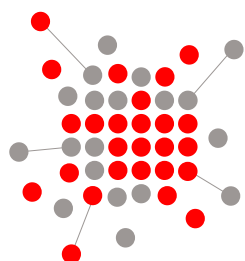


# 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent



**Power of humanity**

32<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of  
the Red Cross and Red Crescent  
8-10 December 2015, Geneva



Geneva 2015



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# **Report of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

Including the summary report  
of the 2015 Council of Delegates

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Prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross  
and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Geneva  
International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)



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# RESULTS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

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## 1.1 AGENDA AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE 2015 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

### 1.1.1 Agenda

#### I. Opening and procedural matters

1. Opening of the Council
2. Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretaries of the Council
3. Adoption of the Agenda of the Council of Delegates

#### II. Items for decision

#### 4. Vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Following up on Resolution 2 of the 2013 Council of Delegates, the Standing Commission puts forward a proposed Vision for the Movement as a concise inspirational paper projecting the Movement's position in an ever more demanding and fast evolving global context.

#### 5. Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC)

Building on Resolution 4 of the 2013 Council of Delegates, the topic will be presented for debate along with a report, a Plan of Action and resolution including recommendations aimed at improving Movement operational leadership, tools and mechanisms, as well as ensuring more

effective and coherent communication and resource mobilization, thus better equipping the Movement to respond to large-scale emergencies and face growing humanitarian challenges for the benefit of affected populations.

#### 6. International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Branding Initiative

Building on Resolution 6 of the 2013 Council of Delegates, the 2015 Council of Delegates will be presented with the work that has been conducted by Movement components and consider a resolution adopting a Movement logo and the conditions and rules for its use.

#### 7. Message of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the World Humanitarian Summit

The World Humanitarian Summit is an opportunity to bring the Movement's local and global experience as a contribution to the broader debate. The Movement will adopt a message to be delivered to the World Humanitarian Summit.

#### 8. 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

In follow up to Resolution 5 of the 2013 Council of Delegates, the Standing Commission will present a report on progress in implementation.

## **9. Promoting disability inclusion in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

The Movement is committed to work towards removing barriers to opportunity and access currently faced by persons with disabilities to ensure their full and meaningful participation as equal members of society. The 2013 Council of delegates adopted Resolution 9 on Promoting Disability Inclusion in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement which requested that a Movement-wide strategy on Disability Inclusion be developed in a collaborative process actively engaging all components of the Movement. It is expected that this strategy be submitted for adoption by the 2015 Council of Delegates.

## **10. Preserving the historical and cultural heritage of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

Following up on Resolution 6 of the 2011 Council of Delegates, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, in consultation with National Societies, will present recommendations on preserving and promoting the Movement's historical and cultural heritage.

## **11. Empress Shôken Fund**

The Joint ICRC/International Federation Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund will present its biennial report with recommendations for revision of the Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund by the Council of Delegates so as to maintain the reserves for future humanitarian activities of National Societies.

## **11.bis Movement statement on migration: ensuring collective action to protect and respond to the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants**

Draft statement of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement on migration proposed for adoption by the Council of Delegates.

## **12. 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

12.1 Adoption of the agenda of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

12.2 Proposal of officers of the 32nd International Conference

## **III. Follow-up and progress reports**

*Reports listed below are submitted as working documents to all members of the Council 45 days prior to the opening of the Council.*

*Members of the Council wishing to comment on these reports are invited to send their written comments. **None of the following reports will be introduced during or discussed by the Council unless requested in advance by a member.***

### **13. Progress report on “Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: Four-year action plan”**

*Resolution 1 of the 2013 Council of Delegates*

### **14. Progress report on “Weapons and international humanitarian law”**

*Resolution 7 of the 2013 Council of Delegates*

### **15. Progress report on sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict and disaster**

*Follow-up on recommendations of workshop 9 of the 2013 Council of Delegates*

### **16. Progress report on the revision of National Society statutes and legal base**

*Resolution 4 of the 2011 Council of Delegates*

### **17. Progress report on the results achieved through the implementation of the Restoring Family Links Strategy (and implementation plan) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (2008-2018)**

*Resolution 4 of the 2007 Council of Delegates*

## 18. Report on the work of the Standing Commission

*Regular report to the Council of Delegates*

### IV. Closing of the Council

Confirmation of date and venue of the 2017 Council of Delegates

#### Opening ceremony of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

##### Henry Dunant Medal – ceremony

*(Not part of the formal agenda of the Council or Conference)*

### 1.1.2 Resolution 1: Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation: optimizing the Movement's humanitarian response

The Council of Delegates,

*acknowledging with concern* the changing global political and socio-economic environment with increasing, multifaceted and complex humanitarian needs resulting from armed conflict, natural disasters and other crises;

*mindful of* the growing demands on the Movement to respond more effectively and efficiently to this complexity at a greater scale; and thereby positioning the Movement as a key relevant and effective humanitarian action to serve the most vulnerable,

*recognizing that* inadequate coordination and cooperation, internal competition, insufficient recognition of the respective and complementary strengths of the Movement's components hampers the Movement's operational impact as well as its components' interdependent and individual credibility and strengths;

*recalling* Resolution 4 of the 2013 Council of Delegates, which tasked ICRC and the International Federation to continue their joint work on strengthening Movement coordination and cooperation, (ref. CD/13/R4),

*further recalling* Resolution 6 of the 1997 Council of Delegates, which adopted the "Agreement on the organization of the international activities of the components of the International Red Cross and the

Red Crescent Movement" (the Seville Agreement); Resolution 8 of the 2005 Council of Delegates, which adopted the "Supplementary Measures to Enhance the Implementation of the Seville Agreement" (SA/SM); and their follow-up reports as foundations of Movement coordination and collaboration,

*emphasising* the simultaneously local and global dimensions of the Movement: the pivotal domestic role of the National Society as first responder and humanitarian auxiliary to its public authorities as well as the international roles and mandates entrusted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and set forth in the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,

*noting with appreciation* the concrete improvements in Movement coordination and cooperation since the 2013 Council of Delegates, notably in large-scale operations across the world, as witnessed recently in contexts such as Nepal, Lake Chad, Yemen and Myanmar,

*expressing the urgency* that improvements to Movement coordination and collaboration will contribute to further increasing the Red Cross Red Crescent humanitarian impact for the benefit of people affected by large-scale emergencies,

*expressing its appreciation and support* for the engagement and the work conducted by the International Federation, ICRC and all National Societies involved in the Movement-wide consultative process, which concretely addressed the current challenges and opportunities in the areas of leadership and coordination; operational plans, tools and mechanisms; communication; and resource mobilisation, which are compiled in the annexed Report and Plan of Action in a series of findings and concrete recommendations;

*acknowledging* the specific attention paid to ensure that synergies are maintained between the objective of reinforcing Movement coordination and other Movement initiatives such as the Vision for the Movement, the Fundamental Principles Project and the Movement Branding Initiative,

*resolves* as follows:

- A. Welcomes and endorses, the findings and recommendations listed in the Report together with the objectives and actions of the accompanying Plan of Action.

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- B. Requests ICRC and the International Federation to oversee the implementation of the Plan of Action and to report back to the 2017 Council of Delegates on the same;
- C. Requests all components of the Movement to support and resource the implementation of the Plan of Action, including through the adoption of needed changes in their own operational policies and practices;
- D. *Emphasises* that the following findings are crucial to creating an enabling environment for enhanced Movement coordination and cooperation, and require a sustained investment and commitment from all Movement components:
  - 1. Improving Movement coordination is urgent and important, and requires commitment from all Movement partners;
  - 2. Trust, mutual understanding and respect are cornerstones of coordination and cooperation and need to be actively built among Movement partners;
  - 3. The existing regulatory framework (for Movement coordination) is recognised as the foundation for Movement coordination and cooperation. It should be applied in an inclusive manner, complemented by relevant implementation mechanisms, and further reflected upon;
  - 4. The NS in the affected country has a central role in the Movement's response and should be supported by Movement partners before, during and after the emergency;
  - 5. Movement coordination, from preparedness to response, needs to be context-driven
- E. *further emphasises* that the following findings are essential operational elements for efficient and complementary Movement-wide preparedness and response to large-scale emergencies:
  - 6. Preparedness is critical for efficient Movement coordination and requires sustained investment, preparedness is necessary for National Societies in disaster prone counties to be ready ahead of the influx of Movement partners, people and goods, when a disaster has taken place
  - 7. Well-coordinated and coherent response is necessary from the very onset of an emergency and must be supported by standardized tools and mechanisms;
  - 8. Coherent communication is an essential part of an effective Movement response. A strong and distinct "Movement voice" should build on coordinated messages and communication products;
  - 9. A Movement-wide approach to resource mobilisation should be built on complementarity and non-competitiveness, meaning intra-Movement competition is avoided;
  - 10. Compliance and accountability should be further improved through increased transparency on non-compliance and incentives for good practice.
- F. *further requests* that the International Federation and ICRC, with the active engagement and contribution from National Societies continue to monitor and evaluate their coordination efforts, ensuring that lessons learned are acted upon collectively while further reforms are evidence-based.
- G. *recognizing* the urgent need to pursue strengthening Movement coordination and collaboration after the Council of Delegates 2015 by consolidating and implementing the advances and recommendations made,

### **ANNEX 1 – Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation Plan of Action 2016-2017**

This Plan of Action (PoA) complements the report on Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) to the Council of Delegates (CoD) 2015. Based on the outcomes of the Movement-wide consultative process conducted over 2014 and 2015, it translates the report's main findings and recommendations into tangible objectives and actions to be undertaken by the Movement components in the years to come. It aims to ensure that through implementing the actions the Movement is 'fit for purpose' to provide predictable, coherent and effective humanitarian response in a changing humanitarian landscape.



The PoA is divided into eight objectives under which several specific actions are elaborated, with the expectation that taking these actions will lead to defined outcomes and contribute to reaching the objectives. Concrete deliverables and time bound targets are defined for each action to facilitate monitoring of the implementation. Some targets aim at a minimum number of countries or contexts for implementation of the different actions. Priority will be given to those countries where a Movement-wide operational response is most likely to take place. The time period for the PoA is two years, from 2015 to 2017, at the end of which a comprehensive progress report is to be presented to the CoD 2017. Yet the commitment to improving cooperation and coordination has a

much greater ambition and focus. Consequently, for some actions, notably the exploratory ones, the CoD 2017 is to be considered as milestone in a process which might go well beyond this timeline.

The targets set for this PoA aim to be realistic and achievable. They require sustained commitment, engagement and participation of all Movement partners to be met. Similarly, the resourcing of the implementation should be seen as a collective effort and a pooling of resources. As such, collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of this PoA will further build relationships between Movement components and foster good cooperation.

