian realities on the ground and that the outcomes enable us to work effectively together.

### Accountability and integrity

Safeguarding the accountability and integrity of the Movement's work is fundamental to delivering effective, principled humanitarian action. The Movement has been working to strengthen its position in several areas that are key to its accountability and integrity at both the policy and programme levels, many of which are the outcome of specific processes. It is proposed that these areas be addressed at the 2019 Council of Delegates, as outlined below:

- **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement statement on integrity:** Reflecting the renewed efforts of the Movement and its components to strengthen integrity and foster trust in their humanitarian work, the Council of Delegates will be invited to adopt a statement reaffirming the Movement's commitment to principled humanitarian action through the implementation and close monitoring of policies and internal standards. Based on a strong commitment to upholding the Fundamental Principles, such a statement could set out several areas where the

Movement is determined to enhance its components' capacity to step up their compliance efforts, and could include references to accountability and transparency and to overcoming corruption, fraud, sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as a principled approach to cooperation with external actors.

- **Revised Guidance for National Society Statutes 2018:** Establishing a comprehensive, solid statutory basis is crucial to a National Society's ability to deliver effective and principled humanitarian action. Following the completion of the revised Guidance for National Society Statutes, and its subsequent approval by the IFRC Governing Board on behalf of the IFRC General Assembly, the Council of Delegates will be invited to adopt this guidance document as the Movement's reference instrument for supporting National Societies in revising their statutory frameworks. The Council of Delegates will invite the Joint ICRC/IFRC Statutes Commission to use this document when reviewing statutory and legal basis documents that have been amended by National Societies, when assessing the ten conditions for recognition, and when assessing applications for admission to the IFRC.
- **Movement-wide approach to community engagement and accountability:** Working in partnership with communities is at the heart of the work of the Movement. We know that engaging with communities leads to better quality programming, which supports the goal of reducing vulnerability and building safer, more resilient communities. Community engagement and accountability is an approach to Red Cross and Red Crescent programming and operations that is supported by a set of activities that help put communities at the centre of what we do, and integrates communication and participation throughout the programme cycle or operation. It will be proposed that the Council of Delegates adopt a Movement-wide approach to community engagement and accountability.
- **Positioning the Movement on civil–military relations:** The role of the armed forces in humanitarian assistance and disaster response has evolved significantly in recent years. Within this new environment, the National Societies, the ICRC and the IFRC have been developing new approaches to civil–military relations at the domestic and international levels. Maintaining effective civil–military relations and clearly positioning the Movement in its conduct with civil authorities and military actors is key to conducting principled humanitarian action and strengthening the Movement's accountability. As such, it will be proposed that the Council of Delegates support the development of a renewed Movement agenda in this area, based on a review of the existing commitments in Resolution 7 of the 2005 Council of Delegates, "Guidance document on relations between the components of the Movement and military bodies".

## Addressing needs and vulnerabilities

Addressing vulnerabilities and meeting the needs of communities and populations affected by conflict, disasters and other emergencies lies at the centre of the Movement's work. These needs and vulnerabilities are constantly evolving, and it is crucial for the Movement to put in place the necessary positions, policies and strategies to ensure that its action meets the needs of the most vulnerable – and that these are well implemented and reflect the realities on the

ground. Momentum has been building around four key areas, which will be submitted for consideration by the 2019 Council of Delegates, as outlined below:

- **Movement policy on addressing mental health and psychosocial needs:** The mental health and psychosocial needs of victims of armed conflicts, disasters and other emergencies are not adequately addressed today. The humanitarian impact of this issue is extensive and affects whole communities and societies.

In order to improve the effectiveness of the Movement's response to this growing issue, it will be proposed that the Council of Delegates adopt a Movement policy on addressing mental health and psychosocial needs which builds on common approaches and contributes to the harmonization of the various Movement responses, including as regards the psychosocial well-being of the Movement's volunteers and staff. The proposed policy should be applicable to all the different activities addressing mental health and psychosocial needs that are carried out by the National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC.

- **Strategy on restoring family links:** In the context of protracted crises, in which there are growing numbers of missing persons and digitalization is having a tremendous impact, the proposed new strategic framework on restoring family links (RFL) demonstrates that the time is ripe for the Movement to significantly strengthen and renew its engagement in the field of RFL and missing persons and their families. The strategic framework is intended to: strengthen efforts to prevent family separation and disappearances; enhance the accessibility of RFL services, including through digital proximity; increase the response for families seeking to ascertain the fate and whereabouts of their missing loved ones; and safeguard the dignity and well-being of all people throughout their search and separation. Some important aspects of the strategic framework include the meaningful participation of affected people in developing RFL services, the strict protection of personal data, and strengthened partnerships with other actors, including State authorities.

The 2017 Council of Delegates adopted Resolution 9, "Restoring family links", which expressed support for the main orientations set out in the draft of the new RFL Strategy and encouraged the RFL Strategy Implementation Group to continue its work and to submit the finalized strategy for adoption at the 2019 Council of Delegates. It is therefore proposed that the new RFL Strategy be adopted by the 2019 Council of Delegates, and that the topic be submitted to the International Conference.

