

**Power of humanity**

Council of Delegates of the International  
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**COUNCIL OF DELEGATES**  
**OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS**  
**AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Geneva, Switzerland  
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**Enhancing transparency, gender balance and rotation  
in the election and composition of the Standing Commission of the  
Red Cross and Red Crescent: Adoption of the Guidelines for  
Candidates**

**Resolution**

**Document prepared by  
the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

Geneva, December 2019

## RESOLUTION

### **Enhancing transparency, gender balance and rotation in the election and composition of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

The Council of Delegates,

*recalling* Article 17 of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) establishing the composition of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Standing Commission), which shall include five members of different National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies (National Societies), each elected in a personal capacity by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference), two representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), one of whom shall be the President and two representatives of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), one of whom shall be the President; as well as Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement establishing the rules governing the election of members of the Standing Commission,

*recalling also* Article 10(4) of the Statutes of the Movement requiring the International Conference to elect members of the Standing Commission, taking into account personal qualities and the principle of fair geographical distribution,

*recalling further* Resolution 3 of the 1995 Council of Delegates, "Future of the Movement", endorsing the Profile for Candidates for Election to the Standing Commission,

*recalling further* Resolution 12 of the 2017 Council of Delegates, "Reinforcing gender equality and equal opportunities in the leadership and work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement", and its call upon the ICRC, the IFRC, National Societies and the Standing Commission to take concrete measures to address the question of gender equality and equal opportunities at all levels of their own leadership,

*noting with satisfaction* the commitment of the Movement to enhance standards of integrity and compliance as well as to promote equitable gender balance across all of the components and statutory bodies of the Movement,

*welcoming with appreciation* the work of the Standing Commission for developing concrete proposals to enhance transparency, gender balance and rotation in its election and composition,

*emphasizing* its expectation that candidates for election to the Standing Commission should comply at all times with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and with the highest standards of integrity and ethics that membership in the Standing Commission implies,

1. *adopts* the Guidelines for Candidates for Election to the Standing Commission drawn up by the Standing Commission, which replace the 1995 Profile for Candidates for Election to the Standing Commission, and *urges* members of the Standing Commission, future candidates for election, and all components of the Movement to comply with them;
2. *urges* the candidates standing for election to the Standing Commission to submit their nominations at least 60 days before the opening of the International Conference in which the election will take place;

3. *urges* elected members of the Standing Commission not to stand again for election if they have already served two four-year terms;
4. *encourages* fair geographical distribution as well as equitable gender balance to be taken into account when nominating candidates for election to the Standing Commission;
5. *urges* all members of the International Conference to take into account in the elections of the Standing Commission, including at the 33rd International Conference, the personal qualities and the principle of fair geographical distribution as well as equitable gender balance when electing the five elected members of the Standing Commission at the International Conference, and thus notably by choosing at least two women and two men among the candidates;
6. *urges* the ICRC and the IFRC, when appointing their respective representatives to the Standing Commission pursuant to Article 17(1) of the Statutes of the Movement, to ensure equitable gender balance;
7. *takes note of and welcomes* the Standing Commission's interpretation that the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the Movement should be considered as gender-neutral and that, unless the contrary intention appears, words and expressions indicating the masculine or feminine are not limited to the indicated gender;
8. *encourages* members of the Council of Delegates and of the International Conference to ensure equitable gender representation in their delegations attending the said meetings;
9. *calls upon* all components of the Movement to continue to work towards implementing Resolution 12 of the 2017 Council of Delegates, including the taking of concrete measures to ensure equitable gender representation at all levels of their organizations, and to ensure that women are lent support to move into leadership and governance positions in the Movement;
10. *invites* the Standing Commission to bring the present resolution and its recommendations to the attention of the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and to subsequent International Conferences.

