



Power of Humanity

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

22–23 June 2022, Geneva

SUMMARY RECORD

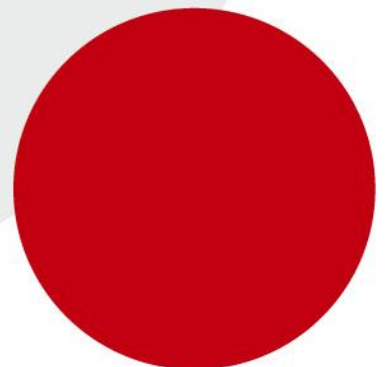


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Wednesday 22 June 2022

First plenary meeting

9:15 am

I OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Item 1 Opening of the Council of Delegates

Ms Babé (Chair, Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement) recalled that the current meeting had originally been scheduled to take place in December 2021 in the Dominican Republic, but had been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The world was experiencing a period of uncertainty, with disasters of various kinds and conflicts. The Movement therefore needed to act with hope and unity, and to live up to its purpose, in order to effectively and efficiently address the growing humanitarian needs. Trust and solidarity within the Movement, as well as its neutrality, were essential in the face of the new threats to humanitarian action. Humanitarian diplomacy was also more important than ever before. The 2022 Council of Delegates would focus on the commitment and functioning of the Movement and would include online participation for the first time. She confirmed the decision adopted by the Standing Commission to postpone the 34th International Conference from December 2023 to October 2024, which would have an impact on the planning of the following General Assembly and Council of Delegates. It was important to engage with the States parties well in advance of the 34th International Conference, and to carefully choose the issues to be discussed.

Item 2 Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and other offices of the Council of Delegates

Mr Peter Mauer (President, ICRC) was elected Chair of the Council of Delegates, and **Ms Brigitta Gadiant** (Vice-President, Swiss Red Cross) as Vice-Chair. **Ms Kate Halff** (ICRC) and **Ms Rudina Pema** (IFRC) were elected as secretaries.

Item 3 Adoption of the agenda of the Council of Delegates (*document CD/22/3*)

Mr Mauer (Chair, Council of Delegates) said that the new atmosphere that he had observed within the Movement demonstrated that its magic remained alive, although such magic came with expectations. While the Council of Delegates (CoD) would not be able to respond to all expectations, it could set a framework to open the space for cooperation, collaboration and complementarity between the different parts of the Movement, to ensure a better impact in the future. The themes chosen for the agenda were highly relevant in terms of the concerns and expectations voiced around the world.

The draft agenda was adopted.

Mr Mauer informed of the hybrid nature of this CoD which was held both in-person and, for a limited number of National Societies, remotely, and confirmed that this was a consequence of the exceptional circumstances linked to the COVID crisis and the inability of some delegations to travel to Geneva. Decision making processes would, due to the remote participation of certain delegations, required us to adapt usual procedures online.

Item 4 Journey to the Council of Delegates: Presentation of the consolidated workshop outcomes

Mr Mauer said that the programme of nine online workshops took place online from January to May as a ‘journey to the Council of Delegates’ before the opening and in-person plenary meeting of the Council. Its purpose was to complement the agenda of the CoD with exploratory and informal discussions on important and actual humanitarian themes. They provided an opportunity for dialogue among the components of the Movement, showcasing successful approaches to tackling humanitarian issues and learning and inspiring each other. A short video has been prepared to present the summary of the outcomes of the CoD online workshops.

A video was shown summarizing the online workshops held by the Council of Delegates between January and May 2022.

II ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

Mr Mauer informed that following the announcement made by the Chair of the Standing Commission on the postponement of the CoD to 2024, all resolutions submitted to the Council mentioning ‘CoD 2023’ in their text would be corrected accordingly. COD 2023 would be thus replaced by ‘COD 2024’.

Item 5 Endorsement of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations (*document CD/22/5DR*)

Ms Niyaz (First Vice-President, Maldivian Red Crescent and Member, Advisory Committee of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations) said that the Movement had an important role to play in the collective efforts under the Climate Charter. Its presence in communities across the world meant that it was a witness to the humanitarian consequences of the climate emergency and ecological breakdown on a daily basis. Taking no action was not an option. The draft resolution was therefore a crucial milestone for the Movement in its endeavour to alleviate human suffering. However, signing the Charter was only the first step. The commitments made under it must be translated into action. The components must accelerate their efforts as they continued to work across the Movement and beyond, while supporting and learning from each other.

Mr Carbonnier (Vice-President, ICRC) said that it was encouraging that the Charter had generated such a positive momentum in just one year. The ICRC had engaged with the IFRC and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) to ensure that signatory organizations received adequate support to implement the Charter. It had also undertaken firm commitments to factor climate risks into all of its programmes. The ICRC had pledged to halve its greenhouse emissions and was working to promote and strengthen international humanitarian law provisions that protected the environment. It was also engaging in legal and policy discussions to support climate action for people impacted by the combination of conflict, climate and environmental degradation. Endorsing the Charter in the Council of Delegates would reaffirm the Movement’s collective commitment to mobilizing efforts to address the mounting climate and environmental risks.

Mr Chapagain (Secretary General, IFRC) said that radical transformation was urgently needed, including by the humanitarian system, to prevent further death and suffering resulting from climate change. Actions on both mitigation and adaptation must go hand in hand. The IFRC fully supported the draft resolution, endorsed the ambitions set out in the Charter, and invited all National Societies to sign it and develop targets and implementation plans. The Charter was an opportunity for the Movement to demonstrate leadership and commitment towards tackling the biggest humanitarian challenge of recent times. The IFRC had committed to promoting and implementing the Charter, and to delivering on its own four specific Secretariat targets. It would support National Societies in translating the Charter commitments into time-bound targets and implementation plans to address the climate and environmental crises and would support at least 100 National Societies to formulate explicit ambitions to address the rising climate and environmental risks in their strategies and operational plans. It would also promote and provide assistance for a network-wide scale-up of climate action, incorporate climate and environmental risks into all of its programmes and humanitarian

operations by 2025, and continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Secretariat activities.

Ms Taomia (Secretary General, Tuvalu Red Cross Society), speaking on behalf of the 14 National Societies of the Pacific, said that climate adaptation opportunities in her region would depend on a global commitment to reducing emissions. Advocacy efforts at the national and international level must be continued to help the Pacific, other Small Island Developing States and the most vulnerable nations to protect themselves from the impact of climate change. Support from the global network was needed to ensure access to the skills, tools, resources, technology, finances and knowledge required to implement action in the most effective and timely way possible. Assistance was also necessary to integrate the Charter into local contexts and strategies, and to scale up and increase the capacity to intervene, break cycles and develop and implement effective evidence-based solutions. Methods and approaches that could turn existing knowledge on risk and vulnerabilities into relevant, contextually appropriate and impactful opportunities were essential. The Movement should support and influence urgent climate action in a coordinated and collaborative manner, with an emphasis on the knowledge of the Pacific people.

Ms Thiery (Youth delegate, Austrian Red Cross) called for the involvement of the younger generation in strategic thinking and decision-making to address the climate crises. It was necessary to transform public awareness of the climate crises into action plans and advocacy vis-à-vis governments. It was the duty of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to use its positive image, credibility and access to governments to move forward with advocacy.

Mr Yang (Under Secretary General, Red Cross Society of China) said that the Charter would drive National Societies to pay more attention to climate and environmental issues. It would also enable the Movement to take such issues into consideration in its humanitarian projects in order to deliver more science-based and forward-looking aid to truly help beneficiaries achieve sustainable development.

Mr Aslani (Director, Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran) welcomed the Climate and Environment Charter and pledged to take the required actions for its effective implementation. Stressed in addition the importance to address the terrible consequences of climate change to people, and countries, particularly its socio-economic development, as well as addressing serious humanitarian crisis felt in recent years from floods, draughts, sand and dust storms which negatively affect millions of lives around the world, enhancing hunger, and health crisis.

Dr Carvajal de Álvarez (National President, Colombian Red Cross) said that it was necessary to strengthen cooperation and funding ties with other Movement components and external partners to promote local action plans for the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives. Technical and financial support would be required to ensure that the commitments made under the Charter were fulfilled.

Mr Solís González (National President, Red Cross Society of Panama) said that the climate crisis threatened the survival of humanity as a whole as well as biodiversity, and that all stakeholders were responsible for taking climate and environmental action.

Mr Al Razwan (In-Charge-International Relations, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society) said that documents such as the Charter alone were not enough to tackle climate change or protect the environment. Talk must be turned into walk in order to transform and improve the current situation.

Dr Stoimenova (Secretary in Chief, Bulgarian Red Cross) said that, in addition to signing the Charter, National Societies needed to set greening targets, ensure transformations to reduce their footprint and invest in branches and local action. By avoiding investments today, individuals and organizations were simply aggravating the consequences of climate change. She supported the draft resolution.

Mr Senent (President, Spanish Red Cross) said that the Movement had to respond decisively to climate change. National Societies had a duty to take a stance vis-à-vis governments and to make clear commitments under the Charter. The Spanish Red Cross had launched a strategy focused on addressing the impacts of climate change, laying the foundations for an emission-neutral economy that focuses on three areas: Calculate our carbon footprint through a pedagogical calculator and record it; Reduce 45% of emissions by 2030, for which personalized advice on energy efficiency in the home has been given to more than 8,800 families in 2021; and, Compensate the CO₂ emitted to achieve climate neutrality in 2050.

Reforestation activities have been implemented. The success of this strategy was due to the massive participation of well-trained volunteers, citizens and public and private entities.

Ms Abu Goush (Advisor to the President, Palestine Red Crescent Society) said that the seven commitments under the Charter were too broad and should be prioritized by the Movement based on the available capacities, resources and mandate, in line with the global challenge on climate change under *Strategy 2030*. The commitments made in the context of the Charter should be in accordance with the pledges, action plan and time frame.

Mr Sillah (President, Gambia Red Cross Society) said that climate change actions must focus on environmental sustainability management, renewable energy, CO² emissions reduction, and the immediate implementation of livelihood programmes for affected communities. Only through genuine partnership was it possible to adapt to the threat of climate change and mitigate any further negative consequences.

Mr Maiga (Secretary General, Mali Red Cross) said that, despite the commitment of his National Society, Mali had become one of the most fragile countries in terms of environmental protection and climate change mitigation, due to a combination of the impact of climate change, the occupation of certain areas by armed groups and international sanctions. He therefore asked all partners to support the Mali Red Cross to enable it to play its role in protecting the country's environment.

The draft resolution entitled "Endorsement of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations", contained in document CD/22/5DR, was adopted. (Resolution 1, CD/22/R1)

Item 9 Strengthening anticipatory action in the Movement: Our way forward (*documents CD/22/9 and CD/22/9DR*)

An introductory video on anticipatory action was shown.

Dr Schön (Vice-President, German Red Cross) said that the purpose of the draft resolution was to bring anticipatory action to scale, by expanding it to more country contexts and from immediate visible and climate-related hazards to less immediate and visible impacts, better assessing and anticipating compound risks in the case of combined hazards and strengthening the voice of the Movement as an actor in the global anticipatory action space through enhanced coordination. With an increasing number of anticipatory approaches gaining momentum, there was a pressing need to better coordinate the Movement's approaches and activities to ensure coherence and maximize impact.

Ms Kakabadse (Chair, Climate Centre Board) said that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent network had a proud history of early warning, but it needed to go further, particularly in light of the effects of climate change, the emergence of new compound risks and shifting diseases. The resolution would sharpen the focus of the Movement and enable collaboration to address the rising risks.

A video was shown on anticipatory action, with input from several countries.

Mr Villarroel (Vice-President, IFRC) said that the lack of precedent regarding climate change could no longer be used as an excuse for unpreparedness. It was also not possible to continue applying an approach that was limited to a *posteriori* interventions. A shift from reactive interventions to proactive anticipatory action in advance of disasters and crises was therefore urgently needed. The draft resolution was a timely opportunity for National Societies to become preferred partners in the scaling-up of anticipatory action measures. Options should be explored to improve risk monitoring and forecasting, in collaboration with hydrometeorological services, to ensure adequate preparedness for existing and future risks. He encouraged the use of current initiatives and platforms. The IFRC was committed to ensuring that National Societies had access to 25 per cent of the allocations granted through the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) in advance of disasters and crises. National Societies should avail themselves of the forecast-based action component of DREF to obtain additional financial support from governments, the private sector and other partners.

Ms Nordov (Secretary General, Mongolian Red Cross Society) said that collective efforts on anticipatory action needed to be scaled up. Although additional funding mechanisms had been developed for the implementation of early action, less than one per cent of humanitarian funding was currently available for anticipatory action. It was therefore paramount to increase such funding and ensure that it reached the communities where it was most needed.

Mr El Haddad (Director of Legal Affairs, Lebanese Red Cross) said that the draft resolution should make reference to the fact that anticipatory action in multiple fields was one of the strengths of the Movement. Many of the preambular paragraphs in the draft resolution mentioned climate change. However, the term “anticipatory action” was much wider in scope and should therefore cover any crisis or disaster. The inclusion of a paragraph on the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to overcrowding in places with high numbers of displaced persons and asylum seekers would be welcome. Given the need to protect the environment from long-term pollution and the pertinence of anticipatory action in economic, health and social crises, many national governments should be able to plan for such events through preparedness and response.

Ms Beumer (Chair of Youth Committee, Netherlands Red Cross) said that scaling up anticipatory action meant partnering up in and outside the Movement. Digital services could help improve disaster preparedness and anticipatory action. The Movement needed to increase its capacities, advocacy and expertise in the area of digital services, to improve disaster preparedness and anticipatory action. It should also increase its engagement in joint learning and innovation. It was necessary to involve the most-affected local communities in the discussions on anticipatory action. Investments in anticipatory action should not replace the efforts to provide more effective emergency relief, ensure risk-informed reconstruction and adopt longer-term structural preventative approaches.

Ms Mäntysaari (Vice Youth President, Finnish Red Cross) highlighted the importance of reaching all people in a non-discriminatory manner and of applying protection, gender and inclusion and community engagement and accountability approaches. It was also vital to strengthen the capacities of National Societies in order for them to scale up their actions. Disaster preparedness and preparedness for effective response must be part of anticipatory action to build capacities and longer-term resilience. The development aspects of anticipatory and early action must be better coordinated. More advocacy and investments prior to emergencies were necessary to ensure that anticipatory and early action were integrated into disaster risk management systems, policies and plans at all levels, and that the auxiliary role of National Societies was recognized.

Mr Valastro (Vice-President, Italian Red Cross) called on Movement partners to engage with and invest in youth and youth leaders as key actors in the strengthening of anticipatory action.

Ms Epprecht (Director, ICRC) said that the ICRC’s experience in protracted conflicts showed that, to make a true impact for people, anticipatory action must complement longer-term forms of preventive action that reduced people’s exposure to risk. She encouraged a holistic approach to risks that incorporated anticipatory action, to help people quickly prepare for an impending shock. Efforts needed to be continued to ensure that anticipatory funding involved the provision of emergency grants and other types of financial instruments, whether short or long term. The draft resolution aimed to ensure that people affected by conflict and violence were no longer excluded from anticipatory action systems, and that anticipatory action mechanisms in conflict settings were developed in a way that did not put people and communities at greater risk.

Ms Padmore (Chair of the Board, British Red Cross) emphasized the importance of the Movement’s engagement in the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP). Partnerships with States also needed to be operationalized at the national level. It was necessary to influence risk perception and enable people and communities most at risk to act early. There was potential in engaging with the financial sector on disaster risk financing for anticipatory action, including through the work on the proposed insurance product for the DREF, to help diversify and secure more sustainable sources of funding.

Mr Nguyen (Vice-President and Secretary General, Viet Nam Red Cross) said that, to ensure operational readiness for anticipatory action, time and resources should be dedicated to building the capacity of National Societies to develop sound triggers and action plans in collaboration with national forecasting services and relevant agencies. National Societies must be able to modify their funds and have greater access to

mechanisms that allowed them to allocate resources in anticipation of emerging hazards through the DREF and other sources.

Mr Soares (President, Timor-Leste Red Cross Society), speaking on behalf of both his National Society and the Indonesian Red Cross, underlined the importance of cooperation between all Movement components and partners to increase anticipatory action and community resilience in the border area between Indonesia and Timor-Leste, in which communities were often left behind.

Dr Mohammed (Secretary General, Kenya Red Cross Society) stressed the need to explore linkages between science and the reduction of vulnerability. Institutions working on reducing vulnerability required sufficient resources to study how scientific knowledge regarding climate, biodiversity and ecology could make a meaningful impact. The Movement had a greater role to play in improving the use of analysis, including predictive analysis, in the design of its humanitarian response to conflict and climate change. Use of data, including conflict- and climate-related data, would bolster capacities to understand vulnerability patterns and possibly predict conflict patterns.