- **Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement: ten years on:** Building on the momentum created by the 20th anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in 2018 and the 10th anniversary of the Kampala Convention in 2019, and recognizing the continuing relevance of the 2009 Movement Policy on Internal Displacement, a resolution will be submitted to the Council of Delegates containing a set of concrete recommendations to improve the implementation of the policy and setting out the renewed commitment of the Movement's components to strengthen their coordinated response to the needs of internally displaced people. The recommendations put forward will be based on a joint ICRC–IFRC review of the

practices of National Societies in addressing the needs of individuals and communities affected by internal displacement.

- **Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC):** Strengthening coordination and cooperation within the Movement is fundamental to achieving coherent, efficient humanitarian action. Building on Resolution 4 of the 2013 Council of Delegates, Resolution 1 of the 2015 Council of Delegates, and Resolution 1 of the 2017 Council of Delegates, the SMCC topic will present a progress report on the implementation of the 2017–2019 Plan of Action. A new resolution will be submitted to the Council of Delegates with the aim of maintaining the impetus for transformational priorities and further including National Societies in this process.

#### **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**

A resolution based on the independent monitor's final report will be considered for adoption at the Council of Delegates.

#### **Procedural matters**

Several procedural matters will feature on the agenda of the Council of Delegates, in accordance with the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. These include:

- electing the chair, vice-chair and secretaries of the Council of Delegates
- adopting the agenda of the Council of Delegates
- adopting the provisional agenda of the 33rd International Conference
- adopting the list of proposed officers of the 33rd International Conference.

#### **Follow-up and progress reports**

The reports listed below will be submitted as working documents to all members of the Council of Delegates 45 days prior to the opening of the 2019 Council of Delegates.

Traditionally, the reports are only introduced or discussed during the Council of Delegates if a member submits a request to do so in advance.

#### **Report on reinforcing gender equality and equal opportunities in the leadership and work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

Following up on Resolution 12 of the 2017 Council of Delegates, the ICRC, the IFRC, National Societies and the Standing Commission will submit a joint report that highlights the concrete measures taken to address the issue of gender equality and equal opportunities at all levels of their leadership. Following further consultations, a decision might be submitted for consideration under this agenda item.

### **Report on Movement-wide principles for resource mobilization**

Following up on Resolution 2 of the 2017 Council of Delegates, a report will be presented outlining progress and achievements in fundraising in accordance with the Movement-wide principles for resource mobilization, the creation and implementation of the virtual fundraising hub, and strategic investment in National Society fundraising development.

### **Report on education: Related humanitarian needs**

Following up on Resolution 6 of the 2017 Council of Delegates, a report will be presented that outlines progress made in further considering and addressing education-related needs in situations of armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies.

### **Report on the Action Plan on the Non-use, Prohibition and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons 2018–2021**

A report will be presented on the implementation of Resolution 4 of the 2017 Council of Delegates.

### **Report on weapons and international humanitarian law**

A report will be presented on relevant developments related to Resolution 7 of the 2013 Council of Delegates.

### **Report on the Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

Following up on Resolution 4 of the 2015 Council of Delegates, a final report will be presented that outlines the achievements and the challenges encountered in implementing the resolution.

### **Report on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) 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 and Resolution 5 of the 2017 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 independent monitor’s final report will be submitted to the Council of Delegates together with an implementation progress update.

### **Report on the Empress Shôken Fund**

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

### **Report on the revision of National Society statutes and legal basis**

The Joint ICRC/IFRC Commission for National Society Statutes will present a report that will cover the development and use of the 2018 Guidance for National Societies, as well as the role and functions of the Commission.

### **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 the final report on the Vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

## Report on the work of the Standing Commission

A report on the work of the Standing Commission will be submitted to the Council of Delegates.

### How can you contribute to shaping the agenda and the content?

The Council of Delegates' functions and rules of procedure are set out in the [Statutes of the Movement](#). National Societies are encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposed agenda items and objectives by 28 February 2019. The draft provisional agenda will then be drawn up based on the feedback received.

The content of resolutions submitted to the 2019 Council of Delegates will be developed through rounds of consultation as per the timeline below. Written contributions will be supplemented by opportunities for interactive consultation as well.

A joint opening ceremony for the Council of Delegates and the IFRC General Assembly will take place on 4 December 2019.

A joint awards ceremony will be held for the Henry Dunant Medal, the Prize for Peace and Humanity, the Henry Davison Award and the Volunteering and Youth Awards, followed by a drinks reception.

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

<http://rcrcconference.org/>

Please share your contributions and input on the proposed agenda items and objectives at: [conferences@rcrcconference.org](mailto:conferences@rcrcconference.org)

### Proposed timeline for consultations on the proposed agenda topics:

Dates	Milestones
January 2019	Initial outline of agenda topics sent out to members
End of February 2019	Deadline for receiving feedback on the outline of agenda topics
Mid-March 2019	Elements of resolutions ready for consultation
Mid-May 2019	Draft-zero resolutions ready for consultation
Early June 2019	Mailing of convocation and provisional agenda and programme
September 2019	Deadline for feedback on the provisional agenda and programme and draft-zero resolutions
October 2019	Official mailing of working documents (follow-up and progress reports on previously adopted resolutions, background documents on the draft resolutions, official draft resolutions, etc.)
8 December 2019	2019 Council of Delegates