<b>GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE STANDING COMMISSION OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT</b>
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### **A. Responsibilities of the Standing Commission**

The Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Standing Commission) is the trustee of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference) between two International Conferences, carrying out the functions laid down in Article 18 of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement). The principal functions of the Standing Commission, as set out in Article 18 and in decisions of the Movement, encompass the following administrative, executive and governing responsibilities:

- (1) to decide on the place and dates of the International Conference, if not set by the previous International Conference, and the Council of Delegates, and prepare the provisional agendas and programme of the International Conference
- (2) to establish by consensus the list of observers to the International Conference and to the Council of Delegates
- (3) to promote the International Conference and secure optimum attendance
- (4) to encourage and further the implementation of the resolutions of the International Conference
- (5) to promote harmony in the work of the Movement and, in this connection, coordination among its components
- (6) examine matters which concern the Movement as a whole
- (7) to settle, in the interval between International Conferences, and subject to any final decision by the Conference
  - any difference of opinion which may arise as to the interpretation and application of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure
  - any question which may be submitted to it by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) or the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in connection with any difference which may arise between them
- (8) to select recipients for and administer the award of the Henry Dunant Medal and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity<sup>1</sup>
- (9) to establish by consensus ad hoc subsidiary bodies to assist it in its work.

### **B. Principles governing membership of the Standing Commission**

The Standing Commission comprises nine members, including five members from different National Societies and elected in a personal capacity, and four members who are representatives of the ICRC and the IFRC in accordance with Articles 10(4) and 17 of the Statutes of the Movement, as well as Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure.

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<sup>1</sup> The Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity was created by the Council of Delegates in Rio de Janeiro in 1987.

Pursuant to Article 10(4) of the Statutes of the Movement and Rule 21(1) of the Rules of Procedure, the International Conference shall elect the five members of the Standing Commission, taking into account:

- the personal qualities of candidates best qualified to fulfil the responsibilities of the Standing Commission
- the principle of fair geographical distribution.

Additionally, the Movement is committed to enhancing gender equality, diversity and equal opportunities at all levels of its leadership. Therefore, in order to support the achievement of equitable gender balance, all components of the Movement and all Member States taking part in the vote during the International Conference for the election of the five members of the Standing Commission referred to in Article 17(1)(a) of the Statutes of the Movement, are strongly encouraged and invited to select on their ballot paper at least two female and two male candidates.

In the same way, the ICRC and the IFRC are urged to ensure equitable gender balance when appointing their respective representatives to the Standing Commission pursuant to Article 17(1)(b) and (c) of the Statutes of the Movement.

### **C. Requirements for candidates**

As per Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement, nominations for the Standing Commission shall be delivered, with the curriculum vitae of each candidate, to the chair of the International Conference Bureau no later than 48 hours before the opening of the meeting in which the election will take place. However, all candidates standing for election to the Standing Commission are urged to submit their nominations at least 60 days before the opening of the International Conference. This earlier submission is intended to improve the nomination process for candidates so as to ensure the transparency of the process and the quality of the nominations, in line with enhanced eligibility and integrity requirements. It will also encourage the nominations to be circulated 45 days before the opening of the International Conference at the time of dispatching official working documents.

Nominations must be submitted in one of the working languages of the International Conference.

#### ***1. Membership in a National Society***

Pursuant to Article 17(1)(a) of the Statutes of the Movement, candidates take part in the election in a personal capacity and they must be a member of a National Society. Their nominations must include a confirmation of membership, such as a certificate of membership or other relevant document.

Several candidates to the election may be members of the same National Society, but no more than one member of the same National Society may be declared elected to the Standing Commission.

#### ***2. Declaration of candidacy***

Pursuant to Article 10(4) of the Statutes of the Movement and Rule 21(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement, the personal qualities of candidates shall be taken into account in both the nomination and election of candidates. Therefore, candidates as well as elected members must be able to certify that at no time before their nomination they have been:

- involved in the commission of any violation of international humanitarian law or of internationally recognized standards of human rights law

- the subject of a conviction for a criminal offence or conduct which gave rise to a civil penalty which would otherwise risk the reputation or standing of the Movement
- sanctioned by any component of the Movement for:
  - violations of any Movement component's Code of Conduct
  - the display of character or morality incompatible with the seven Fundamental Principles of the Movement
  - fraudulent or corrupt conduct
  - failure to declare a conflict of interest
- sanctioned for the violation of laws or policies relating to sexual exploitation, abuse, discrimination or harassment
- involved in any major dispute or controversy in or outside the Movement that would otherwise risk the reputation of the Movement.