### Plan of Action 2016-2017

<b>Overall objective statement: The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement significantly increases its humanitarian impact through improved coordination and cooperation before, during and after large-scale emergency operations</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<b>Deliverable(s)</b>	<b>Target</b>
<b>Objective 1: The Movement coordination regulatory framework is known and applied in a spirit of inclusiveness and trust thanks to relevant implementation mechanisms, preparedness and training.</b>			
ICRC, the International Federation and NS document challenges and successes in the implementation of the regulatory framework in large-scale emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential challenges, gaps, incoherencies, successes are identified and backed up by evidence</li> <li>Examples of how the regulatory framework facilitates or hampers effective Movement coordination and cooperation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence-based lessons learnt, including joint RTEs</li> </ul>	Inclusion of key findings in the report to CoD2017
ICRC and the International Federation continue to develop the Operational Movement Coordination Tool (OMC) to assist in the dialogue on allocation of responsibilities in large-scale emergencies (in preparedness and response), test the tool in the field and adapt it accordingly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The application of the regulatory framework is facilitated by a simple and user-friendly tool</li> <li>Trust has increased as a result of increased predictability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMC Tool</li> </ul>	OMC tool is disseminated and applied in large-scale emergency contexts by January 2017
ICRC and the International Federation, with the involvement of NS, jointly produce a training module and a video on coordination and cooperation in large-scale disasters (including the Movement coordination regulatory framework, available tools and mechanisms).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Movement coordination framework is explained in accessible terms.</li> <li>The general knowledge and understanding of the Movement coordination and available tools and mechanisms is improved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Movement video in English, Spanish, French, Arabic</li> <li>Training module on Movement coordination for ICRC, International Federation and NS operational leaders integrated into existing trainings (IMPACT, MIC, etc.)</li> </ul>	<p>Video is disseminated within the Movement by January 2017</p> <p>By the end of 2017, 40% of operational leaders have participated in the training module</p>
<b>Objective 2: The National Society of the affected country is supported in its role throughout the Movement response and beyond.</b>			

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<p>Movement components develop a shared approach for NS capacity building in the field of operational leadership and coordination.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A more efficient, coherent and complementary Movement approach to NS capacity building at country-level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligned capacity building activities in relevant contexts</li> </ul>	<p>By 2017, a Movement agreement for capacity building is developed in at least 15 contexts which are likely to see a Movement-wide response.</p>
<p>ICRC, the International Federation and NS review their key capacity building tools/processes for harmonisation and complementarity, including plans for resourcing capacity building.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased coherence and efficiency in the implementation of capacity building plans.</li> <li>• Continued dialogue on capacity building tools and processes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harmonised and aligned capacity building tools</li> </ul>	<p>Key Federation, ICRC and NS capacity building tools are reviewed by 2017</p>
<p>Movement components conduct a lessons learnt exercise based on previous and ongoing country plans (e.g. for larger Syria crisis, Philippines Typhoon Haiyan, Nepal earthquake) further develop the “Movement country plan” approach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movement response planning is coherent and builds on commonly agreed needs assessment, NS capacities and the complementarity of Movement components.</li> <li>• The role of the NS and its independence are supported. The NS is left in a stronger position after the Movement response.</li> <li>• Increased opportunities and incentives for PNS to support HNS in a coordinated way.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons learnt are documented, shared and applied in the next context.</li> <li>• Model, template and examples for one Movement country plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Report on lessons learned at the CoD 2017 By 2017, a template for Movement country plan is used in at least 10 contexts.</p>
<p><b>Objective 3: The Movement response is adapted to the context for increased relevance and effectiveness</b></p>			
<p>In contexts where no country-specific agreement or contingency plan exists, Movement components initiate discussions in order to conclude agreements that will facilitate the design and implementation of a contextualised Movement response (using/testing the OMC Tool). Where country-specific agreements and contingency plans exist, these are regularly discussed and updated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The design and implementation of the Movement response to large-scale emergencies is contextualised and collectively agreed upon</li> <li>• Trust has increased as a result of increased contacts, exchanges and collective planning exercises.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalised or updated Movement Coordination Agreements (MCA), tripartite Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and/or contingency plans</li> </ul>	<p>By the end of 2017, at least 25 contexts where a Movement-wide response is likely to be seen have new or updated MCAs, complemented with relevant contingency plans.</p>

<b>Objective 4: The Movement is better prepared to collectively respond to large-scale emergencies.</b>			
Movement components in selected contexts collectively undertake, preferably as part of contingency planning, to map capacities (expertise, assets, and resources), interests and activities of all Movement components at country/regional-level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased knowledge of Movement capacities and interests allows efficient definition of priorities of the Movement approach (including through identifying gaps).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping of Movement capacities by context based on agreed template</li> </ul>	By the end of 2017, at least 5 contexts have produced a comprehensive mapping of Movement capacities, interests and activities
ICRC, the International Federation and NS explore the concept and parameters of a global capacity-mapping tool and of a shared global information portal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased knowledge of Movement capacities and interests allows efficient definition of priorities of the Movement approach at the global level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jointly developed Terms of Reference for the development of a global tool</li> </ul>	Concrete recommendations for next steps to the CoD 2017
ICRC and the International Federation, in consultation with NS, jointly undertake to revise main coordination tools as appropriate (e.g. revision of MCA template and guidance note) and formalise the proposed Movement Tool-Kit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Movement tools are adapted to current practice of Movement coordination in large-scale emergencies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A complete Movement Tool Kit is available</li> </ul>	By the end of 2016, the Movement Tool Kit is disseminated.
ICRC and the International Federation security specialists, in consultation with NS, undertake a review of Movement security arrangements in large-scale operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More coherent and effective security/safety management in field operations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Movement security arrangements, including a catalogue of options and best practices.</li> </ul>	Framework for Movement security arrangements is presented to the CoD 2017.
ICRC, the International Federation and NS continue to explore the feasibility of joint service provision within the Movement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More cost-efficient and effective Movement service delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities of joint services provision identified and seized where appropriate.</li> </ul>	Inclusion of findings/ possible experiences into the report to CoD2017.
ICRC, the International Federation and NS continue to explore the feasibility of aligned surge capacity (e.g. ERU, RDU etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More aligned and effective Movement surge support in large-scale operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities as identified further explored.</li> </ul>	Inclusion of findings/ possible experiences into the report to CoD2017.

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**Objective 5: The Movement strives to respond to large-scale emergencies in a coordinated way, with particular emphasis on the first hours of an emergency.**

<p>Within the first 24-48 hours of a crisis, a high level mini-summit (virtual or face-to-face) is held, followed by a joint statement.</p> <p>ICRC and the International Federation further develop the concept of the mini-summit based on the experiences and lessons learnt.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased trust and improved coordination due to a clear and commonly agreed division of responsibilities</li> <li>Increased willingness to coordinate and be coordinated, including sharing responsibilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lessons learnt/Joint ICRC-International Federation RTE focusing on Movement coordination in the response phase</li> </ul>	<p>By the end of 2017, the mini-summit/joint statement has been tested in 75% of new large-scale emergencies, and a lessons learnt exercise conducted.</p>
<p>ICRC and the International Federation, together with NS, conceptualize and test the deployment of Movement Coordination Officers with a mandate to serve the common interests of the Movement in large-scale emergencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased trust between Movement components and in Movement coordination mechanisms</li> <li>Increased level of coordination and efficiency of Movement response</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lessons learnt on deployment of Movement Coordination Officers in large-scale emergency</li> </ul>	<p>By 2017, Movement Coordination Officers were deployed in a large-scale emergency and an evaluation with recommendations is presented to the CoD 2017.</p>

**Objective 6: The Movement effectively positions itself by presenting strong and coherent messages, maximising the communications potential of each component and enhancing the public profile of the Movement during large-scale emergencies.**

<p>ICRC and the International Federation, in consultation with NS, further develop and test a framework for Movement communications in large-scale emergencies outlining coordination mechanisms, decision-making and validation schemes, and roles and responsibilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Movement components' capacity to deliver joint or coordinated public communications in large-scale emergencies is increased.</li> <li>Increased impact, credibility and reach with target audience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Framework for communications in large-scale emergencies.</li> </ul>	<p>Framework mechanisms will be piloted in key large-scale emergencies throughout 2016 and 2017</p>
<p>Communications departments of ICRC, the International Federation and participating NS develop joint tools for communications in large-scale emergencies including for preparedness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Movement components' capacity to deliver joint or coordinated public communications in large-scale emergencies is increased.</li> <li>Increased impact, credibility and reach with target audience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information-sharing portal</li> <li>Checklist of communications deliverables</li> <li>Template for Movement communications strategy</li> <li>Standard Operating Procedures</li> <li>Guidelines for engaging with communities</li> </ul>	<p>Concept and parameters of information-sharing portal defined by the end of 2016 and portal created in 2017.</p> <p>Checklist, template, guidelines and SoPs available by the end of 2016 and applied until the end of 2017.</p>
<p>ICRC, International Federation and NS with available capacity explore the development of a joint surge capacity and Movement coordination function for communications in emergencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased Movement partners' capacity to support an enhanced RCRC Movement profile and positioning through communications, while maintaining each component's unique identity and interests.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint surge capacity defined and ready to be implemented</li> <li>In the meantime, surge capacity is coordinated whenever possible in large-scale emergencies</li> </ul>	<p>Inclusion of findings and recommendations in the report to the CoD 2017</p>

**Objective 7: The Movement pursues a coherent and complementary approach to resource mobilisation in large-scale emergencies.**

<p>ICRC and the International Federation further develop, test and fine-tune the “Movement Coordinated Emergency Appeal” model for future large-scale emergencies, including donor outreach and reporting (including tracking of coordinated bilateral assistance).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated, complementary, synchronised and internally non-competing appeals for large-scale emergencies.</li> <li>• Greater sense of collective responsibility for operations and accountability to donors.</li> <li>• Potentially increased funds allocated to overall Movement response.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movement Coordinated Emergency Appeals model tested during next emergency situations.</li> <li>• Lessons learnt exercise, model improved and adapted.</li> </ul>	<p>By 2017, Movement Coordinated Emergency Appeal model tested in all new large-scale emergencies</p>
<p>ICRC and the International Federation, in consultation with National Societies, further explore the feasibility of launching one international appeal which includes the objectives, activities and budgets of the other components.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved perception of efficiency, coherence and clarity of the Movement response.</li> <li>• Greater sense of collective responsibility in terms of operations and accountability to donors.</li> <li>• Increased potential for increased funds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeal model defined and requirements identified.</li> <li>• MoU/Agreement template</li> </ul>	<p>Model defined and MoU template available by the end of 2016 The MoU template will have been tested by 2017</p>
<p>ICRC and the International Federation, in consultation with National Societies, explore the move towards fully joint appeals, including challenges and opportunities to better align their respective systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fully integrated Movement response in large-scale emergencies.</li> <li>• Improved perception of coherence, clarity and relevance of Movement response.</li> <li>• Further increased potential for increased funds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenges and opportunities identified.</li> </ul>	<p>Inclusion of recommendations into the report to the CoD 2017</p>

