



Power of humanity

34th International Conference
of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

28–31 October 2024, Geneva

PLEDGING GUIDELINES

FOR CONFERENCE MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

*Approved by the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
at SC XVII, 6 May 2019, and revision noted at SC 18-13th meeting, 19–20 November 2023*

Pledges are voluntary (not legally binding) humanitarian commitments that show a willingness and readiness to take action

As one of the most creative and flexible outcomes of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, pledges provide Conference members and observers with the freedom and adaptability to make concrete, measurable and **action-oriented commitments on issues of priority for their local, national and regional contexts or even at the global level.**

Pledges are also a powerful humanitarian advocacy and diplomacy tool for initiating or advancing dialogue and cooperation among International Conference members and observers.

This guide contains information on what is involved in making a pledge at the 34th International Conference.

Types of pledges

There are two types of pledges: specific and open.

Specific pledges

They are developed by a member or a closed group of members (pledging parties) and are related to matters relevant to that specific member or group. As such, specific pledges have a focused approach to individual/national/regional commitments and plans of action. Once submitted, specific pledges are not open for additional signatures.

Open pledges

Open pledges are characterized by the fact that after their submission by a member or a group of members, they remain open for additional signatures by any Conference member or observer. For this reason, open pledges are also referred to as petition-style pledges and are mostly used to launch or advance an initiative/project by gathering more supporters. The signatures collected can make it a powerful diplomacy tool to enhance dialogue and cooperation and raise awareness. It should be noted that the initiator(s) of the open pledge carries the responsibility for preparing the pledge, promoting its content and inviting Conference members and observers to sign it and commit to the cause.

The Conference organizers are not responsible for the promotion of open pledges

Submission of pledges

Both specific pledges and open pledges can be developed and submitted either individually or jointly by any combination of members and/or observers (e.g. a National Society and its government, a group of National Societies or a group of National Societies, States and observers/humanitarian partners).

The joint submission of a pledge indicates a will to work together on a particular topic. It signifies a group commitment with a common plan of action, usually (but not always) in a national/regional context.

States and National Societies are strongly encouraged to jointly submit pledges as a means to foster dialogue and cooperation on issues of mutual concern, which in turn can lead to measurable humanitarian action. This dialogue and cooperation can start before the Conference and continue long after it has ended. States and National Societies can work together on implementing a pledge in their country and review their progress together.

Preparation of pledges

Pledges can be prepared and submitted before the opening of the 34th International Conference. It is important to start as soon as possible to:

- Identify and articulate the specific issue(s) you would like to address through a pledge and decide whether a specific or open pledge would be more suitable.
- Engage in dialogue with relevant stakeholders for the preparation of jointly submitted pledges.

Pledges directly related to the themes and topics of the International Conference and pledges specifically supporting the International Conference resolutions are highly recommended.

Criteria and content of pledges

Given the voluntary nature of pledges, Conference members and/or observers are free to draft the content according to their priorities. Nevertheless, when drafting a pledge, the following criteria should be considered:

- The content must conform to the [Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement](#).
- The pledge must state clear objectives, outline concrete commitments/actions to be taken and provide indicators for measuring progress made on implementation during the period 2023–2028.
- The pledging parties should be aware of any budgetary implications and may include a reference to mobilizing the resources required to support implementation of the pledge.
- The pledge should be clear, concise and short (ideally fitting on one page).

Model texts for pledges

In addition, to facilitate the drafting process, model texts for pledges (example of pledge content) on a variety of topics will be developed and made available on the [webpage](#) and also on the online pledge submission form for the use of Conference members and observers.

These model texts provide a set of suggested elements that Conference members and observers can use when drafting their pledges. They are invited to pick the elements that best correspond to their situation and adapt the model texts to their individual priorities and contexts.

The online pledging system – submitting pledges and signing up to open pledges

Pledges are submitted and signed online using an [online submission form](#).

All Conference members and observers can submit specific pledges and open pledges as well as sign open pledges that have already been submitted.

To submit a pledge or sign an open pledge, a user account is required. There is only one user account per organization. If you do not have your organization's log-in details, please contact conferences@rcrcconference.org for more information on your organization's user account.

Timeframe

The online pledging system will open for pledge submission and signature in January 2024.

The deadline for submitting pledges is **30 June 2025**.

Open pledges will remain open for signature until **31 December 2025**.

Reporting on pledges

The pledging parties are expected to carry out voluntary monitoring and reporting on the implementation of their pledges.

Although reporting is voluntary, pledging parties and signatories are encouraged to make the most of this opportunity to showcase the work they have done and the progress made through the implementation of their pledges.

The responsibility for reporting depends on the type of pledge:

- Specific pledges submitted individually are reported on by the sole pledging party.
- Specific pledges submitted jointly require a joint report by all the pledging parties on their common efforts, as they describe collaboration on a particular topic.
- Open pledges submitted either individually or jointly can be reported on by each pledging party individually as regards their progress on implementation or jointly by several pledging parties.

To report on a pledge, Conference members and observers are invited to go to the [pledge and reporting database](#), search for the pledge they wish to report on and click on the *Report on this pledge* button. A submission form will be available for reporting.

The deadline for reporting on the pledges submitted and signed at the 34th International Conference is mid-2028.

The benefits of pledges for International Conference participants

For the Movement components

Movement components are encouraged to submit and follow up on pledges in order to promote and implement specific activities and establish a useful platform for discussions with governments and other humanitarian actors

For Governments

Governments can use pledges to plan the specific activities they will undertake in support of the International Conference's themes and resolutions. Pledges provide a way to demonstrate a government's priorities and commitment to specific topics.

For Movement components and governments together (joint pledges)

Joint pledges by National Societies and governments provide the basis for joint plans and commitments. Such pledges are strongly encouraged and can strengthen the auxiliary role of National Societies and their unique relationship with their governments.

For observers / other partners

To strengthen partnerships with Conference members and provide a concrete platform for collaboration, joint pledges with observers are also encouraged.

Further information and/or assistance

If you require further information and/or assistance, please send a message to conferences@rcrcconference.org and we will be happy to assist you.

In addition, an information stand for pledge submissions will be set up at the 34th International Conference venue to provide guidance to those wishing to make a pledge during the Conference.