

**Power of humanity**

33<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of  
the Red Cross and Red Crescent  
9-12 December 2019, Geneva



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**33rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

Geneva, Switzerland  
9–12 December 2019

**Provisional agenda  
and programme**

**Document prepared by  
the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent  
for adoption by the Council of Delegates of the  
International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

Geneva, October 2019

## 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

9–12 December 2019  
International Conference Centre of Geneva

Provisional agenda  
and programme

### Monday 9 December

#### OPENING PLENARY OF THE CONFERENCE (5pm)

##### Opening ceremony

**1. Welcome addresses**

- Chair of the Standing Commission
- Federal Councilor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

**2. Reading of the Fundamental Principles**

**3. Election of the Conference officers and establishment of the Conference subsidiary bodies** (commissions and drafting committee)

**4. Keynote addresses**

- President of the International Committee of the Red Cross
- President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**5. Organization of work**

- Drafting committee, commissions, plenaries, pledges
- Procedure for electing the members of the Standing Commission

**6. Outcomes of the Movement's Council of Delegates**

Report on relevant discussions and decisions of the Council of Delegates on issues such as the Movement's Statement on Integrity, the Policy on Addressing Mental Health and Psychosocial Needs, the Strategy for Restoring Family Links and the Movement's Statement on Migrants and our Common Humanity, and on the commitment to improve gender balance, diversity and transparency in the election of the Standing Commission.

*The opening ceremony will contain artistic performances throughout.*

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**Cocktail reception**  
*hosted by the Swiss authorities*

## Tuesday 10 December

### **NETWORKING MORNING: CONNECTING AROUND A COMMON PURPOSE**

Conference participants will be provided with the opportunity to network and connect with one another in advance of the formal proceedings of the Conference. The networking morning is open to Conference members and observers.

### **PLENARY:**

#### **7. Act today, shape tomorrow**

*Introduces the Conference and sets the scene for three days of exploring, learning about and deciding on humanitarian action in light of current and future challenges.*

### **COMMISSION I: International humanitarian law (IHL): Protecting people in armed conflict**

2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which are universally ratified. The 33rd International Conference presents an opportune moment for the members of the Conference to reaffirm their commitment to IHL and to work towards its full application and implementation, especially at the national level. While recent years have seen many shocking and egregious violations of IHL, the world is also witnessing situations of armed conflicts where many belligerents are fighting by the rules. IHL continues to govern their behaviour, successfully protecting victims and restricting the way hostilities are conducted. This commission provides the platform for an entire day of positive and pragmatic discussions on IHL, which includes five thematic spotlight sessions, listed below. Conference members will have an opportunity to share, learn, explore and engage in meaningful dialogue about key areas related to strengthening and implementing IHL.

A **plenary session** will set the scene for the subsequent five spotlight sessions.

**Spotlight sessions** will be a platform for smaller, interactive group debates on key thematic areas of IHL, many of which are grounded in the findings of the International Committee of the Red Cross's quadrennial reporting on contemporary challenges to IHL.

The morning segment will enable an in-depth exploration of three themes in parallel sessions:

- Influencing behaviour to enhance respect for IHL
- Preventing and responding to the consequences of urban warfare
- IHL: Different people, different impacts.

The afternoon segment will explore two themes in parallel sessions:

- IHL and new technologies
- Voluntary reporting and sharing of good practices.

A reconvening **plenary session** will connect the debates that took place during the spotlight sessions and preview the next day.

## **NETWORKING, HUMANITARIAN VILLAGE AND SIDE EVENTS**

*Participants will have the opportunity to connect with one another, visit the Humanitarian Village and attend side events<sup>1</sup> that will take place during lunchtime and in the evening, outside of the formal agenda.*

## **FOR THE RECORD: VOICES FROM THE CONFERENCE**

*Members and observers who register in advance will be able to share formal statements on the Conference's themes for the official record. This segment will run continuously throughout the Conference, in parallel to other sessions, commencing on the afternoon of 10 December and concluding on the morning of 12 December.*

## **DRAFTING COMMITTEE**

*The drafting committee will work in parallel to the other sessions of the Conference from the afternoon of 10 December to lunchtime on 12 December.*

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**Meet the candidates for election to the Standing Commission**  
*(Not part of the formal agenda of the Conference)*

## **Wednesday 11 December**

### **COMMISSION II: Shifting vulnerabilities**

The theme of the day resonates well with the overarching slogan of the Conference – “Act today, shape tomorrow” – in recognition of the fact that the world is changing and will continue to change rapidly over the next decade. Many of these changes are likely to result in shifts in vulnerabilities, with different populations affected, different geographic areas touched, and hidden vulnerabilities surfacing. This commission aims to highlight the interconnectedness and cross-cutting nature of these shifting vulnerabilities and explore how Conference members can jointly step up their efforts to prevent, prepare for and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable people.