**Objective 8: Movement response is predictable and accountable, in compliance with agreed rules and standards.**

<p>ICRC and the International Federation, in consultation with NS explore means to enhance accountability and compliance, including the following elements:</p> <p>a) Incentives for good practice in coordination</p> <p>b) Monitoring and enhanced transparency regarding adherence to rules and non-compliance</p> <p>c) Dispute settlement/ conflict resolution mechanism for Movement coordination disputes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased focus on how to ensure accountability for Movement coordination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal by a joint working group for Movement-wide means to enhance accountability and compliance</li> </ul>	<p>Inclusion into the report to the CoD 2017 of means to enhance accountability and compliance</p>
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### 1.1.3 Resolution 2: Adoption of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement logo

The Council of Delegates,

*recalling* Resolution 6 adopted by the 2013 Council of Delegates, “International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Branding Initiative,” which “[recognized] the interest of the components of the Movement in exploring further the possibility of a Movement logo, and [recommended] that the ICRC and the International Federation initiate an inclusive process to further develop the conditions and rules governing such a logo, taking into account all positions and views expressed by the components of the Movement, and establish a process for consultation with States based on the outcome of these discussions,”

*recalling* the interest expressed by many National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) in the possibility of developing an International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) logo for indicative use and intended to represent the Movement components collectively in communication, promotional and resource-mobilization activities of global concern,

*acknowledging* that the components of the Movement are operating in a humanitarian environment that is changing rapidly and increasingly competitive in terms of positioning and advancing their humanitarian mission, roles and mandates,

*recognizing* the challenges and opportunities stemming from digital communication and technologies, which increasingly influence the ability of Movement components to communicate, promote their work and maximize funds raised on a national and global level,

*stressing* the primary function of the emblems as a protective device in times of armed conflict and the need to preserve the emblems and ensure respect for them at all times, and *reminding* all components of the Movement of their commitment to respect the existing legal and regulatory framework governing the use of the emblems in both their protective and indicative functions,

*welcoming* the consultations held in 2014-15 amongst National Societies on exploring further the possibility of a Movement logo and *taking note* of the results of the survey on the Movement logo conducted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies (International Federation) of all the National Societies,

*reiterating* the importance of ensuring a coherent and more effective approach to branding and visual representation within the Movement and *committing* all Movement components to supporting National Societies in further strengthening their capacities in communication, promotion and resource mobilization,

*acknowledging* the potential resource-mobilization and positioning opportunities offered by the creation and display of a Movement logo and the positive impact such a logo would have on the ability of Movement components to highlight their humanitarian mandate and activities,

*emphasizing* that the promotional and fundraising use of the Movement logo will remain exceptional, and that the logo is intended to complement the individual logos of National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC,

*welcoming* the progress achieved in the follow-up to Resolution 6, adopted by the 2013 Council of Delegates, and the implementation of the other objectives and commitments undertaken in the context of the Movement Branding Initiative, and *noting with appreciation* the active contributions of National Societies,

*acknowledging* the progress already achieved in the context of the Movement Branding Initiative towards the development of Movement-wide global fundraising principles, and *recognizing* the importance for the Movement and its components of enhancing their collaboration on resource mobilization and further leveraging their fundraising potential, as a whole and individually, for the benefit of the vulnerable people and communities they serve,

1. *adopts* the Movement logo as set out in the *Conditions and Rules for the Use of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Logo*, (annexed to the present Resolution);
2. *commits* the Movement components to ensuring that the use of the Movement logo is exceptional and that its display is complementary to that of the existing logos of individual Movement components, so as to not undermine the strength and primacy of the existing logos;
3. *expresses* its commitment to ensuring that the Movement logo will be used at all times in conformity with the *Conditions and Rules for the*

Use of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Logo – including obtaining prior agreement from National Societies to participate in global fundraising initiatives in which the Movement logo is displayed on their territory – and that the display of the Movement logo will not undermine the respect and protections due to the emblems under international humanitarian law and the regulatory framework agreed upon within the Movement, including the 1991 Regulations on the Use of the Emblem of the Red Cross or the Red Crescent by the National Societies;

4. requests that the ICRC and the International Federation ensure that the necessary information is provided to States, in their capacity as High Contracting Parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, with regard to the present Resolution, as adopted;
5. invites the ICRC and the International Federation, together with the National Societies concerned, to carry out a self-assessment of instances in which the Movement logo will have been displayed and to report back on the results achieved and lessons learned to the Council of Delegates in 2017;
6. commits the Movement components to demonstrating their collective leadership with a view to maximizing the Movement's fundraising potential in a spirit of collaboration and good partnership, and calls upon the ICRC and the International Federation to pursue an inclusive process with National Societies for the development of Movement-wide principles for resource mobilization, which are to be submitted for adoption at the Council of Delegates in 2017

## ANNEX 1 – Conditions and Rules for the Use of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Logo

### 1. Background

- 1 The ICRC and International Federation commissioned a survey of National Society secretaries general and presidents to assess their support for a Movement logo, the potential terms and conditions of its use, and its design elements. The survey was offered in five languages (Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish) and was available on- and offline for one month (27 March – 28 April 2015). A total of 86 National Societies completed the survey.
- 2 The Movement Branding Reference Group was formed in 2014 as part of the Movement Branding Initiative's consultation process, and aimed to (1) make recommendations and advise on aspects linked to a possible Movement logo, (2) further define the Movement identity and review progress on strengthening it, (3) clarify specific rules for using the existing logos in communication, marketing and fundraising, and (4) identify ways of supporting a 'branding culture' across the Movement. A total of 20 National Societies were involved in one or both of the Reference Group meetings (held on 10 December 2014 and 13 May 2015).
- 3 Note that this document applies only to the use of the Movement logo. It does not apply to the display of individual logos of Movement components.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Branding Initiative Resolution, which was adopted by the 2013 Council of Delegates "recognizes the interest of the components of the Movement in exploring further the possibility of a Movement logo, and recommends that the ICRC and the Federation initiate an inclusive process to further develop the conditions and rules governing such a logo, taking into account all positions and views expressed by the components of the Movement, and establish a process for consultation with States based on the outcome of these discussions."

These conditions and rules for the use of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) logo have been developed following a series of Movement-wide consultations mandated in the aforementioned resolution. These consultations included a survey addressed to all National Society secretaries general and presidents,<sup>1</sup> a series of technical group sessions and two meetings of the Movement Branding Reference Group,<sup>2</sup> which is composed of National Society leaders and representatives from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

### 2. Introduction

This document defines the conditions and rules for the use of the Movement logo and is an annex to the resolution on the adoption of the Movement logo submitted to the 2015 Council of Delegates.<sup>3</sup>

The purpose of the Movement logo is to enhance the Movement's collective brand through a visual identity for indicative use, particularly to:

- enhance the positioning and visibility of the Movement as a relevant and essential humanitarian network present and active throughout the world, with regard to contexts which concern National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation; and

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- strengthen the ability of the Movement and its components to communicate, promote their work and maximize funds raised on a national and global level, with regard to contexts which concern National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation.

With the aim of complementing the existing individual logos and protecting the brand and image of Movement components, the Movement logo shall be used exceptionally for representation, communication, global fundraising and promotional activities to represent the Movement components collectively, in accordance with the conditions and rules set out in this document.

### 3. General principles

The following general principles shall guide the use of the Movement logo:

- a) The Movement logo shall be used to collectively maximize visibility, positioning and fundraising in support of the humanitarian work of the Movement and the people it serves.
- b) The Movement logo shall be used exceptionally so as not to undermine the strength and primacy of the existing logos of Movement components.
- c) The Movement logo is complementary to the logos of the individual Movement components. In the context of global fundraising, the Movement logo shall be used where the display of individual logos of Movement components is not feasible or technically possible.
- d) Each use and display of the Movement logo must be approved in advance in accordance with the processes defined in this document.
- e) Any use or display of the Movement logo shall at all times be consistent with agreed ethical standards stemming from the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and with the mission of the Movement.
- f) No use or display of the Movement logo shall be permitted if it is determined that it would result in a weakening of the neutral status and protective value of the red cross or red crescent emblems and/or would risk undermining the prestige of, or respect for, the emblems.

All Movement components are responsible for ensuring that the use of the Movement logo is at all times coherent with the 1991 *Regulations on the Use of the Emblem of the Red Cross or the Red Crescent by the National Societies (Emblem Regulations)*. Furthermore, all uses of the Movement logo must comply with other relevant rules, policies and regulations agreed upon within the Movement.

- g) The Movement logo shall at all times be used in a manner that is consistent with coordination rules agreed upon within the Movement and in a spirit of solidarity and good partnership between Movement components, and avoiding competition.

### 4. Use of the Movement logo

#### a) Situations in which the Movement logo may be used

The Movement logo shall be used exceptionally, and only in the following scenarios:

- i. **Representation:** for representation purposes in materials of the Movement's Statutory meetings and of Movement-coordinated participation in events involving National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation;
- ii. **Communication:** for communication purposes including for the *Red Cross Red Crescent* magazine and agreed-upon Movement campaigns, joint statements, digital platforms and other materials on contexts and themes of global concern or interest to National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation (e.g. World Red Cross Red Crescent Day, Health Care in Danger);
- iii. **Movement promotion and fundraising for a humanitarian emergency:** for Movement-wide promotion and fundraising, including with an external partner, that is linked to a humanitarian emergency of global interest where a collective of Movement components, including the International Federation and the ICRC, are involved in the response;
- iv. **Movement promotion and fundraising for a general theme or campaign:** for Movement-wide promotion and fundraising initiatives for an event, theme



or campaign, which may also include sponsorship from, or partnership with, an external partner.

## b) Situations in which the Movement logo may not be used

The Movement logo shall never be used or displayed in the following situations:

- i. as a substitute for the individual logo of a Movement component or to represent a regional grouping of National Societies;
- ii. in an operational response or context, in any way;
- iii. in any way that would suggest or be liable to confusion with protective use of the emblem, such as on flags or in large size on buildings, vehicles or other objects, including billboards, items of clothing such as vests, bibs and T-shirts, or on armbands;
- iv. where the intended use or display is deemed to pose reputational or other risks to the Movement or any of its components; or
- v. on items for sale or distribution by a commercial partner, or to indicate or suggest an endorsement of a product or service, or in other ways not compliant with the 1949 Geneva Conventions or coherent with the Emblem Regulations.