Mr Hakaye (Acting Chairperson, Namibia Red Cross) emphasized the importance of tackling the root causes of climate change and finding alternatives. Budgeting should focus on addressing the most immediate issues to safeguard the future for the younger generation.

Mr Soilihi (President, Comoros Red Crescent) called on other National Societies to support climate change preventative efforts in his country, to address the critical issues resulting from rising sea levels and shifting seasons.

Mr Chungu (Secretary General, Zambia Red Cross) said that it was essential to continue to ensure technical and financial assistance following disasters and crises. The implementation of anticipatory action by his National Society in Zambia, in collaboration with the Government, had already proven to be successful in preparing for floods and droughts.

Mr Tevi (Secretary General, Vanuatu Red Cross), speaking on behalf of the 14 National Societies of the Pacific, said that, to successfully reach the most vulnerable in the right ways at the right time, the Pacific region required both a collaborative approach and resourcing to get down to the community level. Small-scale unlinked interventions by Movement partners would not be effective. The implementation of inclusive forecast-based financing and anticipatory action must take into account the daily experiences of Pacific people. Communities, civil society and local governments had the best on-the-ground and traditional knowledge for the development of effective interventions. The understanding of community risk gained thus far in the region must now be linked to better policy action.

Dr Schön (Vice-President, German Red Cross) agreed that anticipatory action covered many different risks and not only weather- and climate-related ones. However, as those diverse risks were reflected in the fifth operative paragraph of the draft resolution, there was no need to amend the text.

The draft resolution entitled "Strengthening anticipatory action in the Movement: Our way forward", contained in document CD/22/9DR, was adopted. (Resolution 2, CD/22/R2)

Item 13 Revision of the regulations for the Henry Dunant Medal and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity (*documents CD/22/13 and CD/22/13DR*)

Ms Tu'itupou-Arnold (Member, Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent) said that the proposal to revise the two regulations was the result of a broader process of reflection and reform of the Movement awards administered by the Standing Commission, which had begun three years previously. The Commission, having noted the evolving practice of awards, had moved to clarify a number of issues relating to the eligibility and desired qualities of candidates. It had reviewed and refined the process for vetting nominations and making decisions. The Commission had also moved to strengthen awareness of the principle of universality in decision-making and believed that it was necessary and appropriate to fully accommodate issues of diversity and inclusion in the decision-making process. It was clear that candidates,

recipients, and the selective process itself, should be consistent with the Movement's commitment to upholding the highest standard of integrity and ethics. Initially, the Commission had formulated new guidelines in response to the concerns raised during the last call for nominations in early 2021, but now deemed it appropriate to incorporate the guiding principles into the regulations. It was one thing to draft a regulation intended to encourage diversity and inclusion in the awards, but it was another to walk the talk. All Movement components must therefore work to make sure that the awards better reflected the diversity of the Movement, with a better balance of genders, region, ages and positions held.

The draft resolution entitled "Revision of the regulations for the Henry Dunant Medal and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity (document CD/22/13DR) was adopted. (Resolution 3, CD/22/R3)

Item 14 Movement Family Links Medal (*documents CD/22/14 and CD/22/14DR*)

Dr Abdulrahim (Member, Restoring Family Links Leadership Platform) presented the draft resolution on the Movement Family Links Medal, which aimed to pay tribute to volunteers and staff carrying out restoring family links services.

Ms Wiegmann (Deputy Director General, ICRC) said that the medal was a long-due recognition of volunteers and staff who often delivered their services in remote areas of the world in difficult conditions and who brought hope to distressed families whose loved ones were missing or separated from them. It also intended to acknowledge the significant contributions to the development of efficient and sustainable restoring family links services. The Medal was inspired by the Florence Nightingale Medal, established over 100 years ago. The ICRC was convinced that the Movement Family Links Medal would help promote and increase the visibility and recognition of restoring family links services within the Movement and beyond.

Mr Solís González (National President, Red Cross Society of Panama) described some of the restoring family links actions carried out in his country and expressed support for the adoption of the draft resolution.

Ms Yopez Chacón (President, Bolivian Red Cross) said that restoring family links services required close human contact with beneficiaries and were delivered with extreme dedication. Such services were often the last hope for families separated from their loved ones. Her National Society endorsed the adoption of the draft resolution.

Ms Ba (President, Senegalese Red Cross Society) suggested that the Movement appeal to governments to amend national legislation so as to take into account the legal and administrative difficulties faced by the families of missing persons. She supported the draft decision.

Mr González Godoy (Executive Director/Secretary General, Chilean Red Cross) said that recognizing the participation and efforts of the volunteers and staff involved in the provision of restoring family links services was fundamental, and that his National Society fully agreed with the awarding of the medal.

The draft resolution entitled "Movement Family Links Medal", contained in document CD/22/14DR, was adopted. (Resolution 4, CD/22/R4)

A video was shown calling for Movement leaders to put forward candidates for the Movement Family Links Medal.

Item 10 Movement approach to assuring and improving patient safety and quality of care (*documents CD/22/10 and CD/22/10DR*)

Ms Gadiet (Vice-Chair, Council of Delegates) said that the IFRC and the ICRC had agreed to amend the draft resolution by removing the reference to the Framework for Patient Safety and Quality of Care in the third operative paragraph, as the Framework had not been presented to the National Societies at the 2022 IFRC General Assembly for adoption.

Mr Castellanos (Under Secretary General, IFRC) said that, in 2019 and 2020, the IFRC and the ICRC had consulted health practitioners and National Societies to identify critical points to be strengthened on the safety and quality agenda for health services. The results confirmed a perceived need to address the gap between the intended standards of clinical care and the actual quality and management delivered on the ground. It was therefore necessary to develop a common approach and systems to support staff in providing safe quality care.

Ms Kumpula (Secretary General, Finnish Red Cross) said that there was a need to streamline practices and address clinical care quality with a Movement-wide approach that aimed to achieve common objectives, while placing patients and communities at the centre of care. The draft resolution called for a strengthened commitment to meeting the growing challenge of providing safe access to safe and effective care of optimal quality and affordable medicines for people affected or made vulnerable by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies. It also sought to strengthen coherence and collaboration within the Movement, contributing to and aligning with the WHO Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030, to ensure that all patients received safe and respectful care.

Ms Epprecht (Director, ICRC) said that each Movement component currently had a different approach to defining and managing the quality of health care, which posed a significant challenge. Together as one, the Movement could make a significant difference to ensure that no one was left behind. The ICRC therefore strongly supported the draft resolution.

Mr Schöpfer (President, Austrian Red Cross) suggested widening the scope of the joint Movement policy on patient safety and quality of care, and also taking into account informal care settings and mobile care settings. Greater emphasis could also be placed on the safety of nursing staff, which also indirectly contributed to patient safety.

Mr Argymbayev (President, Red Crescent Society of the Republic of Kazakhstan), emphasizing that the provision of health care services should be universal, recalled that the Alma-Ata Declaration of 1978 had been the first international text to recognize that all individuals had the right to health care, and that the WHO Declaration on Primary Health Care had been adopted in Astana in 2018.

Mr Ali Soumaili (Secretary General, Comoros Red Crescent) highlighted the importance of the Movement investment in health and community to serve vulnerable and economic challenged communities.

Mr El Nazer (Chief Executive Officer, Egyptian Red Crescent Society) highlighted the importance of investing in medical staff to address issues such as medical errors and treatment-related complications. It was therefore necessary to establish appropriate mechanisms for the provision of training for medical staff and the development of policies that guaranteed quality medical services and care. Excessively tight restrictions on the medical workforce should be avoided, particularly in light of the impact of the pandemic on the sector.

Mr Dorjee (Secretary General, Bhutan Red Cross) said that, when local resources were optimized, there were opportunities to harmonize the global Movement focus on reaching the unreached and alleviating human suffering.

The draft resolution entitled "Movement approach to assuring and improving patient safety and quality of care", contained in document CD/22/10DR, was adopted, as amended. (Resolution 5, CD/22/R5)

The meeting rose at 12:45 pm

Second plenary meeting

1:30 pm

II ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION (*continued*)

Item 6 War in cities (documents CD/22/6 and CD/22/6DR)

Mr Mardini (Director-General, ICRC) said that, as the urban population continued to grow worldwide, wars were also becoming increasingly urbanized, meaning that millions of people faced the threat of death or injury, displacement and a lack of access to essential services. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement was on the front line of the humanitarian response to urban warfare, responding with courage and dedication to the needs of people affected by war in cities. However, the sheer scale of the humanitarian consequences of urban warfare presented daunting operational, resource-related and diplomatic challenges, while rapid urbanization meant that cities would become the main battleground of future conflicts. The draft resolution on war in cities and draft 2022–2027 Movement action plan to prevent and respond to the humanitarian impacts of war in cities had been developed following wide-ranging consultations with National Societies and would provide a comprehensive, flexible road map allowing Movement components to join forces in alleviating the suffering caused by urban warfare. He therefore encouraged the Council of Delegates to adopt the draft resolution and urged National Societies to actively contribute to its implementation through the proposed Movement reference group on war in cities.

Dr Abbas (President, Iraqi Red Crescent Society) said that his National Society had witnessed extensive destruction and loss due to urban warfare, which had a huge direct and indirect impact on populations. During the 2014 occupation of Falluja, many roads had been cut off and essential services had been severely disrupted. However, the Iraqi Red Crescent had pre-positioned first aid kits in homes to ensure easy access during an emergency and negotiated with leaders of armed groups to enable the transportation of sick or injured people to hospitals. It had also facilitated the evacuation of foreign medical staff, relying on the trust it enjoyed among local populations. That work demonstrated the importance of credibility, local knowledge and field experience for National Societies, which needed support to develop their capabilities; indeed, the Movement as a whole had a duty to protect civilians from conflict. He therefore expressed support for the draft resolution and called on others to do the same. It was also positive that States had recently agreed on a draft political declaration on strengthening the protection of civilians from the humanitarian consequences arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas; he encouraged National Societies to support the draft declaration and call for its adoption by governments.

A video presentation was shown illustrating the work of the Red Cross Red Crescent in response to urban conflict.

Mr Jama (Deputy Executive Director, Somali Red Crescent Society) said that similar events had been experienced by his National Society, which had provided services such as medical care, livelihood programmes and humanitarian relief to the victims of urban warfare. A resurgence in armed conflict in urban areas meant that war in cities was becoming an urgent global humanitarian concern; the Movement must adapt in response to such developments. No National Society could succeed alone, but joint, determined action could ensure that civilians were given the protection and assistance they needed. The draft resolution and action plan would make that possible and he appealed to all Movement components to join the efforts.

Mr Mirzayev (Secretary General, Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan) said that the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict in urban areas were unacceptable and agreed that the Movement needed to step up both preventive and operational responses to better protect civilians and promote compliance with international humanitarian law. During the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, his National Society had worked using mobile volunteer teams to assist civilian populations affected by the military operations, registering those who had been displaced and providing food, water and other essential items to people in shelters. Expressing support for the draft resolution, he highlighted the need to build on the lessons learned from coordinated global efforts on health care in danger, the Movement Strategy on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and other Explosive Remnants of War and the Movement's urban resilience approach. It was vital to further strengthen the Movement's operational response and its efforts to increase respect for international humanitarian law, notably through public communication and humanitarian diplomacy activities.

Ms Abou Jaoudeh (Lebanese Red Cross) drew attention to the devastating effects of urban warfare in her country, highlighting the complexity of such conflicts and their negative health and social impacts. Her National Society was therefore keen to contribute to implementation of the draft resolution, notably in the areas of awareness raising and communication – including on international humanitarian law – and the collection and analysis of data on the humanitarian impacts of war in cities. It would also participate in the

development of a fit-for-purpose operational response in line with the Safer Access Framework; at a national level, it had already completed a second Safer Access Framework assessment and was preparing a comprehensive plan of action to enhance the eight elements of the Framework. To achieve the objectives of the draft action plan, a road map containing concrete examples of field responses should be drawn up and presented to the International Conference, to encourage the governments present to take on their share of responsibility. It was also imperative to remind States of their obligation to accede to and implement the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Lastly, she stressed the importance of including, in the draft resolution, a reference to the rules of international humanitarian law governing situations of siege.

Mr Sveinsvoll (President, Norwegian Red Cross) observed that the increasingly common urban setting of conflict contrasted sharply with that of the battle of Solferino, leading to more suffering for civilians. Indeed, the methods used by armed forces were entirely unsuited to war in cities, and there was no political or military will to adapt. The Movement needed to scale up its response to meet the humanitarian needs generated by urban warfare, but a response on the ground was insufficient to protect civilians; it was equally vital to strengthen humanitarian diplomacy and speak out against civilian suffering in the strongest possible terms. The Council of Delegates had called on States to avoid using explosive weapons in densely populated areas in 2013, but the situation had only deteriorated since then. The Movement therefore needed to intensify its efforts in that regard.

Dr Carvajal de Álvarez (National President, Colombian Red Cross) said that her National Society had been responding for many years to the humanitarian impacts of urban warfare, which had notably been incorporated into its 2021–2025 strategic plan. In Colombia, armed conflict had caused physical and mental suffering, destroyed homes and infrastructure, and disrupted essential services, with certain populations affected to a greater extent due to their gender, age, ethnicity or disabilities. She therefore supported the draft resolution and action plan, including the five action areas, and urged other National Societies to follow suit.

Ms Abu Ghosh (Advisor to the President, Palestine Red Crescent Society) said that the draft resolution should emphasize the need to strengthen respect for the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law, notably regarding the obligation to protect civilians and civilian objects. Advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy efforts should also focus on encouraging States to support the continuity of essential services during conflict. Many calls had already been made on States and other parties to armed conflict; those should be highlighted during the 34th International Conference. She also suggested reflecting the commitments of the draft action plan more closely in the draft resolution, which could be renamed to cover a broader scope than war in cities. In practical terms, as part of the collective response in affected communities, Movement components should be assigned roles and responsibilities according to their respective mandates and capacities, while also working to increase resilience.

Mr Rosario (Vice-President, Italian Red Cross) commended the draft resolution and action plan, agreeing that the Movement should take a leading role in upholding the humanitarian imperative to address the direct and indirect effects of urban warfare. It was positive to see references to the further harm that could be caused by the use of new technologies of warfare in urban areas, and the physical and mental suffering of people affected by war. He also welcomed the call to States to respect international humanitarian law, protect the natural environment and safeguard the humanitarian space.

Mr Bedoya (First National Vice-President, Red Cross Society of Panama) underlined the suffering caused by urban warfare, particularly during long-term conflicts, and stressed the need to strengthen the legal framework governing the conduct of hostilities in cities through the promotion of international humanitarian law. Indeed, it was vital to use spaces for debate, such as the national committees for the implementation of international humanitarian law, to undertake advocacy towards State and non-State actors regarding the rules protecting civilians during armed conflict. It was also important to build a broader network of support for the Movement's position by raising awareness within civil society about the humanitarian consequences of urban warfare and the international law in place to limit its effects. A collective effort by the whole Movement was crucial in that respect; he therefore supported the draft resolution.

Mr Dotsenko (Director General, Ukrainian Red Cross Society) said that hostilities in densely populated areas during the international armed conflict in Ukraine were having a catastrophic impact on civilian populations. There had been repeated deliberate attacks against civilians and civilian objects, including buildings of the Ukrainian Red Cross, as well as grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law. In particular, the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects was causing irreparable damage to the infrastructure required to deliver essential services, with enduring impacts on civilian health, safety and well-being. The hostilities had also generated the largest displacement of people in Europe since the Second World War, while vast areas of the country had been contaminated by landmines and unexploded ordnance. The current situation was severely affecting the security of humanitarian operations, with cases of unlawful denial of Red Cross Red Crescent access to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable civilians. It also illustrated that all Movement components were strongly affected by the actions of one other; given the polarization of views worldwide, it would be easy for actions to be misinterpreted by the general public, journalists or governments, threatening security and access for staff and volunteers on the ground. The Ukrainian Red Cross Society strongly supported the draft resolution and action plan and was committed to improving the Movement's collective capacity to provide humanitarian protection and assistance in the context of urban warfare, as well as the capacity of National Societies to cooperate with their governments to ensure respect for international humanitarian law.

Ms Hägg-Sjöquist (President, Swedish Red Cross) expressed strong support for the draft resolution, in particular the call to give due attention to the diverse needs of and risks faced by women, men, girls and boys, taking into account ages, disabilities and backgrounds. Experience had shown that armed conflicts, including fighting in urban areas, affected people differently depending on their status, needs and capacities, gender and background; those perspectives needed to be taken into account to ensure that all individuals were granted the protection and rights to which they were legally entitled.

