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**Dissolution of the Augusta Fund and allocation of the capital to the
Florence Nightingale Medal Fund
Revision of the Regulations for the Florence Nightingale Medal**

Report

**Document prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross
in consultation with the Florence Nightingale Medal Commission**

Geneva, October 2015

REPORT

Dissolution of the Augusta Fund and allocation of the capital to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund

Revision of the Regulations for the Florence Nightingale Medal

1. Report on the Augusta Fund

The Augusta Fund was set up in 1890 on the initiative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to commemorate the late Empress Augusta of Germany and her support for the Red Cross.

The interest from this Fund, set up with an inalienable endowment of 100,000 Swiss francs, was allocated by the ICRC to:

- a) assignments that the Central Committees of the National Societies deemed useful to organize in the general interests of the Movement's work;
- b) women's associations, particularly those involved in setting up nursing schools; or
- c) other practical purposes.

The payouts were spread over three periods: 1903-1912, 1928-1938 and 1948-1968. After the end of the Second World War, it was only possible to allocate token amounts, due to the growing number and size of applications. That was why in 1969 the special committee charged with allocating the interest concluded that its task had become untenable.

In 1969, a report submitted to the 21st International Conference of the Red Cross in Istanbul highlighted that the income from the Augusta Fund was insufficient to meet the demands for considerable sums being made in applications by the National Societies. The report also pointed out that the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund showed a significant deficit and could benefit from an outside contribution, namely the income from the Augusta Fund.

Given the paucity of income generated by the Augusta Fund, and the fact that it could no longer effectively cope with all the demands being made on it, the 21st International Conference of the Red Cross decided that, until further notice, the income from the Augusta Fund would be allocated to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund.

That decision was confirmed by the 22nd International Conference of the Red Cross in Tehran in 1973.

Since then, that decision has never been called into question and the income from the Augusta Fund has always been allocated to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund.

Now that this arrangement has been in place for 46 years, and that having a fund named after Empress Augusta no longer has any particular significance, the ICRC proposes dissolving the Augusta Fund and transferring its capital to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund.

This dissolution would lighten the administrative burden of managing the Augusta Fund and would save on the cost of the annual accounting checks, which some years has exceeded the income generated by the Fund.

As a reminder, the income from the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund is used to purchase and engrave the medals, produce the certificates, and so on.

2. Transferring responsibility for the Florence Nightingale Medal to the Council of Delegates

In April 2015, the Florence Nightingale Medal Commission suggested that the Florence Nightingale Medal should fall under the responsibility of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and therefore be managed by the Council of Delegates rather than by the International Conference as set out in the current regulations.

32IC/15/19.9

This amendment to the procedures governing the Florence Nightingale Medal requires a draft resolution to be submitted to the 32nd International Conference and a modification to Article 12 of the Regulations for the Florence Nightingale Medal.

3. Changing the nomination submission deadline (Article 9)

The Central Committees of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies wishing to nominate individuals whom they deem worthy of receiving the Florence Nightingale Medal currently have until 1 March of the year in which the Medal is awarded to submit their nominations to the ICRC. However, since the results are announced on 12 May – the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday – and the number of nominations is on the rise, the ICRC has little time to study them all carefully and handle the administrative side of the award.

In order to be able to study all the nominations thoroughly, the Florence Nightingale Medal Commission proposes bringing the nomination submission deadline forward to 1 February of the year in which the Medal is awarded.

This amendment to the procedures governing the Florence Nightingale Medal requires a draft resolution to be submitted to the 32nd International Conference and a modification to Article 9 of the Regulations for the Florence Nightingale Medal.