## c) In-principle approval for use

As the initial condition for the use of the Movement logo, the senior management of the ICRC and the International Federation must agree that a specific situation or context is of Movement-wide interest or concern, and thus presents an opportunity for the use of the Movement logo as set forth above in section 4(a). The ICRC and International Federation shall make this determination in consultation with the National Society(ies) concerned.

- i. Where the use of the Movement logo is intended for fundraising and promotion for a humanitarian emergency, due consideration shall be given to whether:
  - there is a large-scale humanitarian crisis or disaster;
  - the affected National Society(ies) supports global fundraising and promotional activities to support the response;
  - the crisis or disaster generates global attention;

- both the ICRC and International Federation are operationally involved in the crisis or disaster; and
- the use of the Movement logo could create a risk of confusion in terms of the operational lead, mandates or organizational identity.

- ii. Where the use of the Movement logo is intended for representation, communication or fundraising and promotion for a general theme or campaign, due consideration shall be given to whether the opportunity is a collective initiative, event, programme or campaign of global scope and interest.

## 5. Display of the Movement logo

The Movement logo shall be displayed in one or more of the six official languages of the International Conference (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish), as shown below, for each specific initiative. However, in exceptional cases, where technically feasible and upon request, the display of the Movement logo in another language may be considered; it is subject to the approval of the Movement Logo Approval Committee.



The display of the Movement logo shall comply with the following rules:

- a) The logo shall always be displayed in the above design and cannot be reduced to any of its constituent parts. This means that the Movement logo must always be composed of the red cross and red crescent emblems displayed side by side together with the words 'International' and 'Movement' encircling them as depicted above. It may be enlarged or reduced in proportion to the respective communication tool, ensuring the size of the words is balanced with the size of the emblems.
- b) The logo must appear on a white background, with clear space on all sides equal to the height of the cross and crescent.
- c) To avoid any confusion between the Movement logo and the emblem used as a protective device, the Movement logo must always be displayed in relatively small dimensions and discreetly.

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- d) The Movement logo shall not be integrated into artwork as a design element for decorative or other purposes.
- e) The use of the Movement logo must be linked to a specific initiative and be defined and/or limited in time, medium of display and geography.

When the logo is used with an external partner, it must always be accompanied by an explanation or call to action, enabling the public to clearly understand the relationship between the Movement and the external partner, using language such as 'Donate,' 'Support,' or 'A campaign in support of.'

Each National Society is responsible for verifying that the use of the Movement logo and the solicitation of charitable contributions using the Movement logo in its territory complies with domestic laws and regulations.

Each Movement component is responsible for monitoring and ensuring the correct use and display of the Movement logo and for taking appropriate measures in the event of misuse, including mobilizing the relevant public authorities. The ICRC and International Federation can support National Societies in this task.

## **6. Specific approval procedure for the use of the Movement logo**

When the in-principle approval has been granted in a specific situation as set forth in section 4(c), any request to use the Movement logo shall be submitted to the Movement Logo Approval Committee<sup>4</sup> (Approval Committee) which shall consider and decide upon the request to use the Movement logo.

### **a) Approval Committee composition**

The Approval Committee shall be composed of the ICRC and the International Federation as permanent members and shall convene according to needs and in a timely manner. For communication, fundraising and promotional initiatives relating to a humanitarian emergency, as defined in section 4(a), the affected National Society(ies) shall be invited to participate in the Approval Committee insofar as possible. In the case where a National Society submits a request involving an external partner, that National Society may also participate in the Approval Committee,

if the National Society so desires. Other National Societies may be invited to participate in the Approval Committee as relevant and where feasible.

### **b) Approval process**

Any Movement component interested in using the Movement logo shall make a written request to the Approval Committee with an overview of the opportunity, including any proposed terms of use and any designs and materials showing the intended display of the Movement logo, for the Approval Committee's review and approval.

The Approval Committee shall provide a timely response, in particular taking into consideration the urgency of the opportunity.

The Approval Committee shall make its decision on the basis of the present conditions and rules. All decisions shall be made by consensus. All Movement components participating in the Approval Committee shall endeavour to achieve consensus. National Societies retain the option to opt out of any specific initiative. If no agreement is reached between the Approval Committee participants, the Movement logo shall not be used.

The approval or rejection of the request to use the Movement logo shall be provided in writing, which can include electronic communication.

In cases where the use of the Movement logo is envisaged for representational purposes in internal or external global events (e.g. conferences, meetings, etc.), the Approval Committee shall coordinate with the National Society in whose country the event will take place.

### **c) Requests involving an external partner**

#### **I. Global relationship management**

When the request to use the Movement logo involves an external partner, the best placed Movement component shall manage the global relationship with the external partner<sup>5</sup> (i.e. act as the global relationship manager) for the specific initiative. Respecting partner intent, the global relationship manager shall, in principle, be as follows:

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<sup>4</sup> The Terms of Reference for the Movement Logo Approval Committee are available upon request.

<sup>5</sup> As per Movement protocols currently being developed and to be agreed.

- for corporate sector partners, the National Society in the country in which the specific initiative is being discussed with the corporate partner (e.g. the global headquarters or another corporate office or subsidiary of the company),<sup>6</sup> unless otherwise agreed with any National Society concerned;
- for international organizations, the International Federation or the ICRC,<sup>7</sup> unless otherwise agreed between the International Federation, the ICRC and any National Society concerned;
- for other external partners,<sup>8</sup> to be determined on a case-by-case basis between the International Federation, the ICRC and any National Society concerned.

## II. Approval for the use and display of the Movement logo with an external partner

When submitting a request, the Movement component acting as the global relationship manager must, in particular:

- a) demonstrate to the Approval Committee that the external partner complies with agreed Movement standards and requirements, including in particular the Emblem Regulations and the 2005 *International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Policy for Corporate Sector Partnerships*;
- b) confirm with the external partner that the use of individual logos of National Societies for the initiative is not feasible or technically possible.

In addition, the Movement component acting as the global relationship manager must include information on the following elements in the request to the Approval Committee:

- c) the proposed display of the Movement logo on the external partner's platform or other media, the proposed language accompanying the logo, and any other promotional materials associated with the initiative;

- d) the external partner's ability to provide a country-by-country breakdown of funds raised to allow the distribution of funds to National Societies, the ICRC or the International Federation, to reflect donor intent;
- e) the external partner's willingness and ability to access or obtain donor data, and whether Movement components have the possibility to keep and manage the donor data;
- f) any proposed changes to the template agreement<sup>9</sup> with the external partner, including any additional terms requested by the external partner.

The Approval Committee shall take into consideration the above elements in its decision to accept or refuse the use of the Movement logo for a specific initiative. It shall, in particular, review the proposed agreement with the external partner, suggest any amendments if necessary, and make its decision accordingly.

## III. Responsibilities in terms of global relationship management

The Movement component acting as the global relationship manager shall aim to build or enhance the relationship with the external partner and shall strive to develop it into a long-term strategic partnership beneficial to the Movement and its components. In relation to each initiative, this includes the following responsibilities:

- a) represent the interests of the Movement in the dialogue with the external partner for the specific initiative;
- b) manage external-partner expectations on behalf of the Movement;
- c) negotiate the agreement with the external partner based on the aforementioned template agreement, provide the external partner with the list of Movement components participating in the specific initiative and monitor the

6 To ensure good coordination and cooperation within the Movement, any Movement component that is discussing a specific initiative with a corporate office or subsidiary of a corporate entity shall inform the National Society where the corporate sector partner has its global headquarters.

7 Given the international nature and personality of international bodies such as the United Nations and its specialized agencies, either the International Federation or the ICRC shall generally be the global relationship manager unless agreed otherwise with the National Society where the international body is based.

8 For inter-governmental and/or regional organizations such as the European Union, existing relationships and practices will be respected.

9 A template agreement with external partners for the use of the Movement logo has been developed by the ICRC and the International Federation.

implementation of the agreement in accordance with the present conditions and rules;

- d) maintain external-partner interest through proactive dialogue and information sharing throughout the specific initiative;
- e) provide transparent and accountable reporting, as agreed with the external partner;
- f) obtain and respond to feedback on the external partner's experience and share it with Movement components concerned to provide better service and increase fundraising in the future;
- g) explore, with the external partner, future opportunities for Movement-wide and/or National-Society-level engagement, where feasible.

## 7. National Society options for participation in global promotion and fundraising initiatives

National Societies can indicate their agreement to participate in global promotional and fundraising initiatives using the Movement logo in two ways:

- opt in to initiatives using the Movement logo in advance, as set forth in sub-paragraph (a) below; or
- opt in to a specific initiative using the Movement logo prior to the launch of the initiative, as set forth in sub-paragraph (b) below.

When the Approval Committee has approved the use of the Movement logo for a specific global promotional or fundraising initiative, the National Societies shall be informed immediately (e.g. via email) of this initiative prior to its launch. The communication shall notably include details about the initiative as set forth in section 6(c)(ii), as well as any specific terms and conditions agreed with the external partner.

It is noted that the ICRC and International Federation, as the international components of the Movement, shall be automatically included in global promotional and fundraising initiatives.

### a) Advance opt-in

Since global promotional and fundraising initiatives are often launched quickly and require an immediate decision, National Societies shall have the option to agree in advance to the use of the Movement logo on their territory for future initiatives.

To this end, National Societies are invited to sign a permission form in advance agreeing to the use of the Movement logo on their territory in accordance with the conditions and rules as set out in this document.

The Approval Committee shall maintain a list of National Societies that have opted in to the use of the Movement logo in advance. This list shall be shared with the global relationship manager for each specific initiative.

National Societies that opt in in advance shall be informed before the Movement logo is used for any specific initiative involving the use of the Movement logo on their territory, and shall have the option of opting out of each specific initiative, as set forth in section 7(c).

### b) Opt-in prior to the launch of a specific initiative

National Societies that have not opted in in advance shall have the opportunity to opt in to each specific global fundraising and promotional initiative prior to its launch.

Once the National Societies are informed of a specific initiative as indicated above, National Societies that decide to opt in to this initiative must communicate this decision by replying to the aforementioned email within the following timeframes:

- for a humanitarian crisis or disaster, within 24 hours;
- for a general theme or campaign, within seven days.

It should be noted that:

- i. National Societies that have not opted in in advance will be excluded from the initiative in the absence of an opt-in response within the aforementioned timeframes, and the Movement logo will not be displayed on their territory.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> In the event that the Movement logo unintentionally appears in the territory of a National Society that has opted out of a specific initiative, the National Society shall inform the global relationship manager or the Approval Committee, which shall seek to rectify the situation.