Dr Mondlhane (President, Mozambique Red Cross Society) described the impact of urban warfare on his country, which had experienced a series of conflicts over the past decades, some of which were ongoing. Homes and civilian infrastructure had been destroyed and access to essential services disrupted, while the displacement of populations had had consequences for both those displaced and their host communities. With support from the ICRC, the Mozambique Red Cross had provided humanitarian assistance to those affected by the current armed conflict in the north of the country. In that context, he strongly supported the draft resolution and encouraged other National Societies to do the same. The Red Cross Red Crescent should continue its efforts to uphold international law protecting civilians during conflict and undertake actions to change the mentality of those who believed that war was a solution to their problems.

Ms Stoiljkovic (Under Secretary General, IFRC) thanked those who had contributed to the development of the draft resolution on war in cities, which – together with the draft resolution on strengthening the resilience of urban communities – would contribute to the development of a more comprehensive, sustainable approach to humanitarian action in urban settings. Although cities differed in terms of scale, growth and development challenges, whether or not they also experienced conflict, they were all characterized by interrelated factors such as growing poverty and inequality, displacement and migration, and shrinking access to basic services. Those elements were further exacerbated by shocks, stresses and competition for scarce resources. It was therefore vital for the IFRC and ICRC to strengthen individual and collective preparedness to effectively respond to shocks caused by conflict and recognize how the context made the work of staff and volunteers more difficult. Preparedness should also include strategic dialogue with government authorities to preserve the principles of humanitarian action and enable National Societies to effectively exercise their auxiliary role. The IFRC fully supported the draft resolution and looked forward to future collaboration on the subject with the ICRC and National Societies.

Mr Al Fakih (National Program Coordinator and International Relations, Yemen Red Crescent Society) said that seven years of raids and bombings in Yemen had turned cities into prisons for both aid workers and civilians, causing huge challenges for the National Society, which had lost volunteers in the line of duty. The Movement could not prevent wars, but it could remind warring factions of the international laws governing them as part of its advocacy work. National Societies needed to be prepared in order to save lives during urban warfare, and notably protect their volunteers, which constituted their most precious asset. They should also invest in community initiatives, improve awareness and provide a minimum level of protection for civilians. He therefore welcomed the draft resolution, which would help develop future plans to limit risks and threats.

Mr Tharwat (Egyptian Red Crescent) highlighted the efforts of his National Society to support humanitarian assistance in Ukraine through interregional coordination, observing that such work demonstrated the need for cooperation among Movement components. He supported the draft resolution and action plan.

Ms de Grève (Head of IHL and volunteer coordination, Belgian Red Cross) welcomed the draft resolution, noting that the feedback provided by National Societies had been integrated into the text. Her National Society had been incorporating the issue of war in cities into its work for several years, addressing the subject during its international humanitarian law training and advocacy work with the authorities, and raising awareness of the associated rules and humanitarian issues. It also sought to promote the ICRC position regarding the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, urging the national authorities to support the draft political declaration on strengthening the protection of civilians from the humanitarian consequences arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Following the positive conclusion of those negotiations, it aimed to sustain that momentum and encourage its own national authorities and others to sign the declaration. In terms of implementing the draft action plan, the Belgian Red Cross would continue its awareness-raising and humanitarian diplomacy work to strengthen legal and policy frameworks relating to the conduct of hostilities.

The draft resolution entitled "War in cities", contained in document CD/22/6DR, was adopted. (Resolution 6, CD/22/R6)

Item 8 Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: 2022–2027 action plan (including the progress report on the 2018–2021 action plan) (*documents CD/22/8 and CD/22/8DR*)

Ms Durham (Director, ICRC), introducing the item, drew attention to the growing threat of the use of nuclear weapons worldwide, which was a serious concern for the Movement. The Japanese Red Cross and the ICRC had witnessed firsthand the suffering and devastation caused by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945; such events could not be permitted to happen again. A nuclear explosion would make humanitarian assistance near impossible, and no State or humanitarian organization would be prepared for or able to respond to the enormous need that such an explosion would create. The introduction of nuclear weapons would render armed conflicts significantly more dangerous and risk a global catastrophe in which humanity would suffer irreparable damage.

Given the impossibility of preparing for or responding to such events, it was right to seek to prevent them. The Movement had played a crucial role in promoting the non-use, prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, shaping the international narrative on nuclear weapons and contributing to the unprecedented mobilization of States that had led, in January 2021, to the historic entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The draft resolution on working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, together with the draft 2022–2027 action plan, would provide a tool for advancing collective work on the issue, building on the results already achieved through implementation of commitments from earlier Council of Delegates resolutions and action plans. She thanked the National Societies that had contributed to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons; the ICRC would support their future efforts.

Mr Hori (Special Representative of the President for International Affairs, Japanese Red Cross) welcomed the draft resolution and action plan, observing that the first meeting of the States parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was currently taking place in Vienna – a significant milestone for the Movement. However, nuclear weapons were once again receiving attention as an effective way to ensure national security, which represented a step backwards. It was vital to counteract that trend and push for the elimination of nuclear weapons, including by encouraging the participation of younger generations in the cause. The matter should also be kept high on the humanitarian diplomacy agenda in light of the G7 meeting in Japan in 2023.

Ms Al-Barjas (Vice-President, IFRC) said that, in the event of detonation of an atomic bomb, there could be no meaningful response to the catastrophic human suffering that would follow. The only possible response was to prevent its occurrence in the first place. Amid growing division among States and the increased risk of nuclear weapon use, all National Societies should unite with a common humanitarian message. The

irreversible impacts of nuclear weapons would not be contained by borders and could put global civilization at risk; the draft action plan represented a meaningful response to those threats. There was a humanitarian imperative to step up Movement efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and risk reduction, ensuring that the global dialogue on nuclear weapons was based on facts and centred on the people who would be affected by their use. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was a positive development, and its universalization, alongside other mutually reinforcing nuclear weapon treaties, was in humanity's best interests. As auxiliaries to their governments, National Societies had a key role to play in influencing policies and supporting implementation of the Treaty in practice; the IFRC would continue to support them to strengthen both their humanitarian diplomacy capacity and the auxiliary role. Lastly, she thanked the Japanese Red Cross for its unwavering commitment to assisting the survivors of the atomic bombings of 1945, as well as National Societies that had assisted the victims of nuclear testing. The IFRC welcomed the draft resolution and was ready to support its implementation.

Ms Padmore (Chair of the Board, British Red Cross) expressed strong support for the Movement's work to eliminate nuclear weapons, observing that the humanitarian consequences of the use of such weapons should be a key consideration in global discussions on the issue. However, it should be noted that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons remained divisive among States; while the Movement's promotion of the Treaty was understandable, differing views could lead to greater polarization between nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon States. It was therefore positive that the draft resolution and action plan also referred to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other relevant multilateral instruments, as well as practical risk reduction measures. The Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to be held later in 2022 was an opportunity to encourage States to progress towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation; by highlighting the continuing importance of that Treaty, the Movement could help preserve a space for dialogue between nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon States, thereby minimizing the risks of miscommunication. More generally, all Movement components should encourage dialogue, in line with the draft action plan, to promote greater common understanding.

Mr Hamzah (Secretary General, Malaysian Red Crescent), recalling the enduring mark left on the Red Cross Red Crescent by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, said that the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was a testament to the Movement's long-standing advocacy efforts. However, the work was not complete, as the number of nuclear weapons worldwide was set to increase for the first time since the end of the Cold War. As the world shifted from nuclear disarmament to nuclear rearmament, the Movement needed to redouble its efforts to ensure that nuclear weapons were never used again. The Malaysian Red Crescent therefore welcomed the draft resolution and stood ready to collaborate on its implementation.

Ms Rebelkuul (Deputy Information Management Officer, Palau Red Cross Society), speaking on behalf of the National Societies of Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, welcomed the first meeting of the States parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, implementation of which would address the long-standing legacy of nuclear testing in the Pacific region. The extensive testing carried out by western powers had given Pacific nations first-hand experience of the devastating effects of nuclear weapons on human health. Community leaders had condemned the use of the region as a testing ground, and called for commitments to address the ongoing impact of nuclear testing and the management and elimination of nuclear waste in the Marshall Islands. It was therefore of grave concern to hear growing rhetoric regarding the use of nuclear weapons as conflicts escalated. She called on all Movement members to implement the draft action plan in their own contexts, notably by supporting the application of effective risk reduction measures by States and universal adherence to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and other mutually reinforcing instruments of international law that sought to eliminate nuclear weapons.

Mr Valastro (Vice-President, Italian Red Cross) expressed strong appreciation for the draft resolution and action plan, highlighting the work carried out by his National Society to raise awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of a nuclear attack. The Italian Red Cross had also engaged with local and national authorities to promote implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. He commended the inclusion in the draft action plan of States that were not involved in negotiations on the latter Treaty, and the proposal to raise awareness about the consequences of nuclear weapons among companies involved in producing or selling them. He also agreed that young volunteers should be given a key role in those efforts within the

Movement.

Mr Schöpfer (President, Austrian Red Cross) said that the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons had taken place shortly before the meeting of the States parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The event was especially pertinent given the increasing nuclear threat, notably as States scaled up their military budgets in response to the conflict in Europe. The Movement urgently needed to engage with States and redouble its humanitarian diplomacy efforts to show that a new nuclear arms race would lead to deadly global disaster. The elimination of nuclear weapons was high on the agenda of both the Austrian Government and the Austrian Red Cross; he therefore welcomed the draft resolution and action plan, which would be a useful tool for further engaging with States.

Ms Ugland (Youth President, Norwegian Red Cross) said that Red Cross youth members, having grown up since the Cold War, could not understand the logic of nuclear deterrence. Yet that logic seemed to be returning. The Movement had previously raised awareness of the catastrophic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and was once again united in its message that their use would have an unacceptable impact on humanity, both immediately and over the long term. Those efforts had contributed to the signing of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and the draft resolution and action plan would bring new focus to the debate. She called on all delegates to step up efforts to mobilize against the growing nuclear risk.

Mr Solís González (National President, Red Cross Society of Panama), recalling the Movement's contribution to shaping global efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons, said that implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at national level could take place through mechanisms such as the national committees for the implementation of international humanitarian law. The involvement of National Societies in those efforts was vital, as they had valuable knowledge of the relevant international regulations. It was therefore regrettable that the Panamanian Red Cross had been removed as a full member of the national committee for the application of international humanitarian law and been given a solely advisory role. Alongside the ICRC, it was negotiating its reinstatement as a full member of the committee. In addition, although Panama was a State party to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, further work was needed on implementation. The Panamanian Red Cross agreed that the use of nuclear weapons was contrary to international humanitarian law, particularly Article 35 of Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and therefore supported the draft resolution.

Ms Hamlaoui (President, Algerian Red Crescent) drew attention to the French nuclear tests carried out on Algerian territory between 1960 and 1966, with a devastating impact both on local populations and the environment – the effects of which would be felt for thousands of years to come. In addition, contamination from the test sites had spread across Europe, demonstrating that such events had an international impact. The Algerian Red Crescent, with the support of the ICRC and IFRC, had worked tirelessly to raise awareness of nuclear testing, assist those affected and ensure site decontamination. She called for further support from other National Societies, including the French Red Cross, which should put pressure on the French Government to disclose details of the tests carried out. More broadly, the Movement as a whole should continue its work against nuclear weapons, which continued to pose grave humanitarian and environmental risks.

Dr Tastanova (Director General, Red Crescent Society of the Republic of Kazakhstan) expressed support for the draft resolution and action plan, as the use of nuclear weapons had serious long-term implications for both people and the environment. Kazakhstan was the only post-Soviet State to have signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and had successfully closed down the Semipalatinsk site, where nuclear tests had been performed for several decades. Although the Treaty remained controversial, international efforts to promote wider support for it had yielded some results. The Movement needed to take a proactive role in disseminating information regarding the risks of nuclear weapons, including by promoting compliance with international humanitarian law among governments. Regional cooperation was also vital, particularly between regions where there were nuclear-weapon-free zones.

Mr Casier (Legal Adviser in IHL and relations with the Movement, Belgian Red Cross) commended the draft resolution and action plan, noting that the text was well-balanced and took into account ongoing Movement commitments and recent international developments on the issue of nuclear weapons. It also proposed concrete, realistic actions for National Societies according to their own domestic contexts. The Belgian Red

Cross firmly believed that the Movement had a duty to raise concerns regarding the use of nuclear weapons in line with its humanitarian mandate and past experiences; it was indeed extremely doubtful that nuclear weapons could ever be used in accordance with the principles and rules of international humanitarian law. The adoption of a new action plan was justified by the increasing risk of use of nuclear weapons, their growing prominence in security policies and the increasingly tense relationships between States, and he welcomed its emphasis on the complementarity of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and other international instruments, which was something the Belgian Red Cross sought to highlight in its public communications. In terms of raising awareness of humanitarian consequences, he encouraged National Societies to make use of the briefing note on reducing the risk of nuclear weapon use produced by his National Society and the ICRC in dialogue with their governments prior to the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Ms Fraser (Secretary General, Guyana Red Cross Society) said that, despite the wide range of issues covered at the General Assembly, none of the action plans discussed there would provide an adequate response to the horrific humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. National Societies therefore needed to continue their educational and advocacy work to prevent the use of such weapons, while considering how to develop contingency plans. Her National Society supported the draft resolution and looked forward to further collaboration on the subject.

Ms Marengo González (President, Costa Rican Red Cross) said that her country, as a demilitarized democracy, had played an important role in disarmament efforts, including in relation to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Costa Rican Red Cross supported that approach through its humanitarian diplomacy work and had sent a representative to the first meeting of the States parties to the Treaty. It would continue to collaborate with other Movement components to promote respect for international humanitarian law and promote the well-being of all.

The draft resolution entitled "Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: 2022–2027 action plan", contained in document CD/22/8DR, was adopted. (Resolution 7, CD/22/R7)

Item 12 Review of the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures to enhance the collective impact of the Movement (*Seville Agreement 2.0 and document CD/22/12DR*)

Mr Maurer (Chair, Council of Delegates) introduced the item, recalling that the draft movement coordination for collective impact agreement – also known as the draft Seville Agreement 2.0 – had been fully endorsed by the Presidents of the ICRC and IFRC, and circulated to all National Society leaders in June 2022. He drew attention to the associated draft resolution set out in document CD/22/12DR, which was the subject of an amendment proposed by the Standing Commission and supported by the ICRC and IFRC.

Mr Chapagain (Secretary General, IFRC) highlighted the extensive work undertaken in recent years to review the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures with a view to placing National Societies at the centre of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and strengthening its collective impact. Feedback had indicated that there was widespread support for the new agreement. In order to further emphasize the collective commitment to an inclusive review of implementation, it had been proposed to amend operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution to read: "calls upon the ICRC and the IFRC to establish an inclusive monitoring and implementation support process, with National Society representatives nominated in consultation with the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Standing Commission), and requests the Standing Commission to call for regular reports on progress and lessons to the Council of Delegates on the implementation of the Agreement". The Movement needed to keep moving forwards in order to serve its beneficiaries; he therefore called on delegates to support the draft resolution as amended.

Mr Mardini (Director-General, ICRC) thanked all those who had contributed to the review process, particularly National Society leaders, observing that the consultative approach to reaching an agreement had built on the good practices of the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation 2.0 initiative. The new agreement was a modern text that placed National Societies at the heart of the collective Movement response. The challenge would be to shift mind-sets in order to implement the agreement and ensure that all partners worked together in good faith, putting aside their egos to collaborate in an inclusive and

complementary way; the ICRC was fully committed to those efforts. The proposed amendment would further improve provision for evaluating implementation by incorporating feedback based on National Society operations on the ground. He therefore encouraged delegates to adopt the amended draft resolution.

Mr Anani (National President, Nigerian Red Cross Society) said that, as a member of the drafting group, he supported the adoption of the draft Seville Agreement 2.0. The review process had incorporated views from National Societies to ensure that the revised text was respectful of all mandates. The resulting draft agreement recognized the central role of host National Societies, and that strengthening and supporting them before, during and after crises would be critical to strengthening the Movement as a whole. It would also allow flexibility in terms of operations while strengthening compliance and accountability. The IFRC and ICRC would act as co-conveners in support of National Societies; the Movement components would thus be committed to coordinating operations in an inclusive and mutually supportive manner to achieve greater impact for people in need. The draft agreement contained further commitments to strengthen the resource mobilization capacities of National Societies, improve coordination on representation, public communication and positioning, and enhance the visibility of National Societies in their own countries. Special provisions had also been made regarding integrity and dispute resolution. He urged delegates to adopt the draft agreement.