A **plenary session** will set the scene for the subsequent six spotlight sessions.

**Spotlight sessions** will be a platform for smaller, interactive group debates.

The morning segment will enable an in-depth exploration of three themes in parallel sessions:

- Role of volunteers in community health
- Humanitarian consequences of climate crisis
- Building safe and inclusive urban communities.

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<sup>1</sup> *Side events are organized at the initiative of Conference participants and are not part of the formal Conference agenda. Their schedule will be published with the mailing of the official working documents of the Conference.*

The afternoon segment will explore another three themes in parallel sessions:

- Mental health and psychosocial support
- Migration and displacement
- Digital transformation.

A reconvening **plenary session** will connect the debates that took place during the spotlight sessions and preview the next day.

### **NETWORKING, HUMANITARIAN VILLAGE AND SIDE EVENTS**

*The participants will have opportunities to connect with one another, visit the Humanitarian Village and attend side events that will take place in the morning, during lunchtime and in the evening, outside of the formal agenda.*

### **FOR THE RECORD: VOICES FROM THE CONFERENCE**

*Runs throughout the day.*

### **DRAFTING COMMITTEE**

*Runs throughout the day.*

### **PLENARY:**

#### **8. Election of the Members of the Standing Commission**

- Explanation of election proceedings
- Roll call and electronic voting
- Announcement of results or continuation of election

## **Thursday 12 December**

### **COMMISSION III: Trust in humanitarian action**

Trust is the foundation of humanitarian action and the ability to work together for a common purpose. The Movement's work depends on the trust of people and communities, authorities at national and local levels, key partners and stakeholders, and the public at large. Building and maintaining their trust is closely linked to fostering acceptance of the Movement. That acceptance in turn improves security, improved security increases access to people affected by conflict and disaster, and increased access enables the Movement to help people in need in an impartial manner. Trust is also crucial when it comes to building community resilience, not only in responding to crises but also in anticipating and preventing risk. Trust is the red thread that connects the sessions of the Conference, with the aim of exploring how Movement components, States and other partners can best cooperate to maintain and strengthen trust in principled humanitarian action.

A **plenary session** will set the scene for the subsequent three spotlight sessions.

**Spotlight sessions** will be a platform for smaller, interactive group debates.

The morning segment will enable an in-depth exploration of three themes in parallel sessions:

- Community engagement and accountability
- Integrity, compliance and risk management
- A conducive environment for effective humanitarian action.

A reconvening **plenary session** will connect the debates that took place during the opening plenary and the spotlight sessions on trust as well as deliberations and topics covered in the first two commissions of the Conference.

## **NETWORKING, HUMANITARIAN VILLAGE AND SIDE EVENTS**

*The participants will have opportunities to connect with one another, visit the Humanitarian Village and attend side events that will take place in the morning and during lunchtime, outside of the formal agenda.*

## **FOR THE RECORD: VOICES FROM THE CONFERENCE**

*Runs until 10am.*

## **DRAFTING COMMITTEE**

*Runs until lunchtime.*

## **PLENARY: REPORTS AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

### **9. Reports**

- Report on Resolution 1, “Strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty” (32IC/15/R1)
- Report on Resolution 2, “Strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law” (32IC/15/R2)
- Report on Resolution 3, “Sexual and gender-based violence: Joint action on prevention and response” (32IC/15/R3)
- Report on Resolution 5, “The safety and security of humanitarian volunteers” (32IC/15/R5)
- 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 (32IC/15/R8)
- Report on the outcomes of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
- “International humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts – Recommitting to protection in armed conflict on the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions”

**10. Report on the work of the 33rd International Conference in commissions and spotlight sessions (Chairperson's Paper), and overview of pledges**

**11. Report of the drafting committee**

**12. Adoption of the resolutions of the 33rd International Conference**

- Bringing IHL home: A roadmap for better national implementation of international humanitarian law
- Addressing mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies
- Time to act: Working together to prevent and respond to epidemics and pandemics
- Restoring family links while respecting privacy, including as it relates to personal data protection
- Climate-smart disaster laws and policies that leave no one behind
- Women and leadership in the humanitarian action of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

An additional omnibus resolution may be submitted to the 33rd International Conference to acknowledge the outcomes of the Conference commissions, the relevant outcomes of the Movement's Council of Delegates and other reports.

**13. Closing of the 33rd International Conference**