- ii. National Societies that have agreed to the advance opt-in will be included in the initiative if no opt-out response is received to the email within the specified timeframe.
- iii. In a situation where the external partner cannot customize the geographical scope of an initiative (e.g. is unable to omit the display of the Movement logo in some territories) and not all National Societies opt in, the Movement logo will not be used for the specific initiative.

### **c) Opt-out prior to the launch of a specific initiative**

National Societies that have agreed to the advance opt-in shall have the opportunity to opt out of each specific global initiative.

The opt-out must be communicated by replying to the aforementioned email within the following timeframes:

- for a humanitarian crisis or disaster, within 24 hours;
- for a general theme or campaign, within seven days.

It should be noted that:

- i. National Societies that have agreed to the advance opt-in will be automatically included in the initiative unless they reply to the email, expressing their desire not to be included in the initiative and/or their refusal to have to Movement logo displayed in their territory.
- ii. National Societies that have not opted in in advance will be excluded from the initiative in the absence of an opt-in response within the aforementioned timeframes, and the Movement logo will not be displayed on their territory<sup>11</sup>.
- iii. In a situation where the external partner cannot customize the geographical scope of an initiative (e.g. is unable to omit the display of the Movement logo in some territories) and not all National Societies opt in, Movement logo will not be used for the specific initiative.

## **8. Funds raised using the Movement logo**

### **a) Specific principles**

In addition to the general principles set forth in section 3, the following specific principles shall apply regarding funds raised using the Movement logo for an emergency or general theme or campaign:

- i. Funds raised for a specific emergency, general theme or campaign shall only be used for operations or activities conducted by components of the Movement.
- ii. Funds raised must be used honouring donor intent and managed in an accountable manner.
- iii. Each Movement component receiving funds shall use them, as deemed appropriate, in a coordinated manner<sup>12</sup> to ensure Movement components' appeals or initiatives are funded respective to their operational mandates, activities and financial needs in the specific context.
- iv. Each Movement component must ensure that the maximum amount of funds raised is used for the humanitarian emergency, general theme or campaign to which they were donated, both individually and collectively minimizing associated costs.
- v. Access to, and management of, individual donor data is an important and integral part of fundraising; any accessible data shall be used in accordance with applicable data-protection principles and regulations.

### **b) Rules for the management of the funds and individual donor data**

The following rules shall apply to the management of funds raised for a humanitarian emergency, general theme or campaign. The global relationship manager shall work with the external partner to determine how funds raised will be donated, according to the following order of preference.

- i. **Funds donated to individual Movement components**

When an external partner or digital platform allows for funds raised to be donated to individual Movement components and individual donor data is available:

<sup>11</sup> See footnote 10.

<sup>12</sup> According to agreed Movement coordination and cooperation rules and policies.

- a. The recipient of the funds shall in principle be the National Society in the country where the individual donor is situated at the time of the donation.<sup>13</sup> Where appropriate and technically feasible, the donor shall be given the option of donating to another National Society, the ICRC or the International Federation.
- b. The management of funds and of individual donor data shall be the responsibility of the individual Movement component that is the recipient of the funds, subject to applicable legislation.

ii. **Funds donated to the Movement**

When an external partner or digital platform does not allow funds raised to be donated to individual Movement components, but a breakdown of funds raised is available by country and individual donor data is available by country:

- a. Each National Society may, at its request and subject to applicable legislation and the willingness and ability of the external partner, receive individual donor data in relation to funds raised in its country, and shall be responsible for the management of such donor data.
- b. When the amount raised in any given country is greater than or equal to 100,000 Swiss francs (Sfr), or the equivalent amount in another currency (or another agreed threshold commensurate with the size or scope of the humanitarian emergency, general theme or campaign), each National Society is, upon request, entitled to receive the funds raised in its country and shall be responsible for the management of these funds.
- c. When funds raised in any given country are less than Sfr 100,000, or the equivalent amount in another currency, funds shall be allocated to specific Movement components<sup>14</sup> consistent with the specific principles set out in section 8(a).

When it is not possible to obtain a country-level breakdown of donations or individual donor data by country, funds shall be allocated to Movement components<sup>15</sup> consistent with the specific principles set out in section 8(a).

**c) Accountability to donors and external partners**

Movement components receiving funds directly from donors or indirectly from Movement component(s) shall use them efficiently and effectively.

i. **Donor and external partner intent**

- a. Each Movement component receiving funds raised using the Movement logo is accountable to donors and the external partner for using those funds for the purpose for which they were donated.

ii. **Reporting and transparency**

- a. Each Movement component receiving funds raised using the Movement logo is responsible for reporting on the use of those funds in accordance with their own reporting rules and consistent with any reasonable requirements agreed with the external partner and/or determined by the Approval Committee.
- b. Where required by donors, the external partner or the Approval Committee, a summary report shall be compiled and shared by the global relationship manager with the external partner and with Movement components receiving funds using the Movement logo.

iii. **Costs**

- a. Movement components have their own costing policies, which shall be respected. Nonetheless, individually and collectively, the costs of fundraising must be within acceptable industry standards.
- b. In the event that a Movement component is receiving and transferring funds and/or undertaking collective

13 The mechanism for tracking where an individual donor is situated may vary among external partners.

14 The fund allocation will be on a case-by-case basis, based on criteria such as mandates, operational footprint, planned operations, appeal size and coverage, expected implementation rate and capacity to implement.

15 See footnote 14 above.

reporting functions, i.e. when acting as the global relationship manager, it may recover reasonable costs associated with carrying out these functions for the specific initiative.

- c. The ICRC and International Federation shall not recover costs related to managing the use of the Movement logo in the context of a humanitarian emergency, with the exception of direct costs in cases where the ICRC or the International Federation is serving as the global relationship manager and/or paying agent.

### 1.1.4 Resolution 3: International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement message to the World Humanitarian Summit

The Council of Delegates,

welcoming the World Humanitarian Summit and its widespread efforts to identify how best to improve global humanitarian response,

noting the active participation of all components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the World Humanitarian Summit consultations contributing the perspective of the world's largest humanitarian network,

1. *adopts* the enclosed message to the World Humanitarian Summit;
2. *requests* to present it to the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as part of the resolution on "International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement response to growing humanitarian needs";
3. *calls* on the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross to deliver it to the World Humanitarian Summit in the most appropriate form.

## Movement Message to the World Humanitarian Summit

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement welcomes the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and the exceptional effort in its consultations to identify how best to improve global humanitarian response. National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation have participated actively in the WHS consultations contributing our perspective as the world's largest humanitarian network distinguished by our Fundamental Principles and our vast number of trained volunteers and staff. Our unique organization works in all types of humanitarian contexts and during the consultations we have shared our expertise in disasters and armed conflict.

### ***Protect the Dignity of Every Human Being and Improve Humanitarian Access to Those in Need***

The principle of humanity sits at the heart of all humanitarian work and is the goal of everything we do. This principle requires respect for the individual human being at all times.

***We ask the WHS to achieve clear commitments on respect for human dignity and people's assistance and protection in disaster, armed conflict and other emergencies.*** All humanitarian response should be designed and delivered with a determination to respect and increase human dignity and to protect vulnerable individuals and their communities. Participation is an important part of human dignity. Humanitarian response should actively include affected people in the relief of their own suffering and the reduction of their risk. Being active in one's survival and recovery generates and preserves a sense of dignity. The WHS needs to promote the participation and empowerment of affected people in humanitarian action.

***We ask the WHS to recognize access, proximity and trust as essential features in effective humanitarian action.*** Humanitarian access is essential to humanitarian success. Our Movement's staff and volunteers reach into the hardest and most remote parts of a crisis, and our experience proves that the best humanitarian response is built together with the affected community. To work together well, humanitarian agencies must be close to the communities who need them and work in cooperation with the relevant authorities. Trust is built most effectively through proximity. A true understanding of how best to meet people's needs develops from being close to the reality of people's lives.

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## ***Affirm the Complementarity of Local, National and International Action***

Vulnerable people, governments, humanitarian organizations and civil society all have essential roles and responsibilities in risk reduction, emergency response, and recovery from humanitarian crises.

***We ask the WHS to encourage governments to increase their capacity to ensure humanitarian response and respect international law.*** Governments have the primary obligation under domestic and international law to ensure that the basic needs of the population under their control are met, to limit risk and harm, and to allow and facilitate international assistance. International humanitarian law also establishes obligations on non-state armed groups. Few governments are fully prepared for this role, and often lack clear procedures, necessary institutional arrangements and trained personnel to ensure that assistance is effectively managed, within the limits of international law.

***We ask the WHS to deliver a significant change in the effectiveness of local humanitarian response while respecting a complementary balance between local, national and international actors.*** The value of local humanitarian responders has been proved. The empowerment of government and local actors is central in our Movement, in our relations with States and in our own Code of Conducts.<sup>1</sup> Local responders are often in the strongest position to deliver rapid, culturally appropriate and sustainable humanitarian assistance to their communities. For example, in West Africa, well before the world woke up to the true nature of the Ebola threat, local health workers and affected communities were treating and isolating the sick, and burying the dead. In Syria, Red Crescent staff and volunteers have continued to carry out humanitarian operations in extremely challenging conditions and at great personal risk. The international system still places an overwhelming emphasis on international actors, leaving local organizations insufficient influence over operational decision-making and humanitarian policy. Global humanitarian financing centres on international organizations. There is not enough direct financing of affected governments and local humanitarian organizations.

This imbalance must be changed. More sustained investment in national response systems and basic services will deliver stronger partnerships between local and international actors. The capacity of principled local actors needs to be prioritized and

improved. This includes ensuring that local actors, like Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers who operate in dangerous conditions, are protected and insured.

Local humanitarian response can face genuine limits when governments and local organizations do not have the capacity, will or expertise to protect and assist people in need. Principled humanitarian activities can also be dangerous for local actors in polarized societies. In such contexts, principled international humanitarian support must be duly recognized and facilitated in the best interests of vulnerable people. In armed conflict, international humanitarian law recognizes such complementarity and entitles impartial humanitarian organizations such as the ICRC to offer their services, which must be authorized under certain circumstances.

## ***Take the Long View of People's Needs***

Our experience shows that disasters and armed conflicts are long-term experiences for people and play out in vulnerabilities preceding, during and after any major crisis. Millions have to live with chronic risk, entrenched vulnerability and recurring crisis for decades. These crises are also long term challenges for governments as people's resources, basic services and State infrastructure struggle to survive long-term degradation.

