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



31st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

28 November – 1 December 2011

Agenda Item 10. Report of the Drafting Committee

Report delivered by the Chair of the Drafting Committee - Her Excellency Ambassador Maria Nazareth Farani Azevêdo, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations at Geneva.

Good morning. It is my pleasure report to the plenary of the 31st International Conference on the work of the Drafting Committee. The work undertaken by the Drafting Committee was a collective exercise. I thank for the cooperation of all delegations and I owe a special thanks to those who accepted to facilitate negotiations on outstanding issues. It is my understanding that all delegations addressed the Committee in an atmosphere of constructiveness and mutual respect.

I must say that we have gone through a long path that will allow us to adopt, today, the resolutions of this 31st Conference. Since this Conference was first brought to our attention, intense consultations were undertaken among States and all components of the Movement on its agenda and draft resolutions. The ICRC and the IFRC launched open-ended consultations on the elements of each resolution and on different drafts of the resolutions. The openness and transparency of the process lead by the ICRC and the IFRC made our life much easier at the Drafting Committee. And I can testify that National Societies along with governments made excellent contributions and enriched the content of our resolutions.

Madam Chairperson, the Drafting Committee was tasked to reach consensus on the 8 resolutions we have before us, namely: 1) Furthering the auxiliary role: Partnership for stronger National Societies and volunteering development; 2) Strengthening normative frameworks and addressing regulatory barriers concerning disaster mitigation, response and recovery; 3) Migration: Ensuring Access, Dignity, Respect for Diversity and Social Inclusion; 4) Health inequities: reducing burden on women and children; 5) Strengthening legal protection for victims of armed conflicts; 6) 4-Year Action Plan for the Implementation of international humanitarian Law; 7) Health Care in Danger: Respecting and Protecting Health Care; 8) Our World. Your Move – for Humanity.

I have the pleasure to report that last evening the Drafting Committee finalized all the texts by consensus and decided to transmit them to the Conference plenary. This is the result of a collective effort of all delegations to compromise with consensual formulations. I appreciate the flexibility of all delegations to achieve consensus. I am confident that this outcome will have a positive effect on the valuable humanitarian work carried out on the field. The resolutions we have before us will strengthen humanitarian action.

Madam Chairperson,

May I take this opportunity for some acknowledgments. I thank Ambassador Jean-François Paroz, Secretary-General of the Conference, for the support in the preparatory work undertaken in the last few weeks. My thanks also to the extremely efficient secretariat support provided by

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Ms. Yulia Gusynyna, from the International Federation, and Ms. Cordula Droege, from the International Committee. Finally, my thanks for the valuable work undertaken by the interpreters and the staff responsible for translation and document distribution.

Madam Chairperson,

I believe the resolutions are ready for adoption by the 31st International Conference.