Ms Schöberl (Senior Advisor International Political and Movement Relations, German Red Cross) said that the new agreement offered a global framework that recognized the importance of context-specific coordination and cooperation mechanisms. Indeed, by replacing the old concept of “lead agency” with those of “convener” and “co-convener”, the new agreement restored the central, mandated role of National Societies within the Movement response. The additional articles on resource mobilization, public communication and positioning, and representation aimed to address issues that had caused friction in the past; the clarification of expectations and codification of roles and responsibilities would allow the Movement components to make the best use of their voice, resources, strengths and services. However, the new agreement still required the components to respect the Statutes of the Movement, which remained unchanged. The German Red Cross was fully committed to implementing the new agreement and would support its dissemination and operationalization as necessary; she encouraged other National Societies to do the same.

Mr Aslanov (President, Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan) highlighted some of the challenges faced by National Societies as they sought to respond to the humanitarian consequences of protracted conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic, including the digital advances that represented both an opportunity and a threat. The Movement needed to become stronger to secure its place within the humanitarian system, but National Societies should take the lead in their own countries; his National Society would continue to cooperate with all Movement components while remaining at the centre of decision-making within Azerbaijan.

Mr Tipping (President, Argentine Red Cross) said that, in the past, a lack of good faith had hindered the work of the Movement, with individual components seeking to gain advantage over others. However, the new agreement placed National Societies at the heart of the action, as should always have been the case. In order to address the increasingly complex humanitarian issues around the world, the Movement needed to unite, while avoiding unnecessary competition that could harm its standing among donors, governments or beneficiaries. Effective implementation of the new agreement would mark an historic step forward.

Mr Ladekarl (Secretary General, Danish Red Cross), speaking on behalf of the National Societies of Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Honduras, Iceland, Lebanon, Liberia, Norway, Poland, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sudan and Sweden, said that the existing Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures did not adequately cover the role of National Societies within their own territories, and that the issue had only become more pressing as National Societies had grown stronger. It was disappointing that, although National Societies had been consulted during the review, the new text had not been subject to a broader co-creation process; the final draft agreement should also have been made available to National Societies at an earlier stage. Review processes should be more inclusive and transparent in the future, as the agreements concerned were not just between the IFRC and ICRC, but also between the 192 National Societies.

Although not perfect, the draft agreement moved in the right direction by placing National Societies in the driving seat, together with the ICRC or the IFRC, depending on the context. National Societies were ready

to take on that responsibility. The next step would be for all Movement components to monitor and assess its implementation based on their various expectations, experiences and perspectives. The draft agreement should therefore be adopted in its current form, with a view to continuously improving how Movement components worked together in order to increase their collective impact. He called on delegates to adopt the draft agreement, jointly monitor its implementation and report on progress at the next Council of Delegates. He supported the proposed amendment to operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution.

Ms Padmore (Chair of the Board, British Red Cross) welcomed the draft resolution and agreement, together with the proposed amendment. The new agreement was a compromise and met many key concerns; crucially, it would help maintain the unity of the Movement. The inclusion of explicit references to the mandate of each Movement component, in line with the Statutes of the Movement and the Geneva Conventions, was particularly welcome. It was also encouraging to see National Societies given the role of convener; that was aligned with the growing localization agenda within the broader humanitarian sector. The real test of the new agreement would be in its implementation, which would require a change of attitude and approach. The British Red Cross would play its part to foster a greater collaborative spirit of mutual respect, trust and support.

Mr Solís González (National President, Red Cross Society of Panama) said that, as a member of the National Society Movement Advisory Group, he welcomed the draft Seville Agreement 2.0, which demonstrated the collective willingness of the Movement to respond to humanitarian crises in accordance with the mandates of its components. It reflected the leadership or convener role played by National Societies, which would be supported by the IFRC and ICRC acting as co-conveners, leveraging the complementary experience and capacities of all Movement components. Joint action by the Movement would strengthen the neutrality, impartiality and independence of its humanitarian response; successful implementation of the draft agreement would depend on sound judgement, mutual respect and application of the Fundamental Principles of unity and universality. It also called for humility and acceptance of the interdependence of each component.

Mr Argymbayev (President, Red Crescent Society of the Republic of Kazakhstan) expressed support for the draft resolution and urged others to do the same, stressing the important coordinating role played by National Societies in humanitarian action. However, further consultations should be held to clarify the roles of the different Movement components; that would enable more effective implementation of the new agreement.

Mr Nagazumi (Deputy Director General, International Department, Japanese Red Cross), highlighting his National Society's participation in the review process, welcomed the draft Seville Agreement 2.0, notably the role of convener assigned to National Societies. It was also positive that the specific roles and competencies of individual Movement components would not be restricted under the new agreement. Its adoption and implementation would nurture principled humanitarian action across the Movement, enabling partners to work better together in the interests of vulnerable populations.

Ms Coulibaly (President, Mali Red Cross) commended the efforts to incorporate National Society views into the revised Seville Agreement. The decision to change the term "lead agency" to "convener" was particularly welcome, as was the recognition of the unique role of National Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities. More specifically, the Mali Red Cross would closely monitor implementation of points 5 and 7 of article 5.2.3 of the new agreement, as well as the provisions of article 5.2.6 regarding joint statements. Article 5.3 (B), covering situations where the ICRC was co-convener, must support National Societies in their role as auxiliaries to the public authorities by including them in dialogues with State and non-State actors, without prejudice to the ICRC's specific mandate. In article 5.3 (C), which covered situations where the IFRC was co-convener, she suggested introducing a line to the effect that during joint support and emergency operations, the IFRC must comply with the procedures of the host National Society, with an emphasis on localization to promote the sustainability of the knowledge gained during such operations. Article 6 could also be revised to make provision for a prior agreement between the host National Society and partners regarding entry and exit strategies for activities. However, she supported the draft agreement in its current form, especially the provisions contained in articles 8.9 and 9.

Mr Guo (Under Secretary General, Red Cross Society of China) agreed that, as global humanitarian needs became more complex, it was necessary to clarify, modify and supplement the concepts in the Seville

Agreement and its Supplementary Measures to ensure that the Movement remained relevant. He therefore welcomed the amended draft resolution on the Seville Agreement 2.0, particularly the emphasis that the new agreement placed on the central role of National Societies in humanitarian operations, and hoped it would enable improved, more strategic cooperation among Movement components.

Mr Pinney (President, Australian Red Cross) expressed support for the draft resolution and proposed amendment, noting that the revised agreement better expressed the Movement's ambition to provide an effective joint response during large-scale emergencies. The Movement was uniquely placed to respond to growing humanitarian challenges through locally led action; it was therefore timely that the new agreement placed National Societies at the heart of decision-making, alongside Movement partners. Making the Seville Agreement 2.0 a reality would require the right mind-set and behaviour, in addition to sound foundational documents. The collective energy applied to drafting the new agreement should now be applied to the development of a shared understanding of, and commitment to, its principles across the Movement, with special focus on how they would be applied to operations. It was also vital to have a mechanism to monitor implementation of the new agreement, celebrate its successes and identify areas for improvement.

Mr Erksoussi (Secretary General, Syrian Arab Red Crescent) commended the work undertaken to develop the Seville Agreement 2.0, noting that the long-standing conflict in his country had made it necessary to establish clear working mechanisms for all Movement components. It was clear that National Societies should be responsible for operations in their own countries; if they had insufficient capacity, they would need support from partners. The focus should be on beneficiaries, rather than on the specific terms used. The term "lead" could work in certain situations; in the Syrian Arab Republic, shared leadership had worked well, as had thematic leadership whereby components took the lead according to their specific area of expertise. He welcomed the draft resolution and proposed amendment, underscoring the importance of an effective review mechanism that incorporated the views of National Societies, particularly regarding their experience in the field.

Dr Al-Hadid (President, Jordan National Red Crescent Society), recalling the difficulties experienced in implementing the original Seville Agreement, said that the new agreement showed good progress, although it was not perfect. He welcomed the proposed amendment to operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, but further suggested establishing a group tasked with monitoring and reporting on implementation of the new agreement. Such a group should comprise representatives of the Standing Commission, the ICRC and the IFRC, and four representatives from National Societies, which should be given more weight as the main element of the Movement. That would make it possible to obtain feedback from people with experience of implementing the new agreement in their own countries.

Mr Nabi Burhan (Acting President, Afghan Red Crescent) said that the Movement components had a long history of working together in his country, with partners providing valuable long-term support to both the National Society and vulnerable populations. He supported the draft resolution, which would further improve joint work, and stressed the need to monitor implementation of the new agreement and make further revisions as necessary.

Mr Jama (Deputy Executive Director, Somali Red Crescent Society) commended the process to review the Seville Agreement, although he further commented that the final draft agreement should have been made available to National Societies at an earlier stage in the interests of transparency and inclusion. Nevertheless, he welcomed the revised agreement, noting that, although it required some fine-tuning, it would help the Movement to focus on its collective humanitarian impact. It would be particularly important to ensure effective implementation of the new agreement at the field level.

Mr Rocca (President, IFRC) said that, given the many challenges faced in implementing the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures, he welcomed the collective decision to revise such an important framework. The new agreement proposed a more flexible system for deciding who took action where and removed the concept of "lead agency". The host National Society would remain at the centre of operations, acting as convener and coordinator in situations requiring a collective Movement response, with the IFRC or the ICRC acting as co-convener according to their mandates. The new text represented a major shift in efforts to manage the increasingly complex interactions between Movement components and meet external demands for more effective cooperation and coordination within the Red Cross Red Crescent. In addition, the revised agreement explicitly recognized the vital role of National Societies, notably in key

strategic areas such as communication, representation and resource mobilization. The Seville Agreement 2.0 also proposed stronger mechanisms for addressing any disputes among partners. Although the new provisions would not solve all the problems, repeated failure to comply with the agreement could henceforth be considered an integrity issue. It was positive to see everything incorporated into a single document, as the status of the Supplementary Measures had never been clear. For the new normative framework to work, all Movement components must commit to mutual respect, trust and discipline. It was also likely that the new agreement would require revision in the future, as individual capacities changed and the world evolved.

Dr Ruiz Rodas (President, Salvadorean Red Cross Society) said that the new agreement would be a useful tool for National Society leaders in their daily work to address emergencies. Implementation of the new agreement would require partners to show humility and put their egos to one side. He therefore supported the Seville Agreement 2.0, notably the elements regarding integrity and accountability, and agreed that it would be important to establish a group to monitor its implementation.

Dr Abbas (President, Iraqi Red Crescent Society) said that he supported the new agreement, despite some reservations. Although some progress had been made, the text did not yet provide adequate support for National Societies, which should remain at the centre of coordination efforts. It should therefore be subject to ongoing revision as part of its implementation, with significant input from Member States; he supported the proposal by the representative of the Jordanian Red Crescent to establish a monitoring group to that end.

Ms Mendomo Akame (President, Cameroon Red Cross), speaking on behalf of the *Coordination des sociétés nationales Croix-Rouge d'Afrique centrale*, COSNAC (Coordination of Red Cross National Societies in Central Africa), said that re-examination of the Seville Agreement had become necessary to improve coordination and achieve a greater collective impact in humanitarian operations. In a context marked by diverse crises and catastrophes, strengthening the Movement was more important than ever. She welcomed the central role given to National Societies in the revised agreement, noting that their prime position in coordination would make it easier to reach populations and strengthen their statutes and capacity to collaborate with the public authorities. Rather than a hindrance, the specific mandates of the Movement components were an advantage that boosted its standing; all stakeholders should reaffirm their engagement in light of the changes made. She therefore supported the draft resolution.

Ms Abu Ghosh (Advisor to the President, Palestine Red Crescent Society) welcomed the new agreement and the draft resolution, together with the proposed amendment, noting that the text captured most of the issues raised during consultations and would facilitate multilateral cooperation at regional and global levels. In particular, it reflected the concept of complementarity among the Movement components, while covering their various mandates, roles and responsibilities, and highlighted the importance of strengthening the central role of National Societies. She also commended the proposal for the Standing Commission to call for regular reports on implementation progress to the Council of Delegates, as part of the regular review of the agreement. However, although the text referred to armed conflicts and internal strife, there were no specific references to occupation or the responsibilities of the occupying power towards populations under its control as covered by the Fourth Geneva Convention. For the Palestine Red Crescent, protracted occupation was the main driver of the humanitarian vulnerability it sought to address; greater prominence should therefore be given to that issue, notably by including the word “occupation” and defining roles and responsibilities as part of the Movement’s response in that regard.

Dr Al Enizi (President, Kuwait Red Crescent Society) expressed support for the draft resolution and the proposed amendment. However, several improvements could be made to the draft agreement, notably by adding a definition of the terms “international response”, “convener” and “co-convener”. It would also be helpful to clarify the internal and external support available to National Societies and add a reference to data confidentiality.

Mr Jain (Secretary General, Indian Red Cross Society), speaking on behalf of the National Societies of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, welcomed the efforts undertaken to review the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures, notably the removal of the terms “lead agency” and “lead role”. The new agreement demonstrated the intention of all Movement components to work in unison, based on a coordination mechanism whereby the host National Society played the role of convener. It was a positive step forward; the necessary further improvements could be made through the

monitoring and implementation support process proposed in the amended operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution. Calling on all Movement components to commit to implementation of the Seville Agreement 2.0 in good faith, he expressed strong support for the draft agreement and resolution as amended.

Mr Langley (Senior Vice-President, American Red Cross), speaking on behalf of the American Red Cross, the Mexican Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross, stressed that the National Society mandate was rooted in the Fundamental Principle of unity: only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society could exist in any one country, and must perform its humanitarian work throughout the territory. All Movement members needed to reaffirm their commitment to respect and trust National Societies and their mandates. Indeed, failure to respect the leadership role of National Societies would lead to widespread misunderstanding of the Movement and distrust of its emblem, making humanitarian access during armed conflicts, disasters and other global shocks increasingly difficult, dangerous and costly. The Seville Agreement 2.0 was vital to ensure that National Society mandates were respected by other Movement components, and all action taken should demonstrate that National Societies were trusted to represent the Movement. That was the only way to ensure the continued strength of the Red Cross Red Crescent.

Mr Gordon (Chairman and CEO, Philippine Red Cross) highlighted the importance of the Seville Agreement 2.0 in the face of growing challenges worldwide and the need to alleviate human suffering. Any organization was only as strong as its weakest link; strengthening National Societies would enable them to represent the Movement. Effective working partnerships with the ICRC, IFRC and partner National Societies had helped his own National Society address the crises faced in the Philippines, demonstrating the importance of unity. The new agreement would enhance such work.

Mr Savchuk (President, Russian Red Cross Society) commended the updated agreement, notably the establishment of the convener role of National Societies and the co-convener role of the ICRC and IFRC, in situations of armed conflict and disaster respectively. The revised text would help reduce bureaucracy and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Movement's work. However, further work should be carried out to develop the agreements established between the ICRC and IFRC and National Societies, in order to take into account potential situations where a specific partner might be best placed to provide assistance. Close attention should be paid to implementation of the new agreement, with subsequent updates made based on how well it functioned on the ground.

Mr Carbonnier (Vice-President, ICRC) welcomed the support expressed for the new agreement, which would strengthen the framework under which Movement components worked together to optimize their impact in difficult circumstances. Significant efforts had been made to incorporate the concerns raised during the participatory review process, and the final text also contained robust provisions on implementation, monitoring and reporting, as enhanced by the proposed amendment to operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution. He reiterated the ICRC's full support for the draft resolution and commitment to its implementation.

Mr Mardini (Director-General, ICRC) thanked speakers for their input and positive comments. Regarding the proposals to establish a review mechanism for the new agreement, he said that the proposed amendment to operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution would provide sufficient scope for National Societies to give feedback on implementation of the agreement; he would work with the IFRC Secretary General to lead the monitoring and implementation support process. The other suggestions made during the discussion constituted minor refinements, whereas the current focus should be on the faithful implementation of the new agreement, with the support of the IFRC and the ICRC. He agreed with the representative of the Palestine Red Crescent that occupation was an important driver of vulnerability but said that the issue was adequately covered by the draft agreement, which referred to the Statutes of the Movement and international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions. The strength of the Movement lay in its capacity to put politics to one side and prioritize humanity; that was particularly important given current polarized views. The IFRC and ICRC would facilitate any dialogue that could bridge gaps and save lives in trying circumstances; all Movement components needed to make such dialogue work in the interests of the people they served.

Mr Chapagain (Secretary General, IFRC) thanked delegates for their contributions, noting that great efforts had been made to incorporate all views into the review process. The next step was implementation, with National Societies at the centre of operations, supported by the IFRC and ICRC. Not everything could be codified in a document: leaders also needed to show integrity, honesty and transparency. He was committed to working with the ICRC and all National Societies to implement the draft resolution.

The draft resolution entitled "Review of the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures to enhance the collective impact of the Movement", contained in document CD/22/12DR, was adopted, as amended. (Resolution 8, CD/22/R8)

Item 7 Towards a Movement strategy on migration (*documents CD/22/7 and CD/22/7DR*)

Mr Maurer (Chair, Council of Delegates) drew attention to the draft resolution, which had been amended with the agreement of the IFRC and ICRC following a decision taken at the extraordinary session of the IFRC Governing Board on 18 June 2022. He invited representatives of the three National Society Co-Chairs of the Migration Leadership Group to introduce the item.

Mr Ärnlov (Secretary General, Swedish Red Cross) said that the Movement was well-placed to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, regardless of their legal status, and to all those affected by migration, including host communities and those left behind. In close collaboration with the IFRC and ICRC, National Societies had been scaling up actions in response to increasingly complex migratory situations and population movements around the world. However, the Movement needed to make further investments at local, national, regional and global levels as part of a coherent approach that took into account current trends and incorporated assessment and planning, and capacity development – hence the development of the Migration Leadership Model. The draft resolution towards a Movement strategy on migration was a procedural resolution that would enhance coordinated, strategic and future-focused collaboration across the Movement. It stressed the need for a Movement strategy on migration that focused on the most pressing migration-related challenges based on the different mandates of the Movement components and in line with the Fundamental Principles. If adopted, the draft resolution would pave the way for an inclusive, accessible strategy development process to promote collaborative, well-resourced action on the ground to address and prevent the humanitarian challenges faced by migrants.

Mr Penney (President, Australian Red Cross) said that his National Society was pleased to present the draft resolution, which represented an important step towards earning and maintaining the trust of migrants and refugees in the Movement and emblems and ensuring their safety and dignity. The Movement played an unparalleled role in providing humanitarian assistance and protection to migrants, and the proposed strategy on migration would enable it to work with all people who crossed borders and experienced vulnerabilities, regardless of the reason for their movement, their legal status or their situation. The draft resolution endorsed the leadership of the Migration Leadership Group and the key roles of the Global Migration Task Force and the Global Migration Lab, which would research the experiences of National Societies and migrants.

Ms Hocaoglu (Youth delegate, Australian Red Cross) said that, as a first-generation Australian, she had witnessed firsthand the hardships faced by migrants when they arrived in a foreign country. Her Turkish-Bulgarian parents had struggled with little money and limited English, which had in turn restricted their access to services and full participation in society. Yet Australia had a rich history of multiculturalism and supportive communities, and she had been able to become a lawyer and a youth member of the Australian Red Cross. The proposed strategy on migration could be used as a tool to imagine how much more could be achieved with all 192 National Societies working together to build compassion and listen to migrants' stories, and ensure that everyone was safe, had their needs met and was included in society.

Ms Himya (Secretary General, Maldivian Red Crescent) said that the Red Cross Red Crescent response was vital to ensure access to essential services for migrants, including those with irregular status, particularly given the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had led to increased inequality, marginalization and vulnerability. In addition, it was essential to address the humanitarian impacts of climate-related disasters that forced people from their homes; the proposed strategy would also seek to respond to those issues. As the work of National Societies spanned countries and wider regions, the draft resolution recognized the importance of regional engagement through migration networks, and the value of Movement partners working collaboratively within and across National Societies and regions. It also reflected the unique role and mandate of the Red Cross Red Crescent to meet the humanitarian needs of migrants throughout their journeys, and to influence global migration policy discussions at the highest level by encouraging governments to build inclusive and welcoming communities. In addition, the text emphasized the need for Movement action that took into account varying humanitarian needs and capacities, and differences of

regional context, stressing the importance of ensuring adequate human, financial and technical resources. The future strategy would ensure that access to humanitarian and essential services for migrants, regardless of status, remained central to the Movement's work, as well as addressing climate-related migration, which was compounding risks and vulnerabilities. She strongly encouraged support for the draft resolution, as development of the strategy on migration would provide a strategic framework allowing better anticipation and response to emerging humanitarian priorities, and ultimately strengthen the Movement's collective impact on the ground.

A video was shown illustrating the work of the Red Cross Red Crescent in the area of migration.

The meeting rose at 5:35 pm

Thursday 23 June 2022

Third plenary meeting

8.20 am

Item 7 Towards a Movement strategy on migration (documents CD/22/7 and CD/22/7DR) (continued)

Mr Chapagain (Secretary General, IFRC) said that migration was a global challenge that required a global response. The IFRC network was present along migratory routes and committed to providing humanitarian assistance to those in need, both on land and at sea, in line with its duty to protect people on the move regardless of their status, ethnicity or nationality. National Societies were also key to that work due to their position within local communities and as auxiliaries to governments. As the humanitarian needs associated with migration continued to grow, the Red Cross Red Crescent needed to scale up its response. The IFRC therefore strongly supported the draft resolution to formally endorse the development of a Movement strategy on migration, which would help National Societies strengthen their plans to better assist and protect the migrants most at risk. The proposed strategy would also promote a stronger, more sustained engagement in migration.

Mr Mardini (Director General, ICRC) said that the protection and assistance of vulnerable migrants was one of the most pressing humanitarian concerns for the Movement. Its principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence ensured that help was given where needed, regardless of where people were or where they had come from, while its global presence along migratory routes was key to delivering that assistance. Yet the work of the Red Cross Red Crescent was beset by many challenges, including the highly politicized global environment, a tightening of migration laws and policies and the violation of migrant rights and needs such as access to essential services and the preservation of family unity. In some cases, providing assistance to migrants had been criminalized, while humanitarian aid had also been instrumentalized for the purposes of border security and return policies. The Migration Leadership Model was therefore very important, as was the draft resolution for the development of a Movement strategy on migration. The proposed strategy would help Movement components work together in a more complementary way, while keeping migrants' needs, vulnerabilities and capacities at the centre of the response. It would also help address existing gaps and navigate the highly politicized narratives and restrictive migration-related policies, as well as align positioning on key challenges for a united, effective Movement voice. Lastly, he stressed the importance of a participative and inclusive development and implementation process for the strategy, including the establishment of synergies with other relevant Movement initiatives, such as the Restoring Family Links Strategy 2020–2025.

Dr Carvajal de Álvarez (National President, Colombian Red Cross) welcomed the draft resolution; the development of a strategy on migration would greatly benefit the Movement. Her National Society had its own migrant support strategy that enabled it, with assistance from Movement and private-sector partners, to provide essential services and integration programmes for more than two million migrants and members of host communities. It also contributed to Movement-level and regional platforms on migration. Indeed, it was vital for National Societies and other partners of the Movement to have a coherent, harmonized response to

the issues of migration. She therefore called on those present to support the draft resolution, which would contribute to strengthened services for migrants worldwide.

Mr Senghore (Secretary General, Gambia Red Cross Society) expressed support for the draft resolution, noting that a strategy on migration would amplify the global influence of the Movement and strengthen its collective efforts to protect the safety and dignity of migrants. The COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and conflicts were driving increases in the cost of living, with a serious impact on developed countries and a devastating impact on developing countries. In some areas, such as the Sahel region, young people faced additional challenges that pushed them to seek a better life elsewhere, with thousands dying or going missing during their migratory journeys. The Gambia Red Cross worked on regional and subregional projects on migration with other National Societies from the region and farther afield, as well as the IFRC and ICRC, and was actively engaged with its government in addressing the issue of missing migrants. It therefore supported the development of the proposed strategy and would contribute its valuable experience to that work.

Mr Küçük (Deputy Director General/Chief International Officer, Turkish Red Crescent Society) commended the draft resolution, particularly its recognition of the important role played by National Societies in addressing migration issues, including through regional migration networks. His country was currently hosting the largest refugee population in the world, with the Turkish Red Crescent providing regular support to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers of 57 different nationalities; that figure illustrated the global, interconnected nature of the issue and need for collective action. As a member of regional and international Movement groups on migration, his National Society could contribute its experience of working with people on the move during development of the strategy, with a view to enhancing collective humanitarian action on migration.

Mr El Nazer (Chief Executive Officer, Egyptian Red Crescent Society) highlighted the vast number of migrants and internally displaced persons hosted by the Middle East and North Africa region. In a context of economic crisis, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, people on the move faced extraordinary risks to their lives, safety, dignity and well-being. The work of the Red Cross Red Crescent was more important than ever, and the Egyptian Red Crescent sought to support migrants, refugees and asylum seekers at both national and regional levels, including by addressing discrimination, racism and xenophobia. The development of a migration strategy would enhance coordination according to the different mandates of the Movement components; by supporting one another, they could increase the impact of their work and improve the quality of life for people on the move.

Ms Chew (Chairperson, National Youth Council, Malaysian Red Crescent Society), speaking on behalf of the 11 National Societies of the South-East Asia region, said that the issue of migration was particularly relevant in her region due to its geography and cultural cohesiveness. However, the strengthening of national borders had reduced the fluidity of movement, with undocumented migrants experiencing a lack of protection and unequal access to health care and education. National Societies in the region were committed to responding to the needs of migrants to the best of their ability in support of Global Challenge 4 on Migration and Identity of the IFRC's *Strategy 2030*; examples of that work included the provision of COVID-19 vaccinations for migrants, assistance for new arrivals, support for migrants returning home and restoring family links services. They also participated in the regional migration network and contributed to Movement-wide work linked to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. It was particularly important to ensure that migrants, especially those exposed to acute risks, could access essential services, while disaster risk reduction and preparedness was necessary to address increased climate-induced displacement. She agreed that the Movement's added value came from its presence across countries of origin, transit and destination; cross-border initiatives should therefore be enhanced. In addition, the unique role of National Societies as auxiliaries to their governments gave them access for humanitarian diplomacy, at both national and regional level. She fully supported the draft resolution.

Ms Harrison (Secretary General, Namibia Red Cross) welcomed the proposal to develop a Movement strategy on migration. In 2021, many nomads fleeing drought in southern Angola had arrived in Namibia; the National Society, together with community members, local and traditional authorities and government authorities, had done its best to assist them, but some migrant children had died due to malnutrition. It was vital to raise awareness of climate-related and forced population movement and undertake anticipatory action to support communities before they were forced to move. Food insecurity also needed to be addressed so that migrants could be adequately supported when they arrived. She called for those issues to be incorporated into the future strategy.

Mr Gurtner (Head of Department, International Cooperation, Swiss Red Cross) commended the proposal to develop a strategy on migration, which would demonstrate the Movement's collective will to tackle the grave humanitarian consequences of migration and work better together, building on the complementarity of different components. However, he proposed amending operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution to specify that the finalized strategy should include a plan of action, together with a financial plan for implementation of the action plan at the 2024 Council of Delegates. The strategy would only become an effective tool with a concrete plan of action and the necessary funding. The Swiss Red Cross was committed to supporting the development of the future strategy and an accompanying plan of action.

Ms Goddard (Youth Delegate, British Red Cross) welcomed the draft resolution, saying that her National Society understood the challenges of supporting vulnerable migrants due to its experience as a provider of international migration programmes and support services for refugees, asylum seekers, trafficking survivors and other migrants. Although she welcomed the emphasis the draft resolution placed on integrating the views and experiences of migrants themselves into the Movement strategy on migration, as the British Red Cross already sought to do in its own work, she stressed that it was equally important to secure buy-in from States by also listening to their perspectives during the consultation process.

Ms Tuaeava (Youth Delegate, Russian Red Cross Society) expressed support for the development of a Movement strategy on migration, noting that the Movement needed to create favourable conditions for the integration of migrants. It was particularly important to defend the interests of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons and provide emergency assistance where needed. The provision of other services, such as social and economic support, legal aid, employment services and education, required strong National Society structures and efficient use of available resources. The Red Cross Red Crescent was the only institution that could provide targeted assistance to individuals on a long-term basis, as state bodies were too often limited by strict regulations. Effective case management required close attention during development of the strategy to allow National Societies to build universal cooperation mechanisms and provide hope to those searching for a new home.

Mr Su (Board Youth Representative, Samoa Red Cross Society), speaking on behalf of the 14 Pacific Island National Societies, expressed support for the draft resolution and detailed the collaborative work undertaken to address the issue of migration at a regional level. Migration had played, and continued to play, an important role in the Pacific; the adverse effects of climate change, epidemics and environmental degradation influenced mobility across the region, with other features including temporary labour migration, migration for study and circular migration. As stated in the IFRC *Strategy 2030*, climate and environmental crises, evolving crises and disasters, and migration and identity constituted three of the five critical challenges of the decade. Climate change in particular was placing lives and livelihoods under pressure and would make some places uninhabitable, including in the Pacific. However, leaders in the region had stressed the importance of retaining the Pacific's social and cultural identity and enabling Pacific peoples' desire to continue living in their own countries where possible, and would seek to preserve current maritime zones despite any sea-level rises. National Societies in the region were taking proactive action to ensure dignified and safe solutions before a disaster struck and called on the Movement to support them to strengthen community resilience, reduce disaster risks, and increase preparedness and adaptation to climate change so that communities could remain in their homes as long as possible. That could be done through innovative, collaborative solutions between countries and National Societies, with input from migrants and people impacted by migration. The Movement should strengthen coordinated, strategic and future-focused collaboration within and beyond the Movement, working with National Societies. Indeed, the Movement had a responsibility to promote a culture of peace and social inclusion and address the vulnerabilities of people on the move; it therefore required a strong strategy to approach current and future humanitarian challenges.

Mr da Costa (President, French Red Cross) drew attention to the difficulties that Movement components faced in fulfilling their auxiliary role in the area of migration and stressed the need to remind the public authorities of their own obligations in that regard. Their first duty was to guarantee effective access to all vulnerable migrants irrespective of their legal status, in line with Resolution 3 of the 31st International Conference; all too often, Movement actors were either refused access or constrained in their capacity to act, with the humanitarian space shrinking daily. Secondly, the Red Cross Red Crescent should be permitted to fully exercise its duty-to-alert and monitoring role, as a trusted partner in humanitarian diplomacy, with the public authorities duly responding to any concerns raised regarding threats to fundamental rights. Neutrality should never mean silence; the Movement had to be the voice of those who had lost theirs. Thirdly,

governments had a responsibility to separate the provision of humanitarian assistance from migration flow measures, to ensure that the Red Cross Red Crescent emblems remained a symbol of protection. To avoid any instrumentalization of Movement work, there must be no tolerance of any requests for data, police presence or targeting of beneficiaries in a humanitarian context. A firm stance towards the public authorities in that respect was the only way to build trusted partnerships in the interests of vulnerable populations.

Mr Traore (President, Red Cross Society of Guinea) said that, as Guinea was country of origin, transit and return, its National Society had extensive experience of the challenges posed by migration, including the inhuman treatment to which some migrants were subjected. At the International Conference in 2019, the Guinea Red Cross had called for cross-border migration strategies aimed at achieving long-term results, and the issue was no less relevant today. Although migration was addressed in the strategic plan for the National Society, it could only achieve limited results acting alone; a joint response was needed at the subregional level, together with support from funders and partners. He therefore supported the draft resolution.

A minute's silence was observed for the victims of the recent earthquake in Afghanistan.

Mr Nabi Kheel (Acting President, Afghan Red Crescent) thanked those present for the condolences expressed regarding the recent earthquake. His National Society was working to support people on the move in a context of socioeconomic difficulty, with a large internally displaced population and many returning migrants. Although Movement partners were contributing to that effort, more assistance was needed. He supported the development of a Movement strategy on migration and stressed the need to consider the needs of internally displaced persons, women and children, and other vulnerable groups. The strategy should also take into account the expertise of National Societies and the role that other organizations in the field could play.

Ms Rustamzade (Movement Partnership Coordinator, Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan) said that, although migration brought considerable benefits for many individuals and communities, certain migration policies had significant human costs and humanitarian impacts. In addition to the growing stigmatization of migrants, driven by political rhetoric and misinformation, the increasingly security-led approach to migration resulted in restrictive policies that exposed migrants to greater risks and hardship. Noting the hardening of policies and attitudes towards migrants and humanitarian organizations and the need for effective leadership and coordinated engagement, informed by analysis of the evolving trends and risks, she expressed support for the draft resolution and commitment to its implementation.

Ms Poller-Hartig (Head of International Relations, Austrian Red Cross) welcomed the draft resolution, but said that it should be more ambitious, with greater emphasis on effectiveness, as suggested by the representative of the Swiss Red Cross. The Red Cross Red Crescent was an important actor in the field of migration. Yet to fulfil its core mission of protecting the most vulnerable, it needed to ensure that its numerous past resolutions and commitments, including the IFRC Global Strategy on Migration 2018–2022, were put into practice. Accountability and implementation were key to remaining a trusted actor in migration; Movement components needed to become more assertive in their dealings with States and demand compliance with international commitments. Adequate resources were also needed to address the challenges of migration.

Ms Basso (Youth Delegate, Italian Red Cross) commended the draft resolution, particularly the call for coherent Movement action in support of migrants in vulnerable situations and the reference to the key role of the Migration Leadership Group, with the support of the Global Migration Task Force, Global Migration Lab, National Societies and the migration networks. She also welcomed the emphasis on strengthening the implementation of existing commitments. Recent years had demonstrated how crises could exacerbate the vulnerabilities of migrants, with their rights being neglected and their lives sometimes placed at risk. National Societies, with the support of the IFRC, had to do more to advocate for the protection and assistance of migrants, with the goals of real social inclusion and greater awareness among host communities. There should also be a long-term commitment from the Movement as a whole to work against the instrumentalization of migrants at all levels.

Ms Koursoumba (First Vice-President, Cyprus Red Cross Society) described the work of her National Society to meet the humanitarian needs of migrants arriving in Cyprus, thanking all those who had supported that work. The Cyprus Red Cross aimed to establish a relationship of mutual trust with state authorities,

United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, based on frank and constructive dialogue. She welcomed the draft resolution, particularly its aim of introducing a more holistic and coordinated Movement approach and enabling greater long-term support for National Societies in countries disproportionately affected by migration flows.

Mr Bedoya (First National Vice-President, Red Cross Society of Panama), speaking on behalf of the National Societies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama, said that the Americas region was confronted with complex mixed migration flows, leading to high levels of vulnerability. Hundreds of thousands of people had migrated in recent years, with huge increases in the numbers seeking asylum. Collaboration within the Movement, according to the complementary skills of each component, had improved the humanitarian assistance provided, with many lessons learned from past experience. A joint regional action plan was in place, providing space for dialogue and enabling a stronger Red Cross Red Crescent voice to be heard, while a local presence alongside governments and local organizations was key to the front-line response. The Movement Migration Leadership Model was also helping to ensure that efforts were well-informed, coordinated and inclusive. The National Societies he was representing supported the draft resolution and stood ready to play an active role in developing the proposed strategy, which should provide a flexible reference framework for responding to evolving migration dynamics.

Mr Ali Soumaili (Secretary General, Comoros Red Crescent) said that migration had only recently become an issue in his country, as would-be migrants trying to reach the nearby French department of Mayotte had in the past been rapidly deported by the government. However, his National Society had provided support to a number of migrants stranded in Comoros in 2021 and 2022. Despite some support from the French Red Cross and the IFRC, it had been unable to fully assist them, and was in debt as a result. It was therefore vital to build National Society capacity to support migrants; he fully supported the draft resolution.

Ms Kozhedub (Youth Leader, Ukrainian Red Cross Society), describing her own experience of having to flee home to escape bombing and terrible violations of international humanitarian law, said that real suffering often lay behind the statistics on migration. When people were forced to leave organized and peaceful lives and move elsewhere, migration became part of their identity. The Red Cross Red Crescent could give them hope, and she thanked all National Societies worldwide who worked to support people on the move. The Movement should strive to ensure equal access to health care and mental support for all refugees, regardless of their religion, colour or country of origin. She therefore welcomed the draft resolution on a Movement strategy on migration.

Mr O'Dwyer (Secretary General, Irish Red Cross Society) commended the draft resolution but expressed concern that the draft Movement strategy was only scheduled for submission to the 2024 Council of Delegates, given the vast scale and urgent nature of the issue. That work should be brought forward if possible. It was also important to recognize the positive aspects of migration, which in many cases enriched rather than burdened countries, contrary to the messaging of some governments. Migrants made huge contributions to their countries of destination in social, economic and cultural terms; the Movement should promote that narrative, while putting pressure on governments to provide accommodation and work, and enable integration. The welcome received by Ukrainian refugees in many countries was an excellent example of what a positive approach could achieve; a similar welcome should be extended to other migrants, who had not been given the same opportunities.

Mr Cheniti (Deputy General Treasurer, Tunisian Red Cross) said that the phenomenon of migration, instead of being a driver of development and well-being, had become a constant crisis that National Societies and the Movement as a whole were doing their best to attenuate. His own National Society had been founded to address the needs of wartime refugees and displaced persons, and its work on migration had continued to the present day. It was clear that the lack of coordination by actors outside, or even within, the Movement led to chaotic situations that directly or indirectly harmed migrants. On the ground, the Red Cross Red Crescent was often crowded out by actors that did not follow the same humanitarian principles, although it was undeniable that some had potentially useful expertise and resources. There was a sense of always having to react to situations after the event. While the Tunisian Red Cross had succeeded in obtaining guarantees from the Government regarding migrants' rights to health, education and training, and did its best to respond to emergency situations, its resources remained below what was required. A different approach was needed to make migration an opportunity for sustainable development. He hoped that the proposed strategy would return the Movement to the central position it merited due to its values, while enabling it to

cooperate effectively with partners that respected the same principles, including migrants themselves.

Mr Sultan (Head of International Relations, Libyan Red Crescent) welcomed the draft resolution, highlighting the challenging humanitarian situation in his country caused by migrant flows, notably driven by climate change. Despite his National Society's efforts to provide support, including assistance with returns to countries of origin, many migrants did not have access to essential services and some had gone missing during their journey, with the number of deaths recorded increasing over the past few years.

Mr Ärnlov (Secretary General, Swedish Red Cross) noted the comments made by delegates, which would be incorporated into the development of the future Movement strategy on migration. He suggested that, instead of making changes to the text of the draft resolution, the specific amendment proposed by the representative of the Swiss Red Cross regarding a plan of action and financial plan should form part of that development work. All National Societies would be invited to contribute to the new strategy, including through the regional networks.

The draft resolution entitled "Towards a Movement strategy on migration", contained in document CD/22/7DR, was adopted, as amended. (Resolution 9, CD/22/R9)

Item 15 Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Operational Arrangements dated 28 November 2005 between Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society (*documents CD/22/15 and CD/22/DR15*)

Mr Tickner (Independent Monitor for the Memorandum of Understanding) expressed deep regret that, since the previous Council of Delegates, no further progress had been made in the implementation of the geographical scope and consent provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding. His reports had consistently urged the parties to honour their commitments to humanitarian collaboration as set out in the Agreement on Operational Arrangements.

Mr Eisa (Secretary General, Libyan Red Crescent), speaking on behalf of 18 National Societies of the Red Crescent, welcomed the reference in the draft resolution to the Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the admittance to the Movement of the two National Societies. It was regrettable to see that many elements of the Memorandum of Understanding had not been implemented. The provision of humanitarian services by the Palestinian Red Cross continued to be hindered. He therefore called for the application, by the Magen David Adom, of the principles of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, particularly those exemplified by the Memorandum of Understanding, and the principles of international humanitarian law. The Memorandum of Understanding and the monitoring mechanism must be implemented in order for the Movement to ensure its credibility and respect of its principles.

The draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Operational Arrangements dated 28 November 2005 between Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society", contained in document CD/22/15DR, was adopted. (Resolution 10, CD/22/R10)

Item 11 Strengthening the resilience of urban communities: Our way forward (*documents CD/22/11 and CD/22/DR11*)

A short introductory video was shown.

Mr Hori (Special Representative of President for International Affairs, Japanese Red Cross) said that the draft resolution was a timely opportunity for all components to declare their strong commitment to scaling up efforts to strengthen the resilience of urban communities. The draft resolution recognized all the good work carried out to date and called on the Movement to step up its actions and carry them out more effectively, as

a collective and beyond.

Ms Carvajal de Álvarez (National President, Colombian Red Cross) said that, in order to increase urban resilience, the Movement needed to increase its presence, influence, collective action and impact in urban contexts to address the challenges faced by urban communities. The draft resolution was an important step towards achieving that goal.

Mr Blamoh (Secretary General, Liberian Red Cross Society) said that the draft resolution was timely, necessary and brought together all the components of the Movement. He invited other National Societies to join the Movement Urban Resilience Working Group.

Mr Anani, (Vice-President, IFRC) said that the creation of the Movement Urban Resilience Working Group would anchor the role of the IFRC network in meeting the challenges of preparing for and responding to urban crises, and in extending its influence to other key urban stakeholders through the formulation and adoption of the proposed principles of action for urban resilience.

Mr Yamo (National Chairman, Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society), speaking on behalf of the 14 National Societies of the Pacific, said that urban settlements within the Pacific were more at risk than in any other region in the world. There was space for the Movement to partner with local governments and stakeholders on improving conditions and increasing urban resilience in the region. New innovative solutions needed to be designed by and specifically for the Pacific nations, with major input from the younger generation. The Movement should support such interventions through the provision of resourcing and technical assistance, the allocation of flexible funding, and should advocate the co-creation of initiatives with youth. Young people should also be included to help lead the Movement Urban Resilience Working Group. A wide range of urban contexts, such as those faced by Pacific communities, must also be considered during the development of the principles of action.

Ms Lachmann (Youth Delegate, German Red Cross) reiterated the critical importance of contextual understanding and systems thinking in strengthening the resilience of urban communities. Communities must be placed at the centre of the Movement's action. Through community-driven participatory processes, urban communities could contribute to building safe, resilient and sustainable cities, ultimately reducing the impact of disasters and crises in their living environment.

Mr Valastro (Vice-President, Italian Red Cross) called on National Societies to step up their action, including with the support of the IFRC, to advocate for the adoption of laws on volunteering at the national level, and to ensure that measures were in place to support and protect volunteers. It was vital to promote a comprehensive and holistic approach to resilience, taking into consideration all its dimensions and promoting a multisectoral approach, including by exploring creative and innovative ways to collaborate.

Mr Ahmadi Ghazanloo (Youth Member, Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran) said that resilience was directly related to knowledge and expertise. His National Society had significant experience in the area of resilience, including regarding the promotion of entrepreneurship for vulnerable groups, and was willing to share that experience with other National Societies.

Mr Nguyen (Vice-President/Secretary General, Viet Nam Red Cross Society) said that, to enhance the Movement's role in strengthening urban resilience, it was crucial for National Societies to establish sound partnerships with local governments, through flexible engagement approaches that could be applied to a variety of institutional models in cities. National Societies needed to have standard tools with relevant approaches, to establish a mechanism to build the capacities of Movement staff, volunteers and young people, to make use of available data to facilitate assessment and analysis processes, and to ensure the digitalization of information. A mechanism should be created to facilitate fundraising from local private sectors to guarantee financial sustainability. National Societies should concentrate on empowering women and vulnerable groups, and on promoting gender equality and universally accessible response, recovery and reconstruction approaches. It was essential to adopt innovative approaches that were tailored to meet urban resilience requirements. National Societies should also encourage city governments and councils to integrate resilience into their socioeconomic development strategies, and to create legal frameworks that helped National Societies to maximize their role and operations.

Mr Carbonnier (Vice-President, ICRC) reiterated the strong complementarity between the draft resolution on strengthening the resilience of urban communities and the resolution on war in cities. Over the past year, the ICRC had collaborated closely with the IFRC in the drafting of both resolutions and was strongly committed to ensuring their implementation.

The draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the resilience of urban communities: Our way forward", contained in document CD/22/DR11, was adopted. (Resolution 11, CD/22/R11)

Item 16 Safeguarding humanitarian data (*documents CD/22/16 and CD/22/DR16*)

Mr Staehelin (Director, ICRC) said that the breach of the Movement's servers and data earlier in the year had painfully highlighted the need for increased action to safeguard the data entrusted to it. The draft resolution provided an opportunity to come together as a Movement and to state, with one voice, that breaches of humanitarian data were unacceptable. It was the culmination of fast-paced Movement-wide consultations and was the starting point of further work. He strongly encouraged National Societies to adopt the draft resolution in order for the Movement to take the next important step in its legal, policy and technical work to safeguard humanitarian data.

Ms Stoilkovich (Under Secretary General, IFRC) said that the use of data and digitalization was growing exponentially around the world and that people increasingly expected the Movement to use digital solutions. The IFRC Governing Board had therefore adopted the first ever digital transformation strategy in May 2021. Responsible use of data, including data protection, was an intrinsic part of the strategy, which meant that the IFRC had to find the appropriate tools, properly vet those tools, and ensure that they were implemented safely. The draft resolution called on the Movement to reflect on and improve its data management. The Movement needed to be clear and critical about the purpose for which it collected personal data and provide relevant and easy-to-understand information to the people it served. It must make every effort to minimize the personal data that it collected and stored and explore ways to efficiently anonymize and pseudonymize such data, while retaining its usefulness. It was important to provide training on, and investment in, data protection, foster secure and regular communication on key issues throughout the Movement and sustainably invest in IT security measures. Increasing the Movement's defence was a collective responsibility that was beneficial for all.

Mr Burkitt (Deputy President, Australian Red Cross) said that the Movement should do more to promote and merit the trust of the people that it served. Its components must communicate in a timely and transparent manner both among themselves and with the communities with which they worked. The Movement should be honest about the limits of its knowledge and plan for legitimate access, bearing in mind the reality of the current world, as well as do its utmost to mitigate all resulting risks as a collective. It should also demonstrate its commitment to best practice in all of its work.

Ms Clement (Director of Law and Policy, International, British Red Cross) said that the data breach had highlighted the need for both State and non-State actors to respect the humanitarian purpose of the Movement's work, as well as the national, regional and international legal frameworks protecting personal data. Domestic legal regimes were at the centre of the Movement's data protection practices, and it was important for all components to support National Societies in meeting those obligations. It would be useful to further clarify what qualified as humanitarian data. A common understanding of the term could contribute to the development of more robust legal and policy frameworks on the matter. The adoption of the draft resolution would send a strong signal that the cyberattack would not stop the Movement from carrying out its humanitarian activities and that the experience had only led it to redouble its efforts to protect personal data to the greatest extent possible.

Mr Da Costa (President, French Red Cross) said that data, whether personal or not, which were processed as part of humanitarian operations, must be subject to specific and unique protection. The Movement needed to coordinate in order to further clarify its internal rules of operation with regard to such data.

Mr Valastro (Vice-President, Italian Red Cross) welcomed the draft resolution's focus on cooperation to ensure that humanitarian data were not requested or used for purposes incompatible with the Movement's

humanitarian nature, and on the importance of further engaging in dialogue with States, in accordance with each component's mandate and capacity, to strengthen the safeguarding of humanitarian data.

Ms Aaltonen (President, Finnish Red Cross) said that the Movement must proactively engage in advocacy to facilitate the respect and protection of humanitarian data by others. It was essential to ensure that decision-makers, public authorities and the general public understood that the Movement collected personal data for purely humanitarian purposes and that it must remain confidential. The Movement should also effectively communicate that such conditions regarding data collection were a prerequisite for fulfilling its mandates and responsibilities. The Movement had a responsibility to remain vigilant and guarantee that, in a fast-changing world, it was able to adapt and that it had established adequate data protection and facilities.

Mr Solís González (National President, Red Cross Society of Panama), expressing concern at the increasing number of separated families and disappeared persons as a result of different emergencies and crises across the world, said that affected families should be provided with a comprehensive and effective response. It was paramount to ensure that the staff and volunteers of National Societies were familiar with, and applied the practices of, the Movement Code of Conduct for Data Protection.

Mr Schön (Vice-President, German Red Cross) said that the Movement should advocate for the protection of the humanitarian data of impartial humanitarian organizations more broadly. To do so, close cooperation with other organizations and a strong commitment to building the Movement's capacities, particularly at National Society level, would be necessary. Dialogue with States, other organizations and experts should be initiated in advance of the next International Conference, in order to research and develop the necessary measures on data protection.

Mr Mehra (Board Chair, Canadian Red Cross Society), speaking on behalf of the American Red Cross, the Bangladesh Red Crescent, the Canadian Red Cross, the Indian Red Cross, the Lithuanian Red Cross and the Turkish Red Crescent, said that the principles of personal data protection would remain solely principles unless they were rooted in domestic law. A best-practice approach should be taken in cases where domestic laws did not offer adequate protection of personal information. Domestic regulatory regimes must be at the centre of the Movement's practices when serving the people most at risk in the country in which they were affected. All Movement components should acknowledge the adherence of National Societies to domestic data protection and privacy laws and support them in meeting their domestic data requirements.

Ms van Schaik (Secretary General, Netherlands Red Cross) called for the sharing of expertise and the creation of an internal network to strengthen the Movement with regard to data protection. It was necessary to involve external expertise to help speed up the Movement's digital transformation and to obtain the moral investment of the private sector, including Big Tech, to ensure a safe digital humanitarian impact.

Mr Ahmed (President, Red Crescent Society of Djibouti), speaking on behalf of the Djibouti Red Crescent, the Kenya Red Cross, the Tanzania Red Cross, the Zambia Red Cross and the Zimbabwe Red Cross, said that public authorities must provide for measures to deter, prevent and punish humanitarian data breaches. The risk of humanitarian data breaches needs to be considered in the context of National Society development needs, as many National Societies lacked the hardware, software, personnel and know-how to effectively prevent cyberattacks. The Movement should therefore increase investment to build the digital capacities of National Societies, particularly in terms of cybersecurity.

Mr El Haddad (Director of Legal Affairs, Lebanese Red Cross) said that it was important to learn lessons from the recent data breach. Anticipatory action was required to prevent the event from happening again in the future. The breach should be dealt with internally between the ICRC and the IT company that handled the ICRC server.

Mr Soria Vasco (Ecuadorian Red Cross) outlined the action taken by the AmerSUR Restoring Family Links Network following the data breach.

Mr Garcia Garcia (Director General, Nicaraguan Red Cross) acknowledged the important opportunity provided by the Council of Delegates for the Movement to improve its response, given that data processing was an integral part of its humanitarian services.

Mr Pinto (President, Angola Red Cross) emphasized the importance of strengthening data protection in light of the increase in human trafficking across the world. He appealed to other National Societies to help the Angola Red Cross in its humanitarian response to the drought taking place in the country.

Ms Carvajal de Álvarez (National President, Colombian Red Cross) said that the recent cybersecurity breach had demonstrated the vulnerability of humanitarian organizations to data breaches and cyber operations and had revealed, in some cases, legal loopholes in state laws protecting humanitarian data. It had also been an indication of the growing threat of cyber operations against humanitarian organizations.

Ms Chacón-Retana (Youth Volunteer, Costa Rican Red Cross) said that the Costa Rican Government was currently facing a cyberattack on various of its systems, including the health system via the social security system, and did not have the means to address it effectively. Priority investment was needed in the area of data protection.

Mr Cheniti (Deputy General Treasurer, Tunisian Red Crescent) suggested that an early warning system be established within the Movement, which would issue a warning in the event of a leak or other threat, and which would propose additional protection measures in real time. A central IT security agency would oversee the system and provide technical support and upgrades for National Societies to reduce the digital gap among them.

The draft resolution entitled "Safeguarding humanitarian data", contained in document CD/22/16, was adopted. (Resolution 12, CD/22/R12)

HONORARY MOMENT

Ms Babé (Chair, Standing Commission) said that, as the President of the ICRC was chairing his last Council of Delegates and would be standing down from his presidency in September 2022, the Council of Delegates would take a few moments to pay tribute to his work.

Mr Anani (National President, Nigerian Red Cross Society) said that Mr Maurer possessed deep empathy for people in need. He had secured critical respect and support for humanitarian action and had invigorated humanitarian diplomacy globally. In Nigeria, he had ensured that the ICRC partnered effectively with the Nigerian Red Cross. The impact of his leadership had been felt within the Movement and in the development of National Societies in general. The Nigerian Red Cross expressed its thanks to Mr Maurer and wished him all the best in his future endeavours.

Mr Rocca (President, IFRC) thanked Mr Maurer for his continuous support and advice. Although there had been differences and disagreements, they had been able to work through them to become the perfect team. They had been consistent in their common principles and values and had enjoyed honest and frank discussions. Together, they had achieved a great deal and Mr Maurer had taught him much. Mr Maurer had stimulated discussions in different ways and had advanced the humanitarian agenda in many places and many situations across the world. He had also fought for the achievement of gender balance and parity, which would be marked by his successor.

Ms Babé (Chair, Standing Commission) said that diplomacy had always been an important part of Mr Maurer's work with the ICRC and that he had helped to ensure improvements in the living conditions of people suffering the consequences of conflict and other situations of violence. It had been a pleasure to work with him, despite the difficulties that they had sometimes encountered. She wished him the very best in the future and in his new responsibilities and tasks. Wherever Mr Maurer went, he would always be welcome as a volunteer.

Mr Maurer (Chair, Council of Delegates) said that Africa had been at the heart of his emotions during his presidency. It had also been the region to which he had travelled most, which was a reflection of where action had been focused over the past 10 years. He expressed thanks for the cooperation, leadership and dedication of National Societies and for the reception that they had given him. He had appreciated the frank and tough exchanges with Mr Rocca and considered that the institutional differences that they had

experienced had been necessary. He acknowledged that he had not always been an easy partner to work with. However, it had not been because he was a difficult person intrinsically, but rather because the world was a difficult place, and because everyone was struggling to cope with the complexities with which they were confronted. Huge progress had been made at the current Council of Delegates and he felt optimistic. It had been possible to move beyond principles and words to plans of action on difficult issues on which nobody else in the world really agreed, which proved that the Movement had a role to play and a function to fulfil. He thanked the members of the Standing Commission and all the presidents of National Societies for their positive and productive interactions in recent years. He also thanked Mr Rocca for a great journey and partnership.

The meeting rose at 12:10 pm

Fourth plenary meeting

1:30 pm

APPEAL FOR RESPECT FOR NEUTRAL AND IMPARTIAL HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Ms Babé (Chair, Standing Commission), speaking on behalf of the President of the IFRC, Mr Rocca, the President of the ICRC, Mr Maurer, and herself, said that she was deeply concerned by the rise in humanitarian needs globally due to armed conflict, violence, disasters and other crises. She was also increasingly worried by all forms of restriction of access to the provision of relief by neutral and impartial humanitarian actors. The persistence of acts of violence and threats against humanitarian workers was unacceptable. The IFRC, ICRC and the Standing Commission expressed their resolve to pursue efforts to reduce the risks to the humanitarian impact of crises and to strengthen capacities at local and international levels for an effective and accountable response. They furthermore reaffirmed their commitment to the Fundamental Principles of the Movement as the common foundation of their work to protect and assist populations in need. She appealed to States, in their capacity as high-contracting parties to the Geneva Conventions and as members of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to fulfil their responsibilities to support the Movement's work and respect the adherence of all its components to the Fundamental Principles at all times. She also called on States and stakeholders to take proactive steps to safeguard principled humanitarian action and to facilitate the provision of humanitarian relief to populations in need.

III FOLLOW-UP AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Mr Mauer (Chair, Council of Delegates) listed the follow-up and progress reports submitted to the Council of Delegates, on which no speakers had requested the floor: Report on Resolution 1 of the 2019 Council of Delegates "Movement-wide Commitments for Community Engagement and Accountability" (*CD/22/17*); Report on Resolution 2 of the 2019 Council of Delegates "Statement on Integrity of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement" (*CD/22/18*); Report on Resolution 7 of the 2019 Council of Delegates "Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement: Ten years on" (*CD/22/20*); Report on Resolution 9 of the 2019 Council of Delegates "Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC 2.0)" (*CD/22/21*); Addendum to the final progress report on Resolution 4 of the 2015 Council of Delegates "Adoption of the Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement" (*CD/22/23*) (which served as an addendum to the 2017 and 2019 reports); Fourth progress report on Resolution 7 of the 2013 Council of Delegates "Weapons and international humanitarian law" (*CD/22/24*), covering the period from November 2019 to February 2022; Progress report of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund (*CD/22/26*); and Report on the work of the Standing Commission 2020–2022 (*CD/22/27*).

Ms Hocaoglu (Youth Delegate, Australian Red Cross) expressed recognition for the work carried out so far

by the Working Group for the Follow-Up of the Statement on Integrity of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the establishment of a consolidated resource platform for integrity-related policies, practices and resources from across the Movement. However, while developing, implementing and adhering to policies reflecting community expectations and legal obligations was necessary to retain trust in humanitarian action, it was not sufficient. The trust given to the Movement by communities could be shattered or lost by one small action or lack of transparency or accountability, with global implications. Trust should therefore be cultivated every day through the Movement's actions. Integrity could not be limited to what was said in a sweep of policy documents. It must be a daily communal practice, a mode of self-reflection and a willingness to admit that compromise was a feature and not a failure of humanitarian work. Integrity was a never-ending discussion and a passionate discourse that needed to happen at all levels within and among Movement components. While her National Society supported the Working Group's plan on promoting integrity "think tank" events, the Movement should ensure that all components individually and collectively facilitated ethical, principled and diverse discussions that reflected their daily experiences across the world.

The Council of Delegates noted the reports contained in documents CD/22/17, CD/22/18, CD/22/20, CD/22/21, CD/22/23, CD/22/24, CD/22/26 and CD/22/27.

Item 19 Report on Resolution 5 of the 2019 Council of Delegates "International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement policy on addressing mental health and psychosocial needs" (document CD/22/19)

Mr Lobor (Secretary General, South Sudan Red Cross), speaking on behalf of the Austrian Red Cross, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent, the Belgian Red Cross, the Brazilian Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Red Cross Society of China, the Colombian Red Cross, the Croatian Red Cross, the Cyprus Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, the French Red Cross, the Kenyan Red Cross, the Liberian Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the IFRC, the ICRC, and the South Sudan Red Cross, summarized the progress detailed in the report, and informed the process towards establishing a RCRC Movement MHPSS Hub and the wish to include mental health and psychosocial support as an agenda item for the 2024 CoD. He invited any interested National Societies to join the future coordination and leadership groups forming part of the planned joint governance structure.

Mr Batres-Rodríguez (Operations Deputy Manager, Costa Rican Red Cross) recognized the progress made under the resolution since 2019 and gave examples of the mental health support provided to staff and volunteers in recent years in his country.

The Council of Delegates noted the report contained in document CD/22/19.

Item 22 Second progress report on Resolution 2 of the 2017 Council of Delegates "Movement-wide principles for resource mobilization" (document CD/22/22)

Mr Apeland (Chair, Virtual Fundraising Hub) said that, while the Hub had made significant achievements, it was still far from fulfilling its ambition. If more National Societies joined the iRaiser platform and the two global Movement campaigns launched, the potential of the Hub would increase enormously.

The Council of Delegates noted the report contained in document CD/22/22.

Item 25 Progress report on Resolution 3 of the 2019 Council of Delegates "Movement approach to strengthening National Society statutory and constitutional base and complementary frameworks" by the Joint ICRC/International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes (document CD/22/25)

Ms Aït-Mohamed Parent (Independent Chair, Joint ICRC/International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes) introduced the report and encouraged the National Societies that had not yet done so to conduct a review of their statutes by the end of 2024. The Joint Commission, the IFRC and the ICRC remained available to provide any support or advice required.

Ms Tutuo (President, Solomon Islands Red Cross), speaking on behalf of the 14 National Societies of the Pacific, said that nine out of the 14 National Societies had already revised their constitutions and another two had recently started the process, which was partly thanks to the creation of the Pacific Constitutional Advisory Committee. She repeated the call for the whole Movement to find ways to amplify the voices of Pacific National Societies, which could include a review of the Joint Commission's operational modalities, in order to more be closely aligned with the IFRC's support for National Society development. Such a review would enable small National Societies to gather together to compare statutes and learn from similar challenges. It would be useful for the Pacific Constitutional Advisory Committee to hold consultations with the Joint Commission, and with the ICRC, to discuss how similar modalities could be established in other subregions.

The Council of Delegates noted the report contained in document CD/22/25.

IV CLOSING OF THE COUNCIL

Item 28 Date and venue of the next Council of Delegates (*document CD/22/R13*)

Mr Maurer (Chair, Council of Delegates) invited the Co-Secretary of the Council of Delegates, Ms Pema, to read out an "omnibus resolution" entitled "Towards the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent" which welcomed the "Appeal for Respect for Neutral and Impartial Humanitarian Action" made by the Chair of the Standing Commission, the President of the IFRC and the President of the ICRC, and included the date and venue of the 2024 Council of Delegates.

The next Council of Delegates will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on dates to be determined by the Standing Commission between 24 and 28 October 2024.

The draft resolution entitled "Towards the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent" was adopted. (Resolution 13, CD/22/R13)

Mr Maurer (Chair, Council of Delegates), thanking all participants for their contributions, declared the Council of Delegates closed.

The meeting closed at 14:20 pm

THE AWARDS CEREMONY FOR THE HENRY DUNANT MEDAL INCLUDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL AWARD

Geneva, Wednesday 22 June 2022

6:30 pm

Mr Mubaraka (Master of Ceremonies and Youth Delegate, Uganda Red Cross) said that the award ceremony would focus on the two oldest and most prominent medals of the Movement, which also commemorated two of the most inspiring and emblematic figures of humanitarianism, Henry Dunant and Florence Nightingale.

Ms Chocarro (Master of Ceremonies and Youth Delegate, Spanish Red Cross) said that Henry Dunant and Florence Nightingale had been contemporaries. They had shared a great communion of spirit and mutual admiration, despite their disagreements and different visions of organizing assistance for the wounded. They had both died in 1910, two months apart.

Mr Mubaraka declared the award ceremony open.

Florence Nightingale Medal

Ms Chocarro said that the Florence Nightingale Medal had been established in 1912 by the Ninth International Conference of the Red Cross. The year 2020 had marked the bicentenary of Florence Nightingale's birth, around the same time as the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Florence Nightingale had been a pioneer in the development of public health statistics, which had played a significant role during the pandemic.

Mr Mubaraka said that the COVID-19 pandemic had clearly underscored the challenging and sometimes thankless nature of nursing work. Since the start of the pandemic, nurses had been working on the front lines more than ever before, around the clock and often in highly difficult conditions. Some had been targets of stigma while others had fallen victim to the disease.

Mr Chocarro said that the Florence Nightingale Medal was awarded by the ICRC every two years based on nominations put forward by the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

A short introductory video was shown on the Florence Nightingale Medal.

Mr Mubaraka said that the Florence Nightingale Medal could be awarded to nurses or voluntary nursing assistants who had distinguished themselves in times of peace or war. They were nominated by their respective National Societies and selected by a committee comprising the ICRC, the IFRC and the International Council of Nurses.

Ms Chocarro said that, on the occasion of the International Nurses Day on 12 May 2021, 25 nurses from 18 countries had been awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal, which recognized exceptional courage and devotion to victims of armed conflict or natural disasters.

Mr Mubaraka said that the Medal also recognized the exemplary service of a pioneering spirit in the areas of public health or nursing education. In 2021, two nurses had received the medal posthumously.

A short video was shown on the winners of the Florence Nightingale Medal 2021:

Ms Bernadette Gleeson (posthumous award) – presented by the Australian Red Cross

Ms Arasta Bakhishova (posthumous award) – presented by the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan

Ms Liudmila Buzel and Mrs Elvira Shabanova – presented by the Red Cross Society of Belarus

Mr Georges Lande Glele Kakaï - presented by the Red Cross of Benin
 Ms Shouzhen Cheng, Ms Minhua Hu and Ms Yali Tuo - presented by the Red Cross Society of China
 Mr Christopher Lewis Calderón Bailey and Ms Carolina Soto Villalobos - presented by the Costa Rican Red Cross
 Ms Eva Jordung Nicolson - presented by the Danish Red Cross
 Dr Jorma Jokela - resented by the Finnish Red Cross
 Mr Seyed Naser Emadi Chashmi - presented by the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran
 Ms Noriko Tomabechi and Ms Chiyoko Fujita - presented by the Japanese Red Cross Society
 Ms Tatyana Spiglazova - presented by the Kazakh Red Crescent Society
 Ms Milka Yuda - presented by the Kenya Red Cross Society
 Ms Marianne Stöger - presented by the Republic of Korea National Red Cross
 Ms Wahida Ghalayini - presented by the Lebanese Red Cross
 Ms Turis Andreassen and Ms Tonje Tingberg - presented by the Norwegian Red Cross
 Ms Waleeporn Riyagoon - presented by the Thai Red Cross Society
 Ms Alla Novikova - presented by the Ukrainian Red Cross Society
 Mr Abdullah Salah Ali Zurba and Ms Etidal El Qabati - presented by the Yemen Red Crescent Society

Ms Chocarro thanked the 25 winners of the Florence Nightingale Medal 2021 and invited those present to give a round of applause.

Henry Dunant Medal

Mr Mubaraka said that the Henry Dunant Medal had been created by the 20th International Conference in 1965 to recognize and reward outstanding services and acts of great devotion to the cause of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement by individual members. It was the highest honour that the Movement bestowed upon its members. Recipients were selected by the Standing Commission based on nominations received from the components of the Movement.

Ms Chocarro invited Ms Babé to come to the stage to act as Chair and to present the medals.

Ms Babé (Chair, Standing Commission) recalled the term “bonhomie” used by Silvia Gévez, the Colombian Red Cross Youth President and Vice-Chair of the IFRC Youth Commission, at the opening ceremony of the statutory meetings, and made reference to the definition provided by geographer, naturalist and explorer, Alexander Von Humboldt, in the 19th century: “Simplicity of character, work for the good of coexistence, solidarity, altruism and philanthropy are the values of bonhomie”. The persons who were about to receive the Henry Dunant Medal had demonstrated those values.

In 2021, the Standing Commission had received 16 nominations, and had exceptionally decided to award the Medal to seven members instead of five, two of whom would be receiving the award posthumously.

First Awardee – Dr Ligia Leroux de Ramírez

Ms Babé said that the Medal had been awarded posthumously to Dr Ligia Leroux de Ramírez, who had passed away in 2020.

Ms Chocarro invited Dr Leroux de Ramírez’s daughter, Ms Ligia María Ramírez Leroux, to approach the stage to receive the Henry Dunant Medal, and President of the IFRC, Mr Francesco Rocca, to read out a tribute.

Amid applause, Ms Ligia María Ramírez Leroux approached the stage to receive the Henry Dunant Medal on behalf of her mother, Dr Ligia Leroux de Ramírez.

Mr Francesco Rocca (President, IFRC) said that Dr Ligia Leroux de Ramírez had a doctorate in pharmaceutical and chemical sciences. In 2000, after a successful career in academic and public service, she had been appointed President of the Dominican Red Cross, a position which she had held until her

passing in 2020. Her death had been a heartbreaking loss for her family, her National Society and the Movement. During her presidency, Dr Leroux de Ramírez had pushed through a number of programmes to develop her National Society, by expanding and deepening its local activities and by strengthening cooperation with other National Societies in the region and beyond.

She had been elected in 2009 and 2013 to serve on the IFRC Governing Board. In 2017, she had been elected as President of the Inter-American Regional Committee of the Red Cross and had worked tirelessly to enhance the cohesiveness and unity of the National Societies in the region. She had been a natural and intuitive leader with great personal warmth. She had also been a leading activist for social progress and justice and a dedicated mentor to younger generations. Her inspiring actions had pushed boundaries in many domains.

For her unwavering commitment and service to the Movement, the Standing Commission had unanimously agreed to posthumously award the Henry Dunant Medal – the Movement’s highest distinction – to Dr Ligia Leroux de Ramírez.

Dr Ligia María Ramírez Leroux thanked the Standing Commission for the award on behalf of her family.

Second Awardee – Mr Ivan Usichenko

Ms Babé said that the Medal had been awarded posthumously to Dr Ivan Usichenko, who had passed away in 2021. She invited Dr Ivan Usichenko’s son, Mr Taras Usichenko, to approach the stage, and member of the Standing Commission, Mr Abbas Gullet, to read out a tribute.

Amid applause, Mr Taras Usichenko approached the stage to receive the Henry Dunant Medal on behalf of his father, Dr Ivan Usichenko.

Mr Abbas Gullet (Member, Standing Commission) said that Dr Ivan Usichenko, a trained medical doctor, had become President of the Ukrainian Red Cross in 1986. After stepping down in 2018, he had remained its honorary president until his passing in 2021, which had been a very sad loss for his family, his National Society and the Movement.

In 1986, Dr Usichenko had headed the medical effort and humanitarian assistance in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster. His exceptional performance and leadership during the crisis, and the running of the rehabilitation programme in the aftermath, had won him broad international recognition. He had striven to develop the Ukrainian Red Cross in many areas and to integrate it into the Movement, thus making it the first of the former USSR countries to become a member. During the civil unrest in Ukraine in 2013, the Crimea crisis and the eruption of armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine in 2014, Dr Usichenko had ensured that his National Society had played a major, well-recognized and neutral role. He had been widely hailed for relentlessly taking the initiative and showing unfailing commitment to the defence of the Movement’s Fundamental Principles, even in perilous situations. Dr Usichenko had been an esteemed and beloved figure in the Movement. He had been passionate about humanitarian action and had succeeded in galvanizing people of all walks of life to the Movement’s mission. He left behind a rich and inspiring legacy.

For his unwavering commitment and service to the Movement, the Standing Commission had unanimously agreed to posthumously award the Henry Dunant Medal – the Movement’s highest distinction – to Dr Ivan Usichenko.

Mr Taras Usichenko thanked the Standing Commission for the award on behalf of his family.

Third Awardee – Professor Mohammed Al Maadheed

Ms Chocarro invited Professor Al Maadheed to approach the stage to receive the Henry Dunant Medal, and Dr Hilal Al Sayer, President of the Kuwait Red Crescent and member of the Standing Commission, to read out a tribute.

Amid applause, Professor Mohammed Al Maadheed approached the stage to receive the Henry Dunant

Medal.

Dr Hilal Al Sayer (President, Kuwait Red Crescent) said that Professor Al Maadheed, who was a physician by training, had led the Qatar Red Crescent, first as Secretary General in 2000, and then as President from 2008 to 2020. He had striven to strengthen the operational and institutional capacities of many National Societies with few resources, through cooperation programmes and regional partnerships. As President of the Qatar Red Crescent, he had worked with various components of the Movement, other organizations, the private sector and government bodies all over the world, to build disaster response capacity, develop rehabilitation plans and promote international humanitarian law. He had been elected Vice-President of the IFRC in 2009 and had chaired the Board Priorities Oversight Group.

Professor Al Maadheed was a leader with an open mind and big heart and had been hailed as a visionary humanitarian worker. Despite having stepped down as President of his National Society, he continued to promote humanitarian diplomacy through his medical research on the health of vulnerable migrant workers and the publication of books and articles.

For his unwavering commitment and service to the Movement, the Standing Commission had unanimously agreed to award the Henry Dunant Medal – the Movement’s highest distinction – to Professor Mohammed Al Maadheed.

Professor Mohammed Al Maadheed (Qatar Red Crescent) thanked all the National Societies that had nominated him and the Standing Commission for awarding him the Medal. However, his deepest thanks went to the women and men of the Qatar Red Crescent, who carried out their hard work in difficult and dangerous situations. During his career, he had thought that the principles for success were knowledge of the subject matter, hard work and sincerity to the mission at hand. Yet, after three decades, he had realized that another important factor was luck. He had been quite lucky in his life and had had access to a good education, despite being born in the middle of the desert during a sandstorm. He was grateful that, throughout his entire career, he had worked in fields in which suffering could be alleviated and help provided. Working as a physician had involved helping one patient at a time. But, when he had arrived at the Qatar Red Crescent, his work had involved helping large numbers of people. In 2021, his National Society had benefited 13 million people, which was a humbling and magnificent achievement. He was planning to work in research for the rest of his life and had a wonderful research team that was working on finding novel medicines for rare diseases. He hoped that they would succeed and contribute to the alleviation of suffering.

The Movement should be proud of itself for having benefited so many people in the last 150 years. It should also be proud of international humanitarian law, how it had been established and how the Movement was propagating it. The Movement therefore had a responsibility for the next generation and for taking international humanitarian law forward. The strength of the Movement lay in its diversity and the synergies that it could create, which were the engine for the power of humanity. During disasters, he had seen how magnificent the Movement was, despite its problems. He had also seen the compassion of the human soul in abundance in the most difficult situations. He had had many discussions and arguments with people who had said that the reality of life was ugly, and that survival was for the fittest. But the members of the Movement were there because they wanted to change that reality and because they had ideals and ideas. He concluded by referring to the 13th century philosopher and poet, Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī, who said that intellect was necessary to be able to deal with the messy world, but that human beings were on a much higher level as individuals and should live though love.

Fourth Awardee – Mr Tadateru Konoe

Mr Mubarak invited the Head of Delegation of the Japanese Red Cross, Mr Otohiko Hori, to approach the stage to receive the Henry Dunant Medal on behalf of Mr Konoe, who could not be present, and the Vice-Chair of the Standing Commission, Mr George Weber, to read out a tribute.

Amid applause, Mr Otohiko Hori approached the stage to receive the Henry Dunant Medal on behalf of Mr Tadateru Konoe.

Mr Weber (Vice-Chair, Standing Commission) said that Mr Konoe had dedicated over five decades to advancing the Movement’s humanitarian work. He had joined the Japanese Red Cross at the age of 25. A

succession of posts alternating between his National Society and the IFRC had helped shape his vision of the Movement's work. In 2005, he had become President of the Japanese Red Cross and was then elected President of the IFRC in 2009 and 2013. As President of his National Society, he had introduced reforms to help it adapt to societal changes to better meet future challenges. He had also led it to deliver urgent and effective assistance in a period when Japan had been hit by multiple disasters. As IFRC President, he had worked to enhance cooperation within the Movement, strengthen National Society capacity-building and resilience, and improve governance. His efforts in support of the Movement's advocacy for the elimination of nuclear weapons had been widely recognized. Mr Konoe emanated natural grace and was the personification of dignity, humility, dedication and compassion. He also embodied a quiet and honest enthusiasm for the Movement's values and ideals.

For his unwavering commitment and service to the Movement, the Standing Commission had unanimously agreed to award the Henry Dunant Medal – the Movement's highest distinction – to Mr Tadateru Konoe.

A recorded video message delivered by Mr Konoe was shown:

Mr Konoe said that it was a great pleasure to receive the Medal. He expressed his sincere appreciation for the award, and his regret at not being able to attend the ceremony. It had been five years since his time as President of the IFRC had come to an end. At the time, he had claimed to be "78 years young" not "old" and had declared that he would remain a lifelong "Red Crosser". He was now "83 years young" and still a Red Crosser. The world continued to face significant humanitarian challenges. There were many Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers and staff working around the globe with dedication at that very moment and it seemed unlikely that the role of Red Crossers would ever come to an end. He encouraged them to continue their work together in the spirit of togetherness.

Fifth Awardee – Ms Christine Lightbourne

Mr Mubaraka invited Ms Lightbourne to approach the stage to receive the Henry Dunant Medal, and the Secretary General of the Cook Islands Red Cross and member of the Standing Commission, Ms Fine Tu'itupou-Arnold, to read out a tribute.

Amid applause, Ms Christine Lightbourne approached the stage to receive the Henry Dunant Medal.

Ms Tu'itupou-Arnold (Cook Islands Red Cross) said that Ms Lightbourne had been a lifelong volunteer in the Bahamas Red Cross' Abaco Islands branch. She had joined the local branch at the age of eight and remained an engaged volunteer. After completing various volunteer training programmes, she had chosen to focus on shelter protection in the Abaco Islands, which was frequently hit by hurricanes. For over three decades, she had demonstrated commitment to serving the vulnerable in hurricane rescue operations and to disaster mitigations measures, which she had headed in her branch. Her capacity and determination were well known. Her dedication had been best demonstrated when, during the response to Hurricane Dorian, she had been informed of the collapse of her own house but had remained until the end to direct the operations. She was a warm and optimistic person who radiated positive energy, and who inspired a spirit of resilience in communities. She had set an example of selfless dedication and had galvanized many younger people to follow in her footsteps.

For her unwavering commitment and service to the Movement, the Standing Commission had unanimously agreed to award the Henry Dunant Medal – the Movement's highest distinction – to Ms Christine Lightbourne.

Ms Christine Lightbourne (Bahamas Red Cross) thanked the components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement worldwide for their auxiliary role in the relief efforts on the Abaco and Grand Bahama Islands following Hurricane Dorian. The Islands were rebuilding to become stronger and more resilient thanks to the tremendous generosity of the Red Cross and its donors, partners and volunteers. The IFRC President had arrived on Abaco with his team merely days after the storm and many delegates from several National Societies had followed to provide assistance. Their expertise, guidance and support had enabled her National Society to achieve some immediate and long-term goals, particularly concerning capacity-building and volunteerism.

It was with sincere gratitude that she accepted the Medal on behalf of the people of the Bahamas. She was humbled yet honoured that the Standing Commission had recognized her volunteering efforts. She would never have been standing at the award ceremony that day if it had not been for the love, prayers and never-ending support of her National Society. She truly appreciated its members and their efforts. Bahamians would always remember their kindness, humanity and selfless love. She therefore wished to thank her National Society on behalf of all Bahamians.

Sixth Awardee – Mr Philippe Gaillard

Ms Chocarro invited Mr Gaillard to approach the stage to receive the Henry Dunant Medal, and the President of the ICRC and member of the Standing Commission, Mr Peter Maurer, to read out a tribute.

Amid applause, Mr Philippe Gaillard approached the stage to receive the Henry Dunant Medal.

Mr Peter Maurer (President, ICRC) said that Mr Gaillard had joined the ICRC in 1982 as a tracing agency delegate in Iraq at the age of 25. Halfway through his career, he had been appointed Head of Delegation in Rwanda, several months before the beginning of the genocide that had ripped the country apart in 1994. He had taken the decision to maintain the ICRC's activities in Rwanda, in contrast with most international organizations, which had left the country at the start of the massacres. Working alongside the Rwandan Red Cross, the ICRC had continued to evacuate the wounded to hospital, setting up makeshift field hospitals and helping the population as best it could.

Mr Gaillard had risked his own life to report to the outside world on ongoing events. On many occasions, he crossed the front lines on his own to negotiate passage for the injured to be taken for medical care. Although he had used to say that he had only been able to pour "a drop of humanity into an ocean of blood", it had been estimated that, under his direction, the ICRC had saved around 80,000 lives. His personal courage and unflinching devotion to humanitarian action had led him to write a chapter, often untold, that had demonstrated the bright side of humanity in one of the darkest episodes in human history.

For his bravery, his unwavering commitment and service to the Movement, the Standing Commission had unanimously agreed to award the Henry Dunant Medal – the Movement's highest distinction – to Mr Philippe Gaillard.

Mr Gaillard said that he had been very flattered by Mr Maurer's words but that 80,000 persons was most likely an exaggeration. He expressed thanks for the decision to award him the Medal. It was not possible to summarize, in one and a half minutes, 27 years of collaboration with the ICRC, 25 of which had been in the field. Therefore, he wished to recount a short symbolic story about one of his experiences. In 1986, he had been working in the east of El Salvador, which had been under the strong influence of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (*Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional* – FMLN). He had been asked by Comandante Luisa to evacuate a young man named Oscar who had lost his sight and hands while making an anti-personnel mine for the FMLN. On the way to the government-controlled zone, Mr Gaillard's car had been stopped at a government checkpoint, and Oscar had been taken to a military garrison as a prisoner. However, the next day, when entering the garrison courtyard, Mr Gaillard had been surprised to see a soldier feeding Oscar there. For him, it had been one of the first signs of potential peace. A precedent had been created. The Red Cross had taken a wounded guerrilla member into a government-controlled zone, and he had been transferred to a government hospital. To create a precedent, you needed to have a bit of courage, a bit of audacity and a little bit of indiscipline, which was currently lacking at the ICRC, but which could return one day.

Seventh Awardee – Mr Manuel Salazar Álvarez

Ms Chocarro invited Mr Salazar Álvarez to approach the stage to receive the Henry Dunant Medal and Ms Babé, to read out a tribute.

Amid applause, Mr Manuel Salazar Álvarez approached the stage to receive the Henry Dunant Medal.

Ms Babé said that Mr Salazar Álvarez had joined the Costa Rican Red Cross at the age of 20. He had been an early pioneer in training first aiders and promoting first-aid training in his National Society, and subsequently throughout Central America. His efforts had culminated in the establishment of the Regional Committee of First Aiders in Central America in 1996. He had personally taken part in numerous high-risk operations during natural disasters and armed conflict, where he had invariably demonstrated his skills, courage and determination in saving lives and protecting fellow first aiders. One well-known example had been his leadership during a dramatic hijacking of a Nicaraguan plane by an armed group in 1971, which had been deviated to a Costa Rican airport. He had led his first aid team to help the evacuated hostages, despite the armed group's threats to blow up the plane.

During his lifelong service, Mr Salazar Álvarez' outstanding achievements had been many in various fields, which had improved the work and development of his National Society, including his pivotal role in promoting international humanitarian law in Costa Rica and beyond. He had been resolutely committed to the protection of humanity and had systematically placed the interest of others before his own, which made him a stellar example for generations to come.

For his unwavering commitment and service to the Movement, the Standing Commission had unanimously agreed to award the Henry Dunant Medal – the Movement's highest distinction – to Mr Manuel Salazar Álvarez.

Mr Salazar Álvarez (Costa Rican Red Cross) first thanked God for enabling him to provide his services as a volunteer for the Costa Rican Red Cross for over 60 years, and his family for putting up with his absences. He also wished to thank the Board of the Costa Rican Red Cross and all his colleagues.

Ms Chocarro, inviting all other laureates, representatives, members of the Standing Commission, family members and heads of National Society delegations to come to the stage, closed the ceremony.