

Guiding Principles for the Election of the Standing Commission

(Adopted by the Standing Commission on 21 September 2011)

The Statutes of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement define the Standing Commission (SC) as “*the trustee of the International Conference between two Conferences, carrying out the functions laid down in Article 18*”.

Further, the Statutes require that the Standing Commission shall comprise nine members:

- Five *members* of different National Societies, *each elected in their personal capacity* by the International Conference;
- Two representatives of the ICRC, one of whom shall be the President;
- Two representatives of the International Federation, one of whom shall be the President.

Trustee of the International Conference

The SC performs its functions as outlined in article 18 of the Statutes of the Movement. In addition to being the Movement body responsible for the agenda of the Council of Delegates and the International Conference, it is also – more generally – expected to

- promote harmony in the work of the Movement and, in this connection, coordination among its components;
- encourage and further the implementation of resolutions of the International Conference;
- examine with these objects in view, matters which concern the Movement as a whole.

The Commission works as a team when performing its roles and functions and as it discharges its duties and responsibilities. In doing so the Commission adopts a work plan and sets targets and objectives for its work, driven primarily by the decisions of the International Conference. From time to time, the Commission assigns internal lead – responsibilities to individual members for various issues being prepared for decision. Such lead responsibilities may include travel and consultation with components of the Movement and leading ad hoc working groups.

To safeguard the principle of independence of the Movement, members of the SC must adhere to and be guided solely by the principles of the Movement. It is therefore in the interest of the Movement that the SC election process is totally independent and is not linked to any other elections, internal or external to the Movement.

Nomination of candidates

Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedures in the Statutes of the Movement states that *personal qualities and the principle of fair geographical distribution should be taken into account* when nominating candidates.

Further, the same Rule states that nominations shall be delivered to the Chairman of the bureau at the Conference 48 hours before the meeting in which the election will take place.

However, in the interest of improved transparency and diversity, as well as to allow sufficient time for States and National Societies, who elect the members to the Commission, to acquaint themselves with the candidates, the Standing Commission *recommends* that

- Nominations should be submitted preferably *by the end of September in the election year*
- Gender diversity is strongly encouraged when nominating candidates for membership in the Standing Commission
- Candidates complete the *nomination form* considering the agreed profile for members of the SC, adopted by the Council of Delegates in 1995. The form must be sent to the Secretariat of the Standing Commission in Geneva
- The submitted forms are translated and posted on the Standing Commission website www.standcom.ch in all working languages to assist delegations preparing for the Conference.

The Chairmanship of the Standing Commission

Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Commission states the following:

Immediately after the election of the members of the Commission, the Chairperson of the Conference shall convene the members of the new Commission who are present. These members shall elect, in accordance with article 19.5 of the Statutes and at this first meeting, a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson, who traditionally are from among the Commission's elected members.

There are no rules in the Movement statutes, Rules of Procedure, or Rules of Procedure of the Standing Commission, which provide further details for electing the Chair/Vice Chair. To address this need, the XV Session of the Standing Commission *recommends* that at the 1st meeting of a new Commission

- The Chair of the International Conference, who according to the Statutes of the Movement chairs the 1st meeting, should ask the elected members if they are willing to act as Chair if duly elected. The names of all those indicating in the affirmative shall then be placed on the ballot;
- Those elected members, who are prepared to serve as Chair are invited by the Chair of the International Conference to make a brief presentation to the Commission in support of their candidacy;
- All Commission members present are then asked to cast their vote for Chair *in a secret ballot*;
- To be elected Chair, a member must receive a minimum of 5 votes;

- If no member receives at least 5 votes in the first round, there is a 2nd round with the names of only those members who received 2 or more votes in the 1st round being on the ballot;
- In the event no member receives minimum 5 votes in the 2nd ballot, the process is repeated.
- The same process shall be used for the election of Vice Chair.

Considerations before nomination

- Membership in the Standing Commission entails substantive involvement, requires sufficient commitment regarding time and availability and preparedness to travel;
- Members benefit from *extensive experience* within the Movement in different positions, national and international, as outlined in the profile for candidates;
- Members should not hold active, high-ranking positions in government or in intergovernmental organizations;
- Membership should be limited to a maximum of three consecutive mandates;
- Although elected in a personal capacity, the fair geographic distribution requirement implies that members should be in a position to bring to the attention of the Commission views and concerns of National Societies from all parts / different regions of the world;
- In this context the Standing Commission considers 'regions' to be the Federation's constitutional regions, namely Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe;
- Ideal qualities for membership on the Standing Commission can be summarized as follows: *leadership, motivation, character, knowledge, experience and availability to attend meetings and handle Commission affairs.*

Given that membership on the Commission implies a high level of commitment towards the Movement's ideals, utmost respect for ethical and professional responsibility is an overriding qualification. Members should be inspired at all times in their decisions and actions by the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

For further Standing Commission *recommendations* on the *election procedure*, see www.standcom.ch /RCRC Conference / Standing Commission election

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