Candidates should note that they may be asked to provide further information in relation to any information submitted in their nominations.

Elected members remain fully accountable for failure to disclose pertinent information and for statements included in their nominations. They are expected to maintain the highest levels of integrity and ethical standards and to preserve the image, reputation and functions of the Standing Commission and of the Movement.

### ***3. Profile and qualifications of candidates and membership***

As noted above, pursuant to Article 10(4) of the Statutes and Rule 21(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement, the personal qualities of candidates shall be taken into account in both the nomination and election of candidates. The ideal qualities for members of the Standing Commission have been grouped under the following headings: **leadership, motivation, integrity, character, knowledge, experience** and **availability to attend meetings and handle the Standing Commission's affairs.**

#### **(a) Leadership**

The candidate should have a vision both for the Movement and for its role and influence within the larger international humanitarian community; to be capable and willing to address with creativity and determination the challenges facing the Movement; and to be able to motivate and inspire fellow Standing Commission members and other leaders of the Movement to take constructive and positive action to carry out that vision.

#### **(b) Motivation**

Membership of the Standing Commission should not be sought for reasons of personal ambition, prestige or as an honorary position within the Movement. Candidates should be motivated to act together with other members to serve in a personal and non-partisan capacity, in the sole interests of the Movement and in the fulfilment of its humanitarian mission and goals.

#### **(c) Integrity**

Candidates should have a proven record of knowledge of and compliance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, the Statutes of the Movement and the highest integrity and ethical standards. They should be inspired at all times in their decisions and

actions by the Fundamental Principles. They should be committed to exercising their mandate in their own personal capacity, in the sole interest of the Standing Commission and the Movement, to the exclusion of any outside influence or conflict of interest that would otherwise influence or bind their positions and decisions.

**(d) Character**

The candidate should possess independent judgement; be sensitive to others and respect their concerns and opinions; be resolute and non-partisan in making decisions, and tolerant in carrying them out; have the courage to recommend what is right, even if that choice may not be popular; be reliable in meeting responsibilities and deadlines; be ready to work in a spirit of collegiality within the Standing Commission to create the conditions that promote unity and harmony among the components of the Movement.

**(e) Knowledge**

The candidates should be familiar with the Fundamental Principles; the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and other relevant instruments of international law; be well informed about the origins and historical development of the Movement; and be familiar with, and respectful of, the Statutes, Rules of Procedure and key decisions and policies of the Movement.

A sound understanding of how the various components of the Movement function is required, particularly with regard to the IFRC and the ICRC.

The candidate should understand and respect the purpose and functions of the Standing Commission, and its relationship with the respective components of the Movement and to the other statutory bodies of the Movement; the purpose, functions and interrelationships of the components of the Movement; the relationship between the Movement and States party to the Geneva Conventions; and the role of the Movement within the larger international humanitarian community, in particular its relations with the United Nations system.

Fluency in English is strongly desirable as it would facilitate communication among members of the Standing Commission; knowledge of at least one other official language of the Movement is desirable.

**(f) Experience**

Experience with a National Society and/or with another component of the Movement is highly desirable, preferably with experience and understanding in matters of governance.

Beyond experience in the Movement, national and international affairs, the candidate should be especially discerning with regard to human events and actions, particularly within the larger international community; have experience of working in a multicultural environment; and have an interest in understanding and keeping up to date with developments in international socioeconomic and political affairs that have a direct impact on the Movement's activities.

**(g) Availability**

The candidate must be available to attend meetings of the Standing Commission and to carry out its assignments, including taking part in discussions in person or remotely and undertaking specific tasks. Membership of the Standing Commission entails a significant commitment in terms of time and travel.

The five members of the different National Societies, each elected in a personal capacity, should not simultaneously hold any elective or governance functions in the IFRC, so as to

ensure their availability and independence of judgement in the event of any difference that may arise between the ICRC and the IFRC being brought to the attention of the Standing Commission.

Members should not hold any active high-ranking positions in government, a legislative body or any other organization which may constitute a conflict of interest, reflect adversely on the Movement or be incompatible with the Fundamental Principles.

#### ***4. Term limit***

Elected members of the Standing Commission are encouraged not to stand again for election if they have already served two four-year terms.

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