



**Power of humanity**  
34th International Conference  
of the Red Cross and Red Crescent  
28-31 October 2024, Geneva

# Prepare to be engaged: **Engagement guide for National Societies**

The 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent will take place in October 2024 and, while that date may seem distant, the preparatory work starts now if the conference is to be a success.

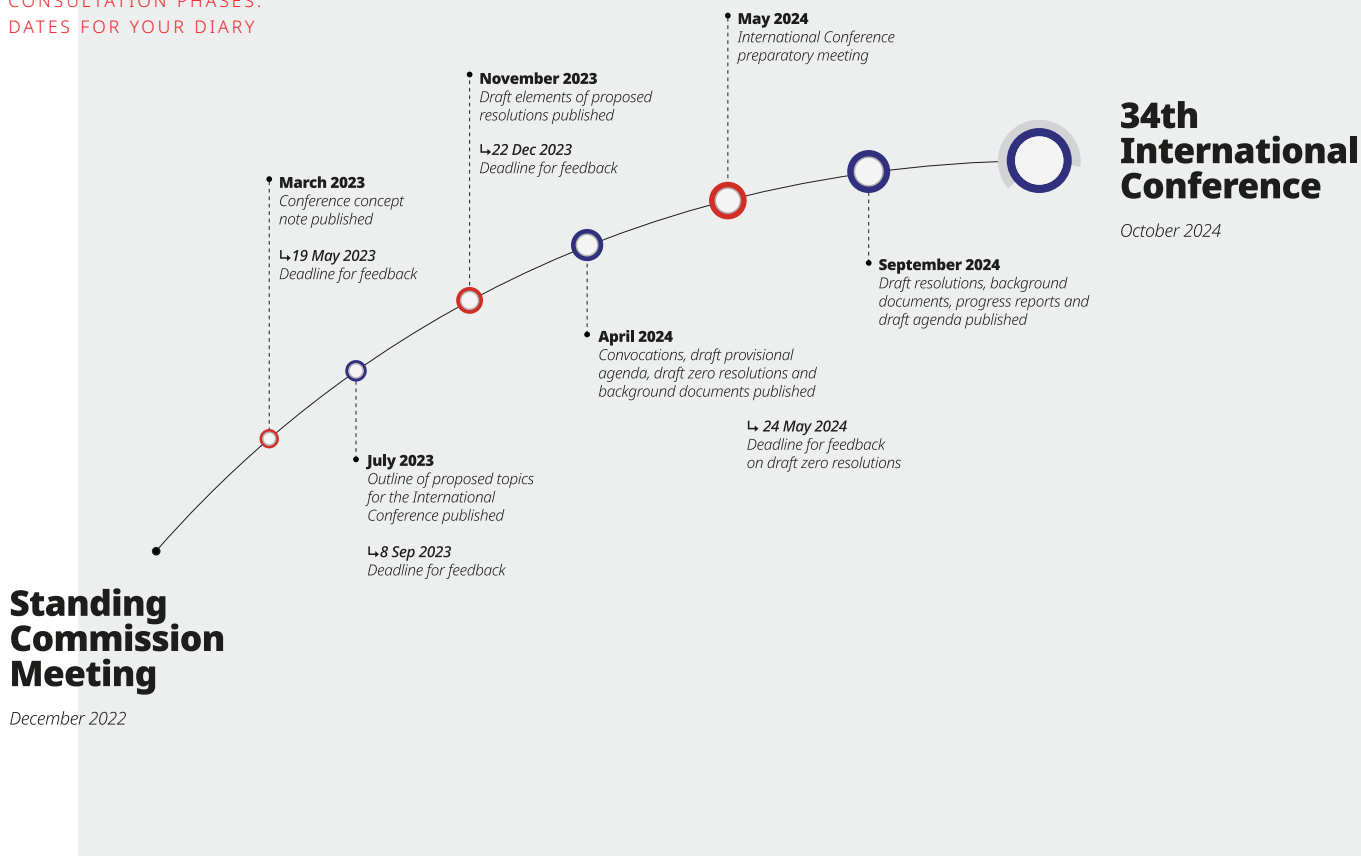
A major event on the international humanitarian calendar, the International Conference brings together components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and states party to the Geneva Conventions. As your National Society is a member of the International Conference, you play a crucial role in bringing local humanitarian issues and voices to this important global platform.

This practical guide gives you key dates for your diary and explains the preparation milestones, with tips to ensure you are well prepared and able to contribute fully.

## **HAVE YOUR SAY**

The International Conference is most successful when everyone has a chance to contribute. The organizers consult early and widely to ensure all the comments from the members of the International Conference are heard and considered. This is your National Society's opportunity to raise critical humanitarian issues for inclusion at the International Conference and to make your voice heard throughout the consultation process.

CONSULTATION PHASES:  
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



In addition to the key dates above, there is the opportunity to engage and consult with other conference members through webinars, briefings and meetings between now and October 2024.

MAIN CONSULTATIONS AND MEETINGS

**WEBINARS**

Webinars are an excellent way of finding out more about the conference, giving you the opportunity to ask questions about and exchange views on conference-related subjects.

**IFRC REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

You can use the Regional Conferences of the IFRC to identify and clarify regional priorities ahead of the conference.

**PREPARATORY MEETING WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND STATES**

The preparatory meeting is usually held about five months before the conference. It provides an opportunity for National Societies and states to discuss the proposed draft zero resolutions prior to the conference.

**OTHER REGIONAL MEETINGS**

You could ask for a time slot or a side event to discuss topics related to the International Conference.

Resolutions are the formal decisions of the International Conference. They are clear commitments from the conference members.

You will be consulted about draft resolutions in the months leading up to the International Conference in line with the dates provided. You will have opportunities to comment as they are being developed and to contribute to the writing and negotiation process as part of the drafting committee during the conference itself.

At the conference, the drafting committee has the task of negotiating and finalizing the draft resolution texts, which are then submitted to the International Conference for adoption at the final plenary session. Ideally, resolutions should be adopted by consensus, but if no consensus is reached, resolutions can be adopted by the majority of those present and voting.

#### **HOW RESOLUTIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

- Increased government support for humanitarian work.
- The Movement and its members are positioned as leaders in certain fields.
- A constructive partnership with your government and a stronger auxiliary role.
- New opportunities for dialogue on important humanitarian issues.
- Agreements on new policies, legislation and regulations.
- Wider inclusion on committees, task forces and working groups in your country.

#### **HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO RESOLUTIONS**

- Present your National Society's position on an issue based on your experience.
- Give feedback on resolutions during the consultation process.
- Consider how your National Society can support the implementation of resolutions.
- Understand the factors that limit progress and how to overcome them.
- What changes could your government make? How can it support you?
- Ensure your arguments are supported by data and evidence.
- Provide an update and report on how resolutions are being implemented in your country.

Pledges are voluntary humanitarian commitments – not legally binding – that show a willingness and readiness to take action. They are a powerful tool for diplomacy and can be used to initiate or advance dialogue with others on humanitarian issues.

National Societies and states are encouraged to make joint pledges as a means of fostering 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 can continue long after it has ended. National Societies and governments can work together on implementing a pledge in their country and review progress together.

**BY SUBMITTING A PLEDGE OR BECOMING A SIGNATORY OF AN OPEN PLEDGE, YOU CAN:**

- address humanitarian issues by establishing a plan for measurable humanitarian action;
- partner with Movement components and other humanitarian organizations;
- establish joint plans, actions and commitments with humanitarian partners.

**HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PLEDGE PROCESS**

- Identify and articulate the specific issue your National Society would like to address.
- Open dialogue with your government/public authorities or others as soon as possible.
- Submit individual or jointly prepared pledges on a specific issue or sign open pledges.
- Continue to raise awareness about the issue and find partners to join your cause.

**SHARE MORE, LEARN MORE**

We have outlined two types of standard conference outcome, but if you would like to propose others, we would be happy to hear from you. If you have any questions, need support or would like to share your ideas, please contact the conference organizers at [conferences@rcrcconference.org](mailto:conferences@rcrcconference.org). For more general information, please visit the website: [www.rcrcconference.org](http://www.rcrcconference.org).