***We ask the WHS to prioritize forms of investment that meet humanitarian needs and also increase individual, community and national resilience.*** Investing in individual, community and national resilience is an essential part of this long view. People need to be prepared and become as resilient and adaptive as possible to the risks of their environment so they can meet their needs, reduce their risks and take evasive action when necessary. This adaptation requires active support and investment that is predictable, sustained and flexible. States and people need resilient infrastructure, resilient services and resilient livelihoods but, in armed conflict, people should never be expected to become resilient to recurrent violations of international humanitarian law such as direct attacks against civilians or civilian objects, indiscriminate attacks, rape, forced displacement and starvation.

***We ask the WHS to encourage long-term strategic humanitarian investments in situations of protracted conflict and chronic crisis.*** Protracted conflict, chronic crisis and extended situations of displacement require

<sup>1</sup> See The Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief (1994) and the Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance (2013).



a long view from affected States, humanitarian organizations and their donors. Support to critical infrastructure and services needs to be strategically planned and supported by predictable and flexible multi-year finance. Development reversals must be limited as much as possible and strategic humanitarian investments should be sensitive to SDG targets to reduce hunger, improve health and maintain resilient water, sanitation and energy infrastructure for the many millions of people impoverished by conflict and disaster.

**We ask the WHS to prioritize humanitarian innovation in line with ethical principles that ensure that all innovations serve the best interests of people in need.** Our Movement has been at the forefront of important humanitarian innovations like cash assistance, improved war surgery and the application of new technology in family tracing and community engagement. More innovation is essential as we rise to the challenge of intricate long-term needs. Urban innovations will be especially important as a great part of our work now supports people in cities. Our experience shows that innovation must be tested against humanitarian principles and ethical innovation principles as developed in our Movement.

### **Recognize and Enable Different Humanitarian Systems**

A sense of humanity encourages many different actors to protect and assist communities living through armed conflict, disasters and crisis.

**We ask the WHS to recognize that there is not a single international system of humanitarian response but to respect and enable the synergy of different systems.** Effective collective action will come from mutual respect for the diversity of humanitarian actors, and not from a desire to impose one system over others. The challenge is not to fix one system but to bring together diverse capacities and systems effectively around a given context and to work within a strong common humanitarian code, which puts humanity first.

### **1.1.5 Resolution 4: Adoption of the Disability Inclusion Strategic Framework by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

The Council of Delegates,

noting that an estimated one billion people live with some form of disability and that rates of disability are

increasing globally due to factors such as ageing and the increase in chronic health conditions,

*acknowledging* that persons with disabilities possess talents and abilities and make significant contributions to their families and communities everyday,

*recognising* that persons with disabilities often face significant barriers to participation, social inclusion and economic development that negatively impact their health, education and employment outcomes, leading to increasing poverty,

*reaffirming* its commitment to persons with disabilities expressed in resolution 9 of the 2013 Council of Delegates on *Promoting Disability Inclusion in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*, which called for the development of a Movement-wide strategy to be presented for adoption at the next Council of Delegates,

*recognising* that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's components, by virtue of their respective mandates, presence and activities, can do more to support the full and meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities both within the Movement and in their communities,

*noting* the influence in language and spirit of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities, approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006 in the development of the Movement-wide Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion,

*drawing* from the International Federation Strategy 2020, the ICRC Strategy 2015-2018, the International Federation Strategy on Violence Prevention, Mitigation and Response 2011-2020 as well as the International Federation Strategic Framework on Gender and Diversity Issues 2013-2020, and

*commending* the National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC for their collaborative work in developing the Movement-wide Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion and noting the active engagement of persons with disabilities and key civil society organisations in this process,

1. *adopts* the *Movement-wide Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion 2015-2019*, attached as annex 1;
2. *endorses* the implementation of its three strategic objectives:
  - all components of the Movement adopt a disability inclusive approach;

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- persons with disabilities have equal access to the services and programs the Movement provides, thereby enabling their inclusion and full participation; and
  - all components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement endeavour to change mindsets and behaviour in order to promote respect for diversity, including disability inclusion.
3. *encourages* all Movement components to develop an implementation plan which identifies the financial, human and other resources as well as the program alignments required – and to establish a baseline and benchmarks against which progress is to be measured;
  4. *advises* that an implementation committee with equitable regional representation from National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC as well as representatives of persons with disabilities will monitor and support the implementation progress;
  5. *requests* the International Federation, the ICRC and each of the 190 National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies provide a progress report to the Council of Delegates in 2017 - outlining the achievements to date and showing progress against baseline data - and a final report to the Council of Delegates in 2019 – including achievements to date and recommendations on future revision to the strategic framework.

at the 2013 Council of Delegates in Sydney, with significant support from 33 National Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation). This Resolution called for the development of a strategy on disability inclusion to provide specific strategic directions to the Movement to:

- ensure that all actions, policies and internal practices are non-discriminatory towards and inclusive of persons with disabilities,
- increase participation of persons with disabilities across the Movement, and
- promote disability inclusive practices throughout its work.

It is important to note that some of the work the Movement currently does already has a positive impact on impairment prevention and disability inclusion. This strategic framework represents both a consolidation of different aspects of existing work and a greater emphasis on more targeted action to promote and embed disability inclusion within the Movement.

This strategic framework is aligned with the International Federation Strategy 2020, the ICRC Strategy 2015 – 2018 and complements the International Federation *Strategy on Violence Prevention, Mitigation and Response 2011 – 2020* as well as the International Federation *Strategic Framework on Gender and Diversity Issues 2013 – 2020*<sup>2</sup>.

This strategic framework is the result of a participatory drafting process. The International Federation Secretariat, the ICRC, a network of National Societies with technical expertise, civil society organisations, people with disabilities organisations (PDOs)<sup>3</sup> and persons with disabilities have been involved in this process.

## **ANNEX – Movement-wide Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion “Disability is in society, not me”**

### **1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

The International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) has expressed its commitment to persons with disabilities in its statutory decisions over the past three decades<sup>1</sup>. The most recent resolution, *Promoting Disability Inclusion in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*, was adopted unanimously

### **1.2 DISABILITY AT A GLANCE**

#### **Defining disability**

Disability is a complex, multidimensional and dynamic concept that has evolved significantly over time. In order to try and make cultural and contextual ‘sense’ of disability, some individuals and groups have attributed its cause to supernatural forces or moral

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1 Resolutions adopted by the 24th, 25th and 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Resolution 27, Manila 1981; Resolution 28, Geneva 1986; Resolution 2, Geneva 2011 and Resolution 9 of Council of Delegates, Sydney 2013).

2 The International Federation Strategic Framework on Gender and Diversity Issues (2013) recognises disability as a key form of diversity and emphasises the critical interaction between gender, age and disability. Therefore, effectively promotes the integration of disability inclusion.

3 People with Disabilities Organisations (PDOs) have been commonly known, and are still known in some cases, as Disabled People’s Organisations (PDOs).

failings. This has often resulted in exclusion, stigma and marginalisation. Another frequent understanding of disability is the one based on the ‘medical model’ in which disability is seen to be caused solely by a disease, injury or impairment, the remedy for which, if any, was medical treatment. Through advocacy by the global disability rights movement, the concept of disability has been expanded to recognise that disability is not inherent to the individual -and his or her biological condition – but is the result of the interaction between the person with impairment and enabling or disabling characteristics of his or her socioeconomic environment. This is known as the ‘social model’, in which people are viewed as being disabled by society rather than by their impairments. This means that the experience of disability is not homogeneous: the impairment, level of support required and the type of barriers faced vary from person to person and all have an impact on a resulting restriction of participation.

The entry into force in May 2008 of the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol meant a major international policy shift to a ‘human rights-based model’ and has marked the beginning of a new era in the efforts to “promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respect for their inherent dignity”<sup>4</sup>. This human rights-based approach, which is based on the social model of disability and contends

that inequities faced by persons with disabilities can only be overcome if society becomes inclusive, is critical to understand the Movement’s actions in this area.

In line with the CRPD, this strategic framework considers ‘persons with disabilities’ to include “those who have physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”<sup>5</sup>. However, it is acknowledged that, since there is no consistency on the definition of disability worldwide, some Movement components may have to make allowances for alternative definitions and language, as appropriate within their contexts.

Being fully included in society means that persons with disabilities are recognized and valued as equal participants and their rights and requirements are understood as integral to the social and economic order. To achieve full inclusion, an accessible, barrier-free physical and social environment is necessary as well as a change in societies’ attitudes towards persons with disabilities.

### Barriers

There are different types of barriers that may prevent full participation and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities:

TYPE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
<b>Environmental</b>	Lack of physical infrastructure that allows access to products, facilities, services, community activities, etc.	Steps, narrow doorways, poor lighting or turning space, making public transportation or toilets inaccessible. The destruction created by natural disasters such as earthquakes or floods and situations of conflict can also create new physical barriers.
<b>Communication</b>	Lack of access to information.	Information provided only in one format (e.g. printed posters) may exclude persons with vision impairment or those people who do not have access to public spaces. A program or service that does not offer sign language interpreters may prevent access to persons with hearing impairment.

4 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Art

5 Ibid.



<b>Institutional</b>	Lack of knowledge; inadequate or inflexible legislation, policies, standards and systems that result in the exclusion of persons with disabilities because they do not consider the needs and rights of persons with different impairments or actively discriminate against them; lack of data and evidence.	A recruitment process whose advertisements and documentation are not in an accessible format on websites, and/or not available in Braille or large print may result in the exclusion of persons with vision impairment. Schools that do not offer special education services, speech pathology and/or additional assisted services for people with intellectual disabilities.
<b>Attitudinal</b>	Discrimination and stigma; ignorance, exclusion and lack of participation.	Discrimination can be direct i.e. a manager assumes a job candidate with disabilities will have lower capabilities and therefore does not offer him/her the job, or indirect i.e. the recruitment process takes place in a third floor of a building without a lift. An example of stigma is that related to women with disabilities not given access to sexual and reproductive health services.

All these barriers contribute to discrimination and disadvantage experienced by persons with disabilities and all are avoidable. These disadvantages include social isolation, poor health outcomes, lower educational achievements, lower employment rates, higher poverty rates and greater risk of violence in its various forms. Importantly, these barriers may interact with each other, affecting individuals and communities in several ways. Barriers that prevent persons with different impairments achieving their full potential vary according to cultural, political, social and economic factors.

## Facts and Figures

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Bank estimate that 15% of the world's population—about one billion people – live with some form of impairment<sup>6</sup>. Patterns of disability in each country are influenced by changes in health, the environment, legislation and how the various types of disability are conceptualised. Other factors include the incidence of road traffic accidents, natural disasters, armed conflict and violence, environmental hazards, poor nutrition, substance abuse as well as coverage of health and social protection systems.

