



Power of humanity

34th International Conference
of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

28–31 October 2024, Geneva

34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND PROGRAMME

September 2024

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Provisional agenda and programme for the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

28–31 October 2024
International Conference Centre of Geneva

Monday 28 October

OPENING PLENARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (5pm)

Opening ceremony

1. Welcome addresses

- Chair of the Standing Commission
- Representative of the Swiss Confederation

2. Reading of the Fundamental Principles

3. Election of the conference officers and establishment of the conference subsidiary bodies (commissions and Drafting Committee)

4. Keynote addresses

- President of the International Committee of the Red Cross
- President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

5. Organization of work

- Drafting Committee, commissions, plenaries, pledges
- Procedure for electing the members of the Standing Commission

6. Outcomes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Council of Delegates

Report on relevant discussions and decisions of the Council of Delegates on issues such as the Movement's call for respect for principled humanitarian action, weapons and international humanitarian law, a solemn appeal by the Movement on war in cities, the reaffirmation of the role of the Movement as a factor of peace and resilience, the adoption of a Movement Migration Strategy 2024–2030, the extension to 2030 of the Movement Restoring Family Links Strategy 2020–2025, and improving the Movement's collective impact in protecting people.

The opening ceremony will contain artistic performances throughout.

Cocktail reception
hosted by the Swiss authorities

Tuesday 29 October

PLENARY:

7. Navigate uncertainty, strengthen humanity

Introduces the International Conference and sets the scene for three days of exploring, learning about and deciding on humanitarian action in light of current and future challenges.

COMMISSION I: Building a Global Culture of Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

The 34th International Conference is being held at a critical time when the unacceptable cost of armed conflict demands a renewed commitment to our common humanity. It also marks the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Currently, there are over 100 ongoing armed conflicts, many of which are neglected by the international community and the media, and many of which are protracted, with consequences that last for generations. When IHL is respected and its humanitarian spirit upheld, lives are saved, and a level of dignity is preserved. Yet, respect for IHL remains insufficient in many armed conflicts, causing devastating suffering. More must be done to improve implementation and compliance with IHL.

Commission I aims to mobilize States, working with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies), to redouble their efforts to implement IHL obligations in good faith.

The opening plenary of the commission will focus on prevention work and set the stage for thematic discussions that will take place throughout the day. With its focus on prevention work, Commission I underpins the IHL resolution being tabled at the conference.

Four spotlight sessions are planned, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, running in parallel. They will be a platform for smaller, interactive group debates on key thematic topics in contemporary armed conflicts. Each spotlight session aims to raise awareness, provide space for discussion and debate, and encourage members of the conference to adopt pledges for concrete and meaningful action to improve respect for IHL. The sessions concern:

- War in cities
- Promoting disability-inclusive interpretations and implementation of IHL in complementarity with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Protection of the natural environment in armed conflicts
- Autonomous weapon systems.

A reconvening **plenary session** will connect the debates that took place during the spotlight sessions.

NETWORKING, HUMANITARIAN VILLAGE AND SIDE EVENTS

Participants will have the opportunity to connect with one another, visit the Humanitarian Village and attend side events¹ that will take place during lunchtime and in the evening, outside of the formal agenda.

¹ Side events are organized at the initiative of conference participants and are not part of the formal conference agenda. Their schedule will be published with the mailing of the official working documents of the conference.

FOR THE RECORD: VOICES FROM THE CONFERENCE

Members and observers will be able to share formal statements on the conference's themes for the official record. They will need to register in advance to do so. This segment will run continuously, in parallel to other sessions, from the morning of Tuesday 29 October to the end of the day on Wednesday 30 October.

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The Drafting Committee will work in parallel to the other sessions of the conference on the morning of 29 October and conclude their work by lunchtime on 31 October.

Five resolutions are proposed for adoption.

Meet the candidates for election to the Standing Commission *(not part of the formal agenda of the conference)*

Wednesday 30 October

COMMISSION II: Standing by our Fundamental Principles in responding to humanitarian needs and risks

In the current context of global crises and the various threats to principled humanitarian action, it is prudent and timely to focus on the continued importance of the Fundamental Principles to the humanitarian activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement). This commission will allow participants to explore the practical implications and risks of non-compliance with the Fundamental Principles in different humanitarian contexts. It will reinforce the importance of States working with Movement components to ensure respect for the Fundamental Principles and of taking action to curtail activities that are contrary to the Fundamental Principles, which can put humanitarian workers and volunteers, and the communities they serve, at risk.

This commission aims to expand upon and bring to life the theme of respect for principled humanitarian action, which is the subject of a Council of Delegates resolution. It will consider humanitarian needs, action and current and emerging risks through the lens of principled humanitarian action and the Fundamental Principles, and will call on States, during the commission's opening plenary session, to show respect for such action.

The following **spotlight sessions** will be a platform for smaller, interactive group debates. Two will run concurrently in the morning and the other two concurrently in the afternoon:

- Respect for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action
- Working together to reduce the impacts of climate change on communities
- Navigating pressing challenges in the context of migration: The importance of a principled humanitarian approach
- Raising awareness about emerging challenges: Humanitarian protection risks in an increasingly digitalized world.

A reconvening **plenary session** will connect the debates that took place during the spotlight sessions.

NETWORKING, HUMANITARIAN VILLAGE AND SIDE EVENTS

The participants will have opportunities to connect with one another, visit the Humanitarian Village and attend side events that will take place during lunchtime and in the evening, outside of the formal agenda.

FOR THE RECORD: VOICES FROM THE CONFERENCE

This conference segment will continue to run throughout the day and conclude at the end of the day.

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The Drafting Committee will work throughout the day.

PLENARY:

8. Election of the Members of the Standing Commission

- Explanation of election proceedings
- Roll call and electronic voting
- Announcement of results or continuation of election

Thursday 31 October

COMMISSION III: Enabling sustainable, locally-led action

Commission III will bring together Movement components, States and conference observers to work together on how to enhance locally led action and local leadership to meet the humanitarian and development needs of communities. It will examine ways to strengthen and increase investment in the capacities and sustainability of local actors including, but not limited to, National Societies, and highlight the impact of their work at the community level. It will explore different aspects of locally led action – the auxiliary role of National Societies, the role of volunteers, the diversity of local actors, and how partnerships, financing, risk sharing and coordination can enhance their role.

The commission will explore ways in which States and other international actors can invest in local and national capacities and reinforce the auxiliary role of National Societies in the humanitarian field in complementarity with each other. The commission will identify remaining key barriers to enabling sustainable locally led action and propose solutions and actions for the future, so as to shift to a new paradigm that places local action at the centre of humanitarian and development action.

A **plenary session** will set the scene for the subsequent four spotlight sessions.

The following **spotlight sessions** will be a platform for smaller, interactive group debates and will run concurrently:

- The vital role of volunteers and community-based actors in social safety nets for community resilience
- Working together with States and local authorities in managing and strengthening the auxiliary role across all levels
- Community health action and front-line preparedness: Learning from the past to shape the future
- Overcoming barriers on financing and risk sharing to foster locally-led action.

A reconvening **plenary session** will connect the debates that took place during the spotlight sessions and preview the next day.

NETWORKING, HUMANITARIAN VILLAGE AND SIDE EVENTS

The participants will have opportunities to connect with one another, visit the Humanitarian Village and attend side events that will take place in the morning and during lunchtime, outside of the formal agenda.

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The Drafting Committee will complete their work by lunchtime.

PLENARY: REPORTS AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

9. Five resolutions are proposed for adoption:

- Building a universal culture of compliance with international humanitarian law
- Protecting civilians and other protected persons and objects against the potential human cost of ICT activities during armed conflict
- Strengthening disaster risk governance through comprehensive legal and regulatory frameworks
- Enabling local leadership, capacity and delivery in principled humanitarian action and strengthening resilience
- Protecting people from the humanitarian impacts of extreme climate and weather events: Working together to strengthen anticipatory action.

10. Reports

- Resolution 1 of the 33rd International Conference, “Bringing IHL home: A road map for better national implementation of international humanitarian law”
- Resolution 2 of the 33rd International Conference, “Addressing mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies”
- Resolution 3 of the 33rd International Conference, “Time to act: Tackling epidemics and pandemics together”
- Resolution 4 of the 33rd International Conference, “Restoring Family Links while respecting privacy, including as it relates to personal data protection”
- Resolution 5 of the 33rd International Conference, “Women and leadership in the humanitarian action of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement”
- International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts – Building a culture of compliance for IHL to protect humanity in today’s and future conflicts

11. Report on the work of the 34th International Conference in commissions and spotlight sessions (and overview of pledges)

12. Report of the Drafting Committee

13. Adoption of the resolutions of the 34th International Conference

The resolutions negotiated among the Drafting Committee will be proposed for adoption. An additional omnibus resolution may be submitted to the 34th International Conference to acknowledge the outcomes of its commissions, the relevant outcomes of the Movement’s Council of Delegates and other reports.

14. Closing of the 34th International Conference