



Power of humanity

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

27–28 October 2024, Geneva

2024 Council of Delegates

OUTLINE OF PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS

July 2023

EN

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Outline of proposed agenda topics for the 2024 Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The 2024 Council of Delegates will gather together the 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to discuss matters that concern the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as a whole.

The overarching objective of the Council of Delegates is to enhance the effectiveness of the Movement's humanitarian action and establish a strong, unified and unique Movement position on key topics ahead of the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The Council of Delegates will take place before the 34th International Conference, which is where the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions join the Movement components to take decisions and engage in debates on key issues of humanitarian concern. The Council of Delegates will have the task of adopting the provisional agenda and list of proposed officers of the International Conference.

This document provides an initial overview of the proposed topics to be addressed at the 2024 Council of Delegates, reflecting key dimensions of the Movement's work today that require action and have a significant impact for people and communities on the ground. They are areas where it is anticipated that decisions may be adopted or discussions required and include topics that have either been addressed by previous resolutions or proposed by workshops held at previous meetings of the Council of Delegates.

Please consider this document as an invitation to engage and provide further feedback on the topics listed below. We are counting on the active involvement of all Council of Delegates participants to ensure that the agenda is informed by humanitarian realities on the ground and that the outcomes enable us to work more effectively together.

Resolutions

- **Protection in the Movement: Reinforcing the Movement's protection work:** Protection work is increasingly important for the Movement in achieving its mission and the links with gender, diversity and inclusion work are ever more apparent. Protection needs worldwide are immense – millions of people continue to suffer violations of their fundamental rights and to be subjected to violence, discrimination and exclusion of all kinds in armed conflicts, other situations of violence, health crises and natural disasters.

While several initiatives have been implemented at the policy, strategic and operational level by all components of the Movement over the past years, there is a need to develop a fully common understanding of what protection means in practice to support coordination and complementarity.

Different understandings are reflected in the varying approaches to addressing protection risks, which may at times appear to be overlapping or even contradictory. This could have negative consequences for cooperation within the Movement and the prioritization of protection work and ultimately undermine the delivery of an effective protection response.

Against this background, a Movement-wide resolution on protection would aim to determine how the Movement's actions can better support protection for more people by:

- establishing a common understanding of what the Movement means by protection work and how it can be made more coherent and complementary;
 - acknowledging the protection work currently carried out by each component of the Movement;
 - projecting an image of a more coordinated and coherent protection response externally;
 - presenting the added value of the Movement's protection work;
 - determining steps to reinforce the protection capacities of the Movement components.
- **Movement strategy on migration:** The Movement's commitment and role in responding to the humanitarian needs of migrants in vulnerable situations, including refugees and asylum seekers, have been affirmed in several resolutions adopted by the Council of Delegates and the International Conference since the 1980s and emphasized through high-level dialogues at past Statutory Meetings. In Resolution 9 "Towards a Movement strategy on migration", the 2022 Council of Delegates endorsed the plan of the Migration Leadership Group (MLG) to develop the first ever Movement-wide strategy on migration and formally mandated it to undertake this work by 2024 to ensure stronger and more sustained Movement engagement on behalf of migrants. As follow-up to this resolution, the next Council of Delegates will examine and adopt the draft Movement strategy on migration developed by the MLG.
 - **Weapons and international law:** Building on 2013 Council of Delegates Resolution 7 "Weapons and international humanitarian law", the proposed resolution would aim to draw attention to, revitalize and advance the Movement's work on weapons and humanitarian disarmament, with a focus on the following topics:
 - Nuclear weapons – the resolution would welcome the report on the implementation of the 2022 Action Plan and emphasize the importance of prevention and response capacities in light of current chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons/HAZMAT risks and geopolitical tensions. It would also invite the ICRC to play a leading role in guiding and supporting the Movement in developing CBRN/HAZMAT response capacities, where potentially needed, and to support, to the extent possible, the development of CBRN/HAZMAT response capacities, particularly in high-risk contexts.
 - Landmines – the resolution would propose revitalizing the Movement Strategy on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and Explosive Remnants of War, expressing concern about longstanding and new challenges and noting consultations held with National Societies calling for revitalization, recommitment and reinvestment to achieve the Strategy's goals.
 - Arms transfers – the resolution would reaffirm the need to subject arms transfers to humanitarian considerations. It would emphasize the humanitarian impact of widespread inadequately controlled arms transfers, express support for the Arms Trade Treaty (along with regional instruments) and recall the obligation to ensure respect for and prevent violations of international humanitarian law.
 - Autonomous weapon systems (AWSs) – the resolution would aim to adopt a Movement position on AWSs, in line with the 2022 Council of Delegates workshop "Towards a Movement position on autonomous weapon systems". It would bring a strengthened and cohesive humanitarian voice to multilateral efforts by States to address the risks posed by AWSs, including within the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

- The Council of Delegates will be asked to endorse, through a resolution, **a solemn Movement appeal to States and parties to conflicts on preventing the humanitarian consequences of war in cities**. The Movement must shape the debate on urban warfare in the years to come. Such an appeal would also build on the Resolution and Action Plan on war in cities adopted at the 2022 Council of Delegates, notably Parts C and D of the Action Plan on “raising awareness through public communication of the devastating humanitarian consequences of urban warfare” and “influencing States and parties to conflict through humanitarian diplomacy to strengthen legal and policy frameworks related to the conduct of hostilities and to influence how conflicts are fought in urban areas”.
- **Call for support for principled humanitarian action:** Recalling Resolution 13 of the Council of Delegates 2022 (CD/22/13) on the “Appeal for Respect for Neutral and Impartial Humanitarian Action” by the chair of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Standing Commission), the president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)” The Council of Delegates will be asked to endorse, through a resolution, a call for States and other stakeholders to support and respect neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian action (NIIHA). While acknowledging that vulnerable and crisis-affected people can and often do receive valuable support from actors not bound by these principles, the resolution would state that the specific space provided for principled action has ensured access to humanitarian aid in some of the most contested areas over the last 160 years. It would point out some contemporary challenges and pressures on NIIHA and call for support in maintaining this life-saving tradition.

The Movement will also reinforce its commitment to **strengthening accountability and transparency and building trust with the people we serve, external partners and within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

This resolution could be brought to the attention of the participants of the 34th International Conference.

- **Clarification of Resolution 2 of the 2017 Council of Delegates “Movement-wide principles for resource mobilization” (CD/17/R2)** aiming at identifying gaps in interpretation and clarifying these with a view to strengthening the effective application of these principles to reassert the primacy of the National Society in fundraising for its activities in its market and delivering on its role to maximize income for the Movement.
- **Extension of the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025:** The second Movement Restoring Family Links (RFL) Strategy 2020–2025 was adopted at the 2019 Council of Delegates (CD/19/R6). As a result of the postponement of the Statutory Meetings to 2024, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Movement will not have a valid RFL strategy beyond 2025. The Council of Delegates will therefore be invited to endorse, through a resolution, the RFL Leadership Platform’s proposal to extend the current strategy until 2030, given that it is still considered relevant.
- **Commitment to supporting peace and resilience in all contexts including those of protracted, fragile and armed conflict settings:** the Council of Delegates will reaffirm, through a resolution, the commitment of all components of the Movement, to utilize its local to global reach as means of mobilizing people in inclusive and peaceful communities, strengthening trust and fostering environments for sustainable peace and community resilience. This in particular in settings already marked by instability, and states affected by crises from disasters to armed conflicts.

Resilience can be strengthened even in challenging circumstances through risk-informed programming and community engagement. The relationship between IHL and peace will also be highlighted, with an emphasis on how adherence to the law of armed conflict can ease the path to peace. This pursuit of peace must equally be geared towards prevention and recovery measures promoting and supporting more inclusive, equitable and cohesive societies. The Council of Delegates resolution will strongly urge the Movement, as a collective and by way of the respective constituent parts, to exercise its global convening authority in the advancement of peace and stability.

Specifically, 2024 Council of Delegates may consider the respective contributions of each component of the Movement to the advancement of peace and encourage them to take up these roles with renewed focus and energy, recalling that this is a core characteristic of the mandate as described in the principle of humanity, i.e., “[i]t promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst peoples.” And on the Council of Delegates resolutions of 1957, 1963, 1975, 1979, and 1984 and the XXth International Conference of 1987 and of the Reaffirmation of the Fundamental Principles (XVIII IC), at which it was proclaimed that the International Conference : ...declares its unabated faith in the RC as a movement concerned solely with humanitarian activities which help to promote mutual understanding and good will among nations whatever their political differences.¹

Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Operational Arrangements dated 28 November 2005 between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and Magen David Adom in Israel

A resolution based on progress made after Resolution 10 of the Council of Delegates in 2022 will be considered for adoption at the Council of Delegates.

Procedural matters

Several procedural matters will feature on the agenda of the Council of Delegates, in accordance with the Movement’s Statutes. These include:

- electing the chair, vice-chair and secretaries of the Council of Delegates
- adopting the agenda of the Council of Delegates
- adopting the provisional agenda of the 34th International Conference
- adopting the list of proposed officers of the 34th International Conference.

Follow-up and progress reports

The reports listed below will be submitted as working documents to all members of the Council of Delegates 45 days prior to the opening of the 2024 Council of Delegates.

Traditionally, the reports are only introduced or discussed during the Council of Delegates if a member submits a request to do so in advance.

Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: 2022–2027 action plan – Progress report

Strengthening anticipatory action in the Movement: Our way forward – Progress report

¹ Handbook of the International RCRC Movement (Fourteenth Ed.), Section III, The Fundamental Principles, III.b., p.724

Review of the Seville Agreement 2.0 – Progress report and dedicated agenda item

Strengthening Movement Cooperation and Coordination (SMCC 2.0) – Final report

Safeguarding humanitarian data – Progress report

Statement on Integrity of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – Progress report (2019) and dedicated agenda item

Restoring Family Links: Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025 – Progress report (2019)

Report on the work of the Standing Commission

How can you contribute to shaping the agenda and content?

The Council of Delegates' functions and rules of procedure are set out in the [Statutes of the Movement](#). National Societies are encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposed agenda items and objectives by **15 September 2023**. The draft provisional agenda will then be drawn up based on the feedback received.

The content of resolutions submitted to the 2024 Council of Delegates will be developed through various rounds of consultation, as per the timeline below. Written contributions will be supplemented by opportunities for interactive consultation.

The meetings website will continue to be the central resource for all information on the Council of Delegates. Consult it regularly for more information and the latest documents and to take part in the preparations for the meeting:

<http://rcrcconference.org/>

Please share your contributions and input on the proposed agenda items and objectives at: conferences@rcrcconference.org

Tentative timeline for consultations on the proposed agenda topics: Update timeline

Dates	Milestones
July 2023	Initial outline of agenda topics sent out to members
Early September 2023	Deadline for receiving feedback on the outline of agenda topics
Early November 2023	Elements of resolutions ready for consultation
Early April 2024	Draft zero resolutions ready for consultation
Early April 2024	Mailing of convocation and provisional agenda and programme
End of May 2024	Deadline for feedback on the provisional agenda and programme and draft zero resolutions

Early September 2024	Official mailing of working documents (follow-up and progress reports on previously adopted resolutions, background documents on the draft resolutions, official draft resolutions, etc.)
27-28 October 2024	2024 Council of Delegates