There is evidence that excluding persons with disabilities comes at a cost. An exploratory study by

the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in ten developing countries has shown that the exclusion of persons with disabilities from the labour market results in a loss of GDP between 3% and 7%<sup>7</sup>.

Discrimination affects people on the basis of characteristics that are subject to differential treatment, prejudice and barriers to full participation. It is essential to highlight that persons with disabilities can be subject to discrimination on the basis of more than just their impairment. When characteristics such as gender, age, sexual orientation, health-including HIV, socio-economic status, religion, nationality, ethnic origin and disability combine, multiple discriminations may take place, rendering the persons concerned even more vulnerable to social exclusion.

### *Disability and Poverty*

Disability and poverty reinforce and perpetuate one another. Poor people are more likely to acquire an impairment and persons with disabilities living in poor conditions are more excluded than other persons within the same group. In fact, 80% of persons with disabilities live in developing countries<sup>8</sup>. Also, disability disproportionately affects excluded populations, with persons with disabilities making up 20% of the world's poorest people<sup>9</sup>.

6 WHO (2011) 'World report on disability' available from [http://www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report/2011/en/](http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/)

7 ILO (2009) 'The price of exclusion: the economic consequences of excluding people with disabilities from the work od work; Employment working paper N.43 retrieved from [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/-ifp\\_skills/documents/publication/wcms\\_119305.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/-ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_119305.pdf) '

8 UN Enable Factsheet on Persons with disabilities, available from <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/facts.shtml>

9 WHO (2011) World Report on Disability, available from [http://www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report/2011/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/index.html)

Persons with disabilities often have limited access to health care and education, have difficulty finding employment, face high levels of stigma and discrimination and are commonly denied their rights. These factors all contribute to economic vulnerability and social exclusion<sup>10</sup>. In many low and middle income countries, only 5 to 15% of people who require assistive devices or technologies receive them<sup>11</sup>. The cost of health services exacerbates the poverty level for persons with disabilities<sup>12</sup>.

### *Disability and Gender*

Gender, understood as a relationship between sexes embedded in societies' roles and norms, is often seen as operating hierarchically; that is, men being perceived as more powerful and dominant, while women are perceived as less powerful, weaker and subservient<sup>13</sup>. However, it is important to acknowledge that gender-formation is more complex and nuanced than the male-female binary<sup>14</sup>.

Women and girls with disabilities are often recognised as being multiply disadvantaged, that is, experiencing disadvantage and/or exclusion on account of their gender, their impairment, and often being among the poorest of the poor, due to patriarchal property ownership structures<sup>15</sup>. For instance, women and girls with disabilities are four to 10 times more likely to experience gender-based violence than women and children without disabilities<sup>16</sup>.

The image and assumptions of disability can be intensified by gender stereotypes and expectations: for women, a sense of increased passivity and helplessness and for men, a compromised masculinity generated by enforced dependence. This reinforces

the need for gender programs to incorporate a disability perspective and vice versa.

### *Disability, Conflict & Natural Disasters*

There is also a bidirectional link between humanitarian situations such as conflict and natural disasters and disability<sup>17</sup>. Persons with disabilities are highly vulnerable in disaster or conflict situations. They may find their situation exacerbated by the loss of family members or support, moving to inaccessible shelter and settlements, the loss of mobility and other aids and the lack of accessible information, food, water, sanitation and other infrastructure<sup>18</sup>.

Situations of disaster and conflict also create a new group of people who acquire impairments due to injuries, poor basic surgical and medical care, mental health issues, abandonment and breakdown in support structures and preventive health care. It is estimated that for every one person killed in a disaster, another three are injured or left with a permanent impairment<sup>19</sup>.

### *Disability and violence*

Violence is both a cause and an increased risk factor of disability. Interpersonal violence constitutes a significant factor in the incidence and prevalence of impairments across the world. In some countries, up to a quarter of impairments are the result of injuries and violence in some countries<sup>20</sup>.

Many inter-related factors, such as abuse of power, poverty, gender inequality or discrimination and substance abuse combine to create increased risk. Persons with disabilities are also more likely to be

10 CBM (2012), 'Inclusion made easy: A quick program guide to disability in development' available from [http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/78851/CBM\\_Inclusion\\_Made\\_Easy\\_-\\_complete\\_guide.pdf](http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/78851/CBM_Inclusion_Made_Easy_-_complete_guide.pdf)

11 WHO (n.a.) Assistive devices and technologies available from <http://www.who.int/disabilities/technology/en/>

12 WHO (2011) World Report on Disability, available on [http://www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report/2011/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/index.html)

13 Meekosha (2004) 'Gender and Disability', University of New South Wales, Sydney.

14 Ibid.

15 CBM (2012), 'Inclusion made easy: A quick program guide to disability in development' available on [http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/78851/CBM\\_Inclusion\\_Made\\_Easy\\_-\\_complete\\_guide.pdf](http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/78851/CBM_Inclusion_Made_Easy_-_complete_guide.pdf) and Meekosha (2004) 'Gender and Disability', University of New South Wales, Sydney.

16 Buscher, D. Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN), Humanitarian Exchange, No. 60, February 2014, Special Feature on Gender-based Violence in Emergencies, Preventing Gender-based Violence: Getting it Right.

17 World Health Organisation (2012) 'Early Childhood Development and Disability'.

18 IDDC (2005), 'Disability in Conflict and Emergency Situations: Focus on Tsunami-affected Areas' available from [www.alnap.org/.../handicap\\_international\\_disability\\_conflict\\_feb06.pdf](http://www.alnap.org/.../handicap_international_disability_conflict_feb06.pdf)

19 CBM International. (n.a.). Inclusive Emergency Response, available from [http://www.cbm.org/index/Default\\_245472.php](http://www.cbm.org/index/Default_245472.php)

20 UN Enable Factsheet on Persons with disabilities accessible on <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/facts.shtml>

victims of violence or any crime- including sexual violence- than persons without disabilities<sup>21</sup>. They are also less likely to obtain police intervention, legal protection or preventive care<sup>22</sup>. Violence against children with disabilities occurs at annual rates at least 1.7 times greater than for the rest of their peers without disabilities<sup>23</sup>.

### 1.3 RATIONALE FOR MOVEMENT ENGAGEMENT AND ACTION

The Movement's mission is to prevent or reduce human suffering wherever it is found. This is at the heart of the Fundamental Principle of Humanity and is an expression of the commitment to protect human dignity.

Articles 11 and 32 of CRPD are of special interest to the Movement as they refer to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, and to international cooperation, respectively. Art. 11 in particular recognises obligations under International Humanitarian Law and international human rights law and requires that "all necessary measures are undertaken to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters"<sup>24</sup>.

Since disasters and conflicts exacerbate both poverty and barriers to persons with disabilities, addressing disability and promoting inclusive practices is at the core of the Movement's mission. The Movement, comprising millions of staff, members and volunteers throughout the world, has a unique potential to drive change across the world and has a manifest responsibility to do so<sup>25</sup>.

Many of the barriers facing persons with disabilities face are preventable. The Movement has an important role and responsibility in seeking to address and reduce these barriers, influence decision-makers, address preventable impairments and empower persons with disabilities to meet life's challenges and participate fully in the community.

### Responsibilities

All components of the Movement are responsible for implementing this strategic framework within their respective areas and in accordance with their specific mission:

- **National Societies**, as key Movement actors in their domestic contexts, will direct their efforts towards increasing internal capacity, developing strong partnerships with People with Disabilities Organisations (PDOs) and other relevant organisations, ensuring all programming is disability inclusive and implementing disability targeted programming where relevant and appropriate. National Societies will also ensure they are disability-inclusive organisations. Their community networks and auxiliary role to their public authorities make them uniquely qualified to contribute to national strategies for eliminating barriers to greater inclusion.
- The **International Federation** will seek to facilitate and provide support to National Societies to build their capacity in order to implement this strategic framework. The International Federation will also mainstream disability in its own health, disaster-preparedness, humanitarian diplomacy, risk reduction and emergency response activities. Through its presence in relevant international fora, the International Federation will seek to include disability inclusion into its existing advocacy efforts and advocate – where relevant and appropriate- for the rights, needs and interests of persons with disabilities as identified by National Societies, persons with disabilities and/or representative organisations.
- The **ICRC** will implement activities based on need, both directly and in association with national authorities and National Societies during armed conflicts and other situations of violence. It will identify legal, capacity-building and other measures that authorities can take before, during and after armed conflicts to address the needs and challenges of persons with disabilities in times of armed conflict and communicate these proposals to relevant authorities and to National Societies. It will also provide expertise, advice and support to National Societies that wish to

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21 UK Office for Disability Issues (2014) 'Fulfilling potential: building understanding'

22 UN Enable *Factsheet on Persons with disabilities* accessible on <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/facts.shtml>

23 Ibid

24 UNCRPD is the only human rights treaty to reference humanitarian emergencies.

25 International Federation (2009) 'Humanitarian Diplomacy policy' available on [https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Governance/Policies/Humanitarian\\_Diplomacy\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Governance/Policies/Humanitarian_Diplomacy_Policy.pdf)

launch programmes responding to specific needs of persons with disabilities before, during or after armed conflict.

## Guiding Principles

The key guiding principles that create an enabling environment for this strategic framework are drawn from the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values as well as the General Principles outlined in Article 3 of the CRPD. See Annex II for a complete comparative table.

Critically, this strategic framework is informed by a key guiding principle which is firmly grounded on the human-rights approach to disability and relates to the meaningful engagement and consultation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in all aspects of this strategic framework and its implementation; the sentiment reinforced by the slogan of the global disability rights movement: 'nothing about us without us'.

It is important to recognise the essential role that caregivers play everyday in working towards the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. Therefore, this strategic framework will aim to ensure their contribution is appropriately recognised and their needs are supported, acknowledging the fact that many persons with disabilities are themselves caregivers.

Finally, this strategic framework is also informed by the recognition that disability can affect women, men, girls and boys differently. Therefore the Movement's work with persons with disabilities must be responsive at all times to their gender-specific vulnerabilities, needs and capacities.

## 2. THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

### VISION

In line with its Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, the Movement strives for an inclusive society for all; a society in which persons with disabilities can participate fully and achieve their full potential.

### GOAL

All components of the Movement aim to be inclusive organisations, to build their own capacities, to mobilise resources and to involve and support persons with disabilities and their caregivers in order

to address barriers hampering their full enjoyment of rights and freedoms.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

To achieve this vision and goal, the following strategic objectives have been identified:

**Strategic Objective 1:** All components of the Movement adopt a disability inclusive approach.

*This objective focuses on ensuring the Movement's internal organisational systems, processes and policies are disability inclusive, including corporate and human resources, marketing, communications and infrastructure.*

**Strategic Objective 2:** Persons with disabilities have equal access to the services and programs the Movement provides, thereby enabling their inclusion and full participation.

*This objective aims to ensure the Movement's services, programs and associated products available to individuals and communities are disability inclusive.*

**Strategic Objective 3:** All components of the Movement endeavour to change mindsets and behaviour in order to promote respect for diversity, including disability inclusion.

*This objective focuses on challenging negative perceptions on disability and promoting disability as one of many ordinary differences that create human diversity and enrich humankind.*

Each strategic objective comprises enabling actions and examples of activities and is inextricably linked to the other objectives. The proposed structure and sequence of the strategic objectives and enabling actions responds to a very purposeful desire to emphasise certain areas of action (i.e. addressing attitudinal barriers) that are considered critical to achieving disability inclusion.

**Strategic Objective 1: All components of the Movement adopt a disability inclusive approach.**

Persons with disabilities can contribute significantly to the work of all components of the Movement, if barriers that exclude them from full and equal participation in the Movement's work are removed. Therefore, a comprehensive and holistic approach is required where all components of the Movement ensure that their respective spheres of responsibility provide the

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necessary opportunities and access to persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

This **strategic objective** aims to achieve an inclusive Movement where respect for diversity, openness and positive recognition of all persons is cultivated. To achieve this, all components of the Movement will seek to actively involve, engage and consult persons with disabilities during the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all of their activities. This will allow Movement staff, volunteers and members to have better insight and understanding into the experience of persons with disabilities and ensure the Movement's actions are designed and implemented in such a way as to address this meaningfully in programs, services and activities.

The achievement of this strategic objective will require making reasonable accommodations and adjusting some organisational practices, attitudes and services as well as the Movement's relationships with external stakeholders. Both organisational and individual commitment is central to a disability inclusive approach.

**Enabling action 1.1:** All components of the Movement better **understand the number and situation of persons** with disabilities within their respective areas.

To implement this strategic framework meaningfully, it is critical to first ensure their representation in order to understand the experiences of persons with disabilities involved in the Movement as governance, staff, volunteers and members in comparison to persons without disabilities. In doing so, it is essential to develop data collection tools that reflect the social model of disability – identifying barriers as well as impairments- and to adapt these tools to different cultural contexts in order to ensure they capture the real dimension of disability experiences across the Movement.

## Sample activities

- Develop and implement consistent data collection systems<sup>26</sup> across all components of the Movement that provide baseline information and enable planning for disability inclusion and relevant analysis to monitor progress against the strategic framework. This may mean enhancing existing data collection systems or implementing new ones<sup>27</sup>.

**Enabling action 1.2:** All components of the Movement **identify and address physical, communication and institutional barriers** which may prevent the access, meaningful participation and/or employment of persons with disabilities.

Removing physical, communication and institutional barriers will contribute significantly towards the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the activities of the Movement – attitudinal barriers are specifically addressed under Strategic Objective 3. When addressing these barriers, it is important to take a universal design approach, that is, to take into account the characteristics of all members of a community when designing access to services, activities, information and documentation.

## Sample Activities

- Identify physical barriers to persons with disabilities by undertaking accessibility audits on current and future Movement properties and venues, and addressing these barriers as appropriate.
- Address communication barriers, including making the Movement's websites accessible and providing appropriate, relevant information in varied formats and through a variety of channels so that persons with disabilities have equal access<sup>28</sup>.
- Identify and address institutional barriers by for example including accessibility requirements and standards in all procurement policies and guidelines.

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26 The Movement may consider utilising the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) which is a WHO framework for measuring health and disability at an individual and population levels. It recognizes that disability occurs within a context and includes a list of environmental barriers. More information on this framework can be found in [http://www.who.int/classifications/icf/icf\\_more/en/](http://www.who.int/classifications/icf/icf_more/en/)

27 As a result of the implementation of the Strategic Framework on Gender and Diversity Issues 2013, there is now a minimum requirement on all International Federation emergency responders to collect and analyse sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) – see International Federation (2015) *Minimum Standard Commitments to Gender and Diversity in Emergency Programming* for more detailed information.

28 “Communication” includes languages, display of text, Braille, tactile communication, large print, accessible multimedia as well as written, audio, plain-language, human-reader and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, including accessible information and communication technology”. Definitions, CRPD.



**Enabling action 1.3:** All components of the Movement have **Human Resources policies, systems and practices** that actively encourage and support the inclusion of persons with disabilities as staff, volunteers and members.

Employing and providing an enabling environment to persons with disabilities will attract new and valuable perspectives, skills and experiences to the Movement, as well as making the Movement more reflective of the diversity present in our communities. This area of work is informed by the concept of “reasonable accommodation” which relates to measures of accommodating the physical, social and attitudinal environment to facilitate the accessibility or participation of persons with disabilities in the labour market on equal basis with others<sup>29</sup>. It is important to note here the multiple discrimination that may result from the intersection between gender, age, sexual orientation and disability and ensure the activities below are responsive to this.

### Sample Activities

- Develop and implement a targeted recruitment and retention approach to increase the number of persons with disabilities employed and volunteering across the Movement.
- Implement merit-based policies and processes in recruitment, selection, professional development and promotion. An example of this is the removal of non-essential requirements such as holding a driver’s licence from job descriptions that may create discrimination towards persons with disabilities.
- Develop and implement clear ‘reasonable accommodation’ policies and procedures to request and provide workplace modifications such as screen reader software or accessible desks.

**Enabling Action 1.4:** All components of the Movement actively build **partnerships** with People with Disabilities Organisations (PDOs) and other relevant civil society organisations.

The Movement cannot achieve this strategic framework’s vision and goal on its own. Rather, an interconnected network of actors is required. People with Disabilities Organisations<sup>30</sup> (PDOs) as

well as other key civil society organisations such as development NGOs, women’s organisations and other relevant interest groups are key actors and partners in the realization of this strategic framework.

### Sample Activities

- Conduct a mapping exercise to identify PDOs and their areas of expertise that are relevant and specific to each Movement components’ context and mission.
- Develop formal and informal partnerships with PDOs to mutually enhance our respective knowledge as well as programmatic, organisational and advocacy skills and capacities.
- Engage PDOs and persons with disabilities during the design, implementation and evaluation of relevant inclusive programs and activities.
- Engage persons with disabilities in the delivery of disability awareness training.

### Strategic Objective 2: Persons with disabilities have equal access to the services and programs the Movement provides, enabling their inclusion and full participation.

Persons with disabilities have the same needs and rights – health, education, economic and social security – as the rest of the general population<sup>31</sup>. These needs and rights can and should be fulfilled through the ordinary structures of education, health, employment and social services within local communities. However, in some instances, persons with disabilities may require access to specific measures to improve functioning and foster independence such as habilitation and rehabilitation, support services or specialised training.

This **strategic objective** seeks to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to the services and programs the Movement provides, enabling their inclusion and full participation. This means access to the same level and quality of service and the same opportunities to provide feedback, participate in consultations and make complaints as any other person. A twin-track approach is required to achieve this, meaning a disability perspective is

29 Examples of definitions of ‘reasonable accommodation’ codified in different national legislations can be found in <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/ahc7bkgrmdra.htm>

30 In some contexts, formally organised PDOs may not be present; when this is the case, linkages will be made with informal groups of persons with disabilities and/or individuals with disabilities, assisting in the creation of self-support groups, if relevant and appropriate.

31 This notion is enshrined throughout the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Preamble, Art.1)



mainstreamed within all programs and services and disability-specific programs and services are also supported<sup>32</sup>.

At an individual level, persons with disabilities are entitled to have and maintain control over their lives and need to be consulted on issues that concern them directly<sup>33</sup>. At a program level, persons with disabilities are no longer seen as passive recipients of aid and services but as active stakeholders and decision-makers.

**Enabling action 2.1:** All components of the Movement **mainstream disability** throughout their programs and services.

All components of the Movement will work towards ensuring their programs and services are inclusive, equitable, non-discriminatory and do not create or reinforce barriers. Mainstreaming is a comprehensive approach by which considerations around disability are included in all aspects of programs and services -initial assessment, planning and design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This means, in effect, building a disability perspective into existing agendas, frameworks and processes, not adding separate disability -specific activities. Mainstreaming cannot be achieved without the meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities at all stages. It is essential that this process of mainstreaming actively considers the compounding vulnerability that may arise when disability intersects with other characteristics such as gender, age or sexual orientation and its practical implications on program and service delivery.

### Sample Activities

- All program plans identify barriers to participation of persons with disabilities and include specific strategies on how to address these barriers to enable persons with disabilities to be included.
- Staff and volunteers identify and consult with persons with disabilities, their representative organisations (PDO) and other relevant organisations during planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs and services, ensuring that information is provided in

a variety of formats, targeting persons with diverse impairments.

- All programs and services report on how persons with disabilities have been included and what has been done to reach out to persons with disabilities in the target groups. This may require integrating data collection on disability into existing reporting requirements at a programmatic level to get a better understanding of who is accessing their services or not, as the case may be.
- Include a reasonable adjustments budget line in all budgets to ensure a specific allocation is made to ensure services provided are non-discriminatory and will benefit people with disabilities.

**Enabling action 2.2:** All components of the Movement provide **disability specific services**, where relevant and appropriate.

The Movement is well placed to facilitate opportunities for persons with disabilities to live the meaningful life they choose and value. To do this, the Movement will adopt, where relevant and appropriate, a community-based rehabilitation approach<sup>34</sup> to increase their access to:

- *support and assistance services*: aimed at ensuring the best possible quality of life for persons with disabilities, which means leading the least restricted lives in the community. For some persons with disabilities, services such as tailored personal support are prerequisites for participating in society.
- *rehabilitation and habilitation services*: aimed at removing or reducing as far as possible the impact of impairments of persons with disabilities, enabling them to become more independent and able to self-determine. Depending on the type of impairment, medical care, physical rehabilitation and/or assistive technologies, may be needed to achieve this end.
- *economic independence programs*: are aimed at providing or facilitating opportunities for the economic inclusion of persons with disabilities as they are a key vehicle to break the cycle of poverty and promote physical, psychological and social well-being as well as economic independence. These programs can be disability-specific or mainstream. Effective access to education,

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32 The twin-track approach was first proposed as an inclusive development approach by DFID (2000), "Disability, Poverty and Development", Department for International Development, United Kingdom.

33 Supported decision-making may be necessary to enable some individuals to communicate their needs and choices.

34 Community Based Rehabilitation is a multi-sectoral approach that empowers persons with disabilities to access and benