

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 states**

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. Together, they discuss issues of global humanitarian importance.

The Movement – one of the world’s largest humanitarian networks – comprises 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). As a state party to the Geneva Conventions, your government is a member of the International Conference. You have a crucial role to play in this important global platform by raising awareness of and providing support for the Movement’s humanitarian activities and by making joint commitments on humanitarian priorities.

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.

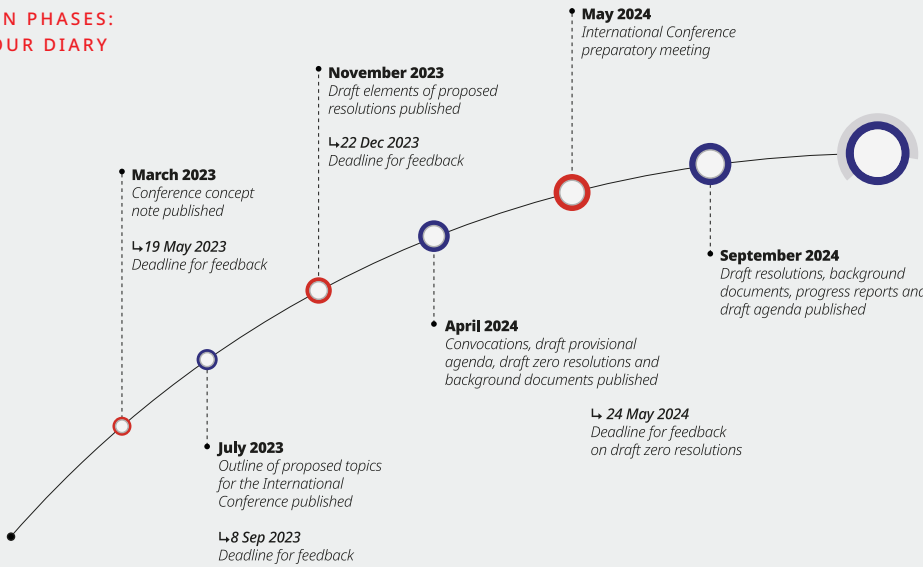
HAVE YOUR SAY

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

**CONSULTATION PHASES:
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Standing
Commission
Meeting**

December 2022



**34th
International
Conference**

October 2024

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

BRIEFINGS FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVES

These briefings allow the organizers to share information about the International Conference, and they give you an opportunity to ask the organizers questions and exchange views on conference-related subjects.

BILATERAL AND REGIONAL GROUP MEETINGS

These meetings between states, National Societies and the organizers are an important part of the preparation process because they allow detailed and focused discussions.

PREPARATORY MEETING WITH STATES AND NATIONAL SOCIETIES

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

BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS, YOU CAN:

- increase awareness of and support for the Movement's humanitarian work;
- create opportunities for dialogue on important humanitarian issues;
- establish agreements on new policies, legislation and regulations.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO IMPACTFUL RESOLUTIONS

- Present your country's position on an issue based on your country's experience.
- Give feedback on resolutions during the consultation process.
- Ask your National Society how you can support the implementation of resolutions.
- Understand the factors that are limiting progress and how they might be overcome.
- 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.

States and National Societies 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. States and National Societies 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 of concern in your country;
- establish a plan for measurable humanitarian action in your country;
- 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 state would like to address.
- Open dialogue with your National Society or others as soon as possible.
- Submit individual or jointly prepared specific pledges 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. For more general information, please visit the website: www.rcrcconference.org.