

Power of humanity

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



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For information**

**COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

“Journey to the Council of Delegates”
January–May 2022

Programme of online workshops

**Document prepared by
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PROGRAMME OF ONLINE WORKSHOPS January–May 2022

The proposed programme of online workshops is part of the “Journey to the Council of Delegates”, which will be held in the months leading up to the opening session and in-person plenary meeting of the Council of Delegates in May 2022 (exact date TBC).

The workshops will each be held twice on the scheduled day, in order to provide simultaneous interpretation in different language combinations and cover different time zones. The schedule will be completed and the exact times and connexion details will be shared in November 2021 along with the working documents.

The purpose of the workshops is to supplement the agenda of the Council of Delegates and to start exploratory discussions. Key elements of the workshop outcomes will be presented to the plenary meeting of the Council of Delegates and be reflected in its summary record.

Information on registration and participation will be provided in due time.

WHAT WE DO: Addressing global and local needs and vulnerabilities

1. Counterterrorism measures and sanction regimes and their impact on principled humanitarian action – Thursday, 20 January; [Link to document](#)

- **Why discuss this now:** In recent years, in response to acts of terrorism and other threats of international peace and security, international organizations and States have developed increasingly robust counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes. Their multiplication and increasing breadth have had adverse effects on the humanitarian activities of Movement components, jeopardizing their capacity to respond to victims’ needs. The COVID-19 pandemic has only made the situation worse. In response, the humanitarian community has taken a proactive approach to addressing these challenges, and more of those who design and/or implement counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes are now taking into account their impact on humanitarian activities.
- **What is the expected outcome:** To have taken stock of the Movement’s situation in relation to counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes, to have identified ways forward and appropriate mitigating measures, and to have considered a more coordinated Movement approach to counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes at multilateral and national levels.

2. Towards a Movement position on autonomous weapon systems – Thursday, 3 February; [Link to document](#)

- **Why discuss this now:** The Movement has long expressed serious concerns (for example in Resolution 7 of the 2013 Council of Delegates) about the humanitarian, legal and ethical implications of autonomous weapons, given the risk of loss of human control and judgement in the use of force. In May 2021, the ICRC recommended that States adopt new legally binding rules to prohibit autonomous weapon systems that pose unacceptable risks and to strictly regulate all others. The Movement now has an opportunity to take stock of progress and consider the potential development of a Movement position as part of efforts to mobilize States to take action.

- **What is the expected outcome:** To have assessed the Movement’s progress since the 2013 resolution, have increased awareness of the humanitarian concerns and how to effectively mobilize States to address them, and have explored developing a Movement position on autonomous weapon systems.

3. Movement approach to Education – Thursday, 5 May

- **Why discuss this now:** As a result of the substantial work carried out in this field over the past decades, in 2017 the Council of Delegates adopted the resolution “Education: Related humanitarian needs”,³ and a follow-up side-event was held during the 33rd International Conference in 2019, accompanied by a number of pledges on education, including a joint IFRC and ICRC pledge (“Addressing education-related humanitarian needs”). Since then, the IFRC, the ICRC and the global education network of National Societies have confirmed the need to adopt a well-coordinated, complementary and collaborative approach to education, supporting the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals to ensure their social, emotional, mental, physical and cognitive development and well-being, especially children, adolescents, young adults and those all too often left behind or left out of society because of their gender, age, abilities, ethnicity or other aspects of their identity or social status. Work started in 2021 to conceptualize, operationalize and test such an approach and way of working together for education in Ukraine, Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- **What is the expected outcome:** To agree on the role that the Movement can play in addressing education across the triple nexus (humanitarian -development - peacebuilding) through a coordinated, collaborative approach. To help identify the complementarity strengths of each component Movement in ensuring access to quality education for crisis-affected populations, providing competency-based humanitarian education and strengthening the capacity of National Societies to further position their work in the education sector and address education-related needs, including as an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field. Finally, to provide a platform for discussing a potential a resolution on education at the 34th International Conference.

4. Protection in the Movement – Tuesday, 12 April; [Link to document](#)

- **Why discuss this now:** Since the discussions held during a side event at the 33rd International Conference in 2019, the Movement has come to understand the need to agree on a common Protection approach, based on making our action better coordinated and more complementary, to ensure that more people are better protected. This workshop represents a key milestone in the process, by initiating the discussion and laying the groundwork for the adoption of a Movement-wide approach in 2023.
- **What is the expected outcome:** Broad engagement and representation across the Movement in developing a Movement-wide approach to Protection and a broader understanding of the Common Protection Approach and the holistic work on Protection in the Movement.

HOW WE WORK: *Accountability, transparency, unity and sustainability of the Movement*

5. **Virtual Fundraising Hub 2.0 – A commitment to growth** – Thursday, 3 March; [Link to document](#)

- **Why discuss this now:** In 2017, the Council of Delegates adopted Resolution 2, “Movement-wide principles for resource mobilization” (CD/R2/17), with the aim of increasing the income of Movement components and meeting growing humanitarian needs by maximizing the Movement’s fundraising potential. One of the primary goals is to work together to support the development of National Societies’ fundraising capacity. However, the past four years have brought a number of changes for Movement resource mobilization: the global COVID-19 outbreak underscored the need to explore more technological and digital-based ways of attracting supporters, and although the Movement has managed to attract income to support its response to the pandemic, peer organizations have nevertheless grown at a faster rate over past five years. Movement components therefore need to reconvene to explore ways to build on the progress made and fast-track its fundraising development to achieve in order to complete the much-needed transformation in fundraising.
- **What is the expected outcome:** A three-year strategy for the Virtual Fundraising Hub, within the context of the Movement-wide principles, goals and vision for resource mobilization. The aim is to provide structure and tangible landmarks towards which Movement components will be working by implementing the principles.

6. **What will it take to build an International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement free from racism, xenophobia and discrimination?** – Thursday, 31 March; [Link to document](#)

- **Why discuss this now:** In every society and in every country certain people experience forms of discrimination, including racism. The intersection between these dynamics and humanitarianism is complex and needs to be examined. What do today’s challenges related to racism and discrimination look like within the Movement? Rejection of discrimination of all kinds lies at the heart of our Fundamental Principles and values. Movement components have underlined that rejection in various strategies, policies and operational plans on diversity, inclusion and protection. Even so, there is a need today to better understand the linkages between discrimination, power imbalances and disadvantage.
- **What is the expected outcome:** An honest and respectful conversation that leads to a clear picture of what has been, can and should be done within the Movement to create safe and inclusive workspaces free from racism and any other kind of discrimination, and an initial roadmap with key actions for moving forward as a Movement to counter racism and discrimination, both in terms of the people we serve and our own personnel.

7. Increased Local Action: Investing in sustainable and strong National Societies–
Thursday, 28 April [Link to the Document](#)

- **Why discuss this now:** Strong, independent, self-sustained and trusted local organisations are key to supporting community resilience, providing life-saving humanitarian action and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In an interconnected world, the scale, quality and effectiveness of our collective local action is however directly linked to the capacity of all components of the Movement, including National Societies and their branch network, to be fit for purpose.
For National Societies, their continuous development and transformation is the essence of National Society Development (NSD)'s work.
- **What is the expected outcome:** To identify concrete avenues to strengthen overall sustainability of each NS, focusing on auxiliary role, legal base (with special attention to Statutes) and financial sustainability, leveraging on the Movement components complementarity expertise and support, so as to result in enhanced, principled and impactful NS services to their communities.

8. Strengthening integrity within the Movement – Tuesday, 10 May

- **Why discuss this now:** The Statutory Meetings of the Movement in 2019 took on the issue of trust in the Movement as a major theme. They acknowledged the extraordinary stresses on public trust experienced by many traditional institutions due to social, political and technological changes around the world. In this environment, a key element for the Movement to continue enjoying the trust of the public, governments, partners and donors is our ability to demonstrate the highest commitment to and practice of integrity. At the 2019 Council of Delegates, the Statement on Integrity of the Movement was adopted and highly welcomed by the participants. It expresses the seriousness with which the Movement takes the issue of integrity and reiterates that the integrity and ethical behaviour of each component of the Movement is fundamental at both the individual and institutional level.
- **What is the expected outcome:** The workshop, moderated by members of the Movement Integrity Statement Working Group, is expected to improve the participants' common understanding of requirements to protect integrity and identify what more Movement components can do together to strengthen their integrity. These outcomes will contribute to the Working Group's future work

9. Investing in communications: No risk, big returns – Thursday, 19 May; [Link to document](#)

- **Why discuss this now:** Communication is essential in a world where there is increasing competition for visibility, pressure for transparency and accountability, and risk from trends such as disinformation. Investing in communications skills and systems across the Movement is therefore necessary to build trust and acceptance of Movement components as relevant humanitarian organizations locally and globally, and to mitigate reputational, operational and funding-related risks.
- **What is the expected outcome:** A plan of action (including a road map) to increase the Movement's capacity and resources for improving its communication; the plan will include the creation of a virtual communications hub for the Movement.