

Power of humanity

Council of Delegates of the International
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement



CONVOCATION

To the members and observers of the
COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT
Geneva, Switzerland
22 to 23 June 2022

Geneva, 10 December 2021

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to invite you to the next meeting of the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Council of Delegates), which will take place **in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22 to 23 June 2022**, immediately following the 23rd session of the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (General Assembly), from 19 to 21 June.

The choice of the venue and date for the Council of Delegates was taken by the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Standing Commission) in conjunction with the decision by the leadership of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to postpone its General Assembly to 2022 owing to the exceptional circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In organizing the Council of Delegates, statutory, safety and practical requirements are being considered: first and foremost, the duty of care towards all participants, optimum attendance, and equality for the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) in exercising their right to participate in debates and decision-making.

Provisional agenda and programme

You will find enclosed the [provisional agenda and programme](#) of the Council of Delegates, prepared by the Standing Commission. In conformity with Rule 6.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement, your “observations, amendments or additions to the provisional agenda must be received by the Standing Commission at least 60 days before the opening” of the Council of Delegates, meaning **by 23 April 2022**. They can be sent by email to conferences@rcrcconference.org.

The Council of Delegates provides a platform for achieving the ambition of **a Movement fit for purpose**, by fostering the development of Movement positions, policies, strategies and practices on humanitarian issues. Increased coherence on these issues strengthens cooperation, coordination and mutual trust among Movement components and, ultimately, with the people we serve. In light of the exceptional circumstances, the Standing Commission and the co-organizers have proposed a different organizational model for the 2022 Council of Delegates. The agenda and programme include both online workshops and an in-person plenary meeting. The online and in-person events will have separate schedules, be run differently and have different rules on who may participate.

Online workshops (January–May 2022)

You should have already received the invitation to participate in the workshops that will be held online from January to May 2022. [The programme and outlines of the nine workshops¹](#) are available online and will be updated regularly. Although the workshops will take place before the formal opening of the Council of Delegates, they supplement its agenda with exploratory presentations and discussions on issues that will not require decisions in 2022. The workshops' outcomes will be presented at the plenary session of the Council of Delegates and be reflected in its summary record.

Unless otherwise specified, the workshops are open to all Red Cross and Red Crescent leaders, volunteers and staff, as well as observers and guests, with no restrictions other than prior registration. Interpretation will be provided into the working languages of the Council of Delegates (Arabic, English, French, Spanish) and Russian. We encourage you to share the programme and promote wide participation within your respective organizations. Please visit [the workshop page on the Statutory Meetings website¹](#) for more information and to register.

In-person plenary meeting (22 to 23 June 2022)

As in previous years, the Council of Delegates and the 23rd session of the IFRC General Assembly will include joint opening and award ceremonies.

The formal agenda of the Council of Delegates will be covered from 22 to 23 June 2022 in plenary and in the presence of the delegates of the Movement's components and observer representatives. In view of the public health situation and in line with the IFRC's decision for its General Assembly, the Standing Commission has decided to **reduce the number of delegates, with a strict limit of two for each National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, ten each for the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and one representative for each observer** allowed to attend the in-person plenary meeting. **Additional delegates will be able to register for the Council of Delegates and participate online**, but only those delegates present in person will be allowed to take part in the debates and votes on resolutions.

The Chair of the Council of Delegates can authorize a participant to speak online, if the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society is unable to attend the in-person meeting due to extraordinary circumstances and has made the request prior to the opening of the session.

Practical information will be provided in due time on registration, visas, accommodation, travel, etc. for in-person and online participation in the plenary meeting. This information will also be available on the website of the Statutory Meetings: www.rcrcconference.org.

Issues for decision, discussion and follow-up

The Council of Delegates will address major humanitarian issues based on the feedback received from consultations held within the Movement earlier this year. Some matters require immediate decision by the Movement, some prepare the ground for the next Council of Delegates and the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and others take stock of progress made on previous resolutions.

Draft elements of the proposed resolutions were circulated in May 2021 and we are grateful for the comments already received. [Eight draft zero resolutions²](#) have already been prepared and are now available online:

- "A Movement approach to ensuring patient safety and quality of care"
- "Movement Family Links medal"

¹ <https://rcrcconference.org/council-of-delegate/2022-council-of-delegates/workshops/>

² <https://rcrcconference.org/Council-of-delegate/2022-council-of-delegates/documents/>

- “Revision of the Regulations for the Henry Dunant Medal and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity”
- “Strengthening anticipatory humanitarian action in the Movement: Our way forward”
- “Strengthening the resilience of urban communities: Our way forward”
- “Towards a Movement strategy on migration”
- “War in cities”
- “Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: 2022–2027 action plan”.

These draft zero resolutions are being circulated early to support the consultation processes and facilitate decision-making at the Council of Delegates. I therefore strongly encourage you to **share your comments and proposed amendments by 1 March 2022** by emailing them to conferences@rcrcconference.org.

I would also like to remind you that the [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations](https://www.climate-charter.org/)³ was adopted by the ICRC and the IFRC in May 2021 and will be presented to the Council of Delegates for endorsement by the whole Movement. National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are also invited to sign the charter individually, and almost a third have already done so.

Further draft resolutions may be presented at a later stage. The **official working documents**, including the draft resolutions and reports, will be sent to all participants at least 45 days before the opening of the meeting, i.e. **at the latest on 8 May 2022**.

I look forward to seeing you soon in the workshops and at the plenary meeting of the Council of Delegates and am counting on your active participation to make the Council of Delegates a success despite the ongoing challenges we face.

Yours sincerely,



Mercedes Babé
Chair
Standing Commission



Encl.: Provisional agenda and programme of the Council of Delegates

³ <https://www.climate-charter.org/>