



# Power of humanity

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

22 – 23 June 2022, Geneva

## Revision of the Regulations for the Henry Dunant Medal and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

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Document prepared by  
the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent  
in consultation with its advisory group on Movement awards regulations

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Standing Commission) is mandated to administer and award the Henry Dunant Medal (HDM) and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity (PPH). In 2020, it adopted new guidelines for awarding the medal and the prize, with a view to supplementing the provisions of their regulations of 1965 and 1987, respectively, on the eligibility and desired qualities of nominees, the nomination process and the review and decision-making process. The new guidelines were also intended to foster diversity and inclusion and uphold the highest standards of integrity and ethics. In addition, the Standing Commission agreed to further reform the awards and submit to the Council of Delegates revised regulations for the medal and the prize which align their nomination processes and amend or incorporate from the guidelines key elements relating to eligibility requirements, diversity, inclusion and integrity.

## 1) INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Standing Commission is mandated to administer and award the HDM and the PPH in accordance with:

- the [Regulations for the Henry Dunant Medal](#) (HDM Regulations), adopted by the International Conference in 1965 and revised in 1981
- the [Regulations for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity](#) (PPH Regulations), adopted by the Standing Commission after the prize was instituted by the Council of Delegates in 1987
- the “[Guidelines for awarding the Henry Dunant Medal and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity](#)”, adopted by the Standing Commission on 9 December 2020.

The guidelines clarify and supplement the provisions of the HDM and the PPH Regulations on the eligibility and desired qualities of nominees, the nomination process, the review and decision-making process, and the award ceremony. They reflect, in particular, the Standing Commission's commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion and upholding the highest standards of integrity and ethics.

At its meeting of 9 December 2020, the Standing Commission agreed to further reform the awards of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) and consider changes to the 1965 HDM Regulations and 1987 PPH Regulations, with a view to submitting those changes to the next meeting of the Council of Delegates. It also decided to set up an advisory group that would assist it in this work by providing advice on the scope and content of the reform and preparing the necessary amendments and decisions for the Standing Commission and the Council of Delegates. In particular, the advisory group was requested to:

1. assess and make recommendations on the relevance, scope and content of a review of the HDM and the PPH Regulations
2. assess and make recommendations on the potential expansion of existing awards or creation of a new humanitarian award to honour individuals and/or organizations outside the Movement
3. help draft the proposals that the Standing Commission would submit to the Council of Delegates, including by consulting Movement components.

The advisory group was chaired by Fine Tu'itupou-Arnold, a member of the Standing Commission and secretary-general of the Cook Islands Red Cross Society, and included representatives from the Burundi Red Cross, French Red Cross, Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates, Uruguayan Red Cross, Vanuatu Red Cross Society, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The advisory group held two meetings, on 14 June and 14 September 2021, and the Standing Commission endorsed the following four key recommendations:

1. to complete its reform of the Movement's awards with a revision of both the HDM and the PPH Regulations and submit the revised versions of both regulations to the next Council of Delegates, in 2022, for approval
2. as part of the revision of both the HDM and the PPH Regulations, to edit the texts, incorporate into them key elements from the 2020 guidelines relating to eligibility requirements, diversity, inclusion and integrity, and align their nomination processes
3. not to expand the Movement's existing awards to include persons or organizations outside the Movement but to keep reserving these awards to the Movement's members and organizations only
4. to convey to the Council of Delegates the importance of promoting access by all Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers and staff, not only to the Movement's awards but also to awards and tributes established by the components of the Movement, the development of which should be encouraged as a major source of motivation, recognition and inspiration.

The advisory group also agreed to present to the Standing Commission a draft zero resolution "Revision of the Regulations for the Henry Dunant Medal and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity", as well as the annexed draft revised HDM Regulations and the draft revised PPH Regulations. On 13 October 2021, the Standing Commission approved the amended draft zero resolution and the two revised draft regulations for consultation with the Movement, with a view to consolidating and submitting them to the next Council of Delegates. The comments received from the components of the Movement between December 2021 and March 2022 helped consolidate the draft resolution and revised regulations as submitted to the Council of Delegates.

## **2) COMMENTARY ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION**

### **Proposed preambular paragraphs (PP)**

PP 1 to 4 recall previous decisions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the Council of Delegates regarding the HDM and the PPH Regulations, including their primary purpose.

PP5 addresses the respective roles and responsibilities of the Standing Commission and the Council of Delegates in the administration, award and presentation of the HDM and PPH, and in revising their regulations.

PP6 informs the Council of Delegates of the Standing Commission's adoption on 9 December 2020 of its "[Guidelines for awarding the Henry Dunant Medal and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity](#)". These guidelines are a practical tool that complements the regulations and helps with interpreting them. They will remain in force – with adaptations as appropriate – even after the HDM and the PPH Regulations are revised. They were circulated within the Movement in January 2021 in conjunction with the call for nominations for the HDM.

PP7 highlights one of the main objectives of the revision of the HDM and the PPH Regulations, namely to include promoting diversity and inclusion and upholding the highest standards of integrity and ethics, which were key considerations in the development of the guidelines.

### **Proposed operative paragraphs (OP)**

OP 1 and 2 propose the approval of the revised HDM and PPH Regulations.

OP 3 and 4 emphasize the crucial importance of medals, prizes, and other awards and tributes, beyond just the HDM, the PPH and some of the Movement's other global awards, to recognize the commitment of members, volunteers and staff at all levels of the Movement. They encourage the components of the Movement – especially those that have not already done so – to put in place or

strengthen internal measures to honour their members, volunteers and staff for their service and dedication, while ensuring that appropriate rules and frameworks are in place (e.g. for verifying the eligibility, integrity and merits of the candidates).

### **3) COMMENTARY ON THE DRAFT REVISED HDM AND PPH REGULATIONS**

The revision of the two regulations aims primarily at incorporating new, consistent substantive provisions clarifying or specifying the following principles:

- They affirm the principles of non-discrimination, diversity, inclusion and respect for the highest standards of integrity and ethics in order to guide all components of the Movement and their competent authorities in the submission of nominations for the HDM and the PPH, and to guide the Standing Commission in its calls for nominations, checks and decisions on the awarding of the HDM and the PPH (See Article 7 of the HDM Regulations and Article 6 of the PPH Regulations).
- The conditions of eligibility for the HDM and the PPH are specified, by confirming the practice and principle that leaders of the ICRC and the IFRC and of members of the Standing Commission who are still in office are not eligible, and confirming the principle that the awards not interfere with ongoing elections or designation processes concerning high-ranking elected posts or other Movement-wide or IFRC leadership positions (See Article 8 of the HDM Regulations and Article 7 of the PPH Regulations).

In addition, a few key procedural provisions have been clarified and harmonized regarding the nomination and decision-making process for awarding the HDM and the PPH, mainly concerning:

- the eligibility for nomination of individual members (i.e. volunteers or staff members) of the components of the Movement (for the HDM and the PPH) and recognized National Societies (for the PPH only), as well as the persons, bodies and components entitled, individually or jointly, to submit nominations to the Standing Commission (See Article 8 of the HDM Regulations and Article 7 of the PPH Regulations)
- the harmonization of the deadlines for submission of nominations for the HDM and the PPH (See Article 9 of the HDM Regulations, now aligned with Article 8 of the PPH Regulations)
- formalizing the role of the Joint Nomination Review Group in verifying the eligibility, integrity and merits of candidates for the HDM and the PPH, and advising the Standing Commission on these matters, in place of the previous "joint meeting" mechanism that formally existed only for the HDM (See Article 10 of the HDM Regulations and Article 9 of the PPH Regulations).

Finally, several amendments of a structural and editorial nature were introduced which were mainly aimed at:

- slightly adjusting the general architecture of the two regulations by harmonizing the order of their provisions (definition; criteria; form; frequency and number; decision; principles of eligibility, non-discrimination, diversity, inclusion and integrity; nomination submission and review process; presentation of the awards and recipients)
- updating the designation of the bodies and components of the Movement
- adjusting in an inclusive way the gender misrepresentations suggested in some formulations of the previous regulations.

Questions and suggestions regarding the draft resolution and the draft revised HDM and PPH Regulations can be submitted to the Standing Commission through its Secretariat: [standing.commission@standcom.ch](mailto:standing.commission@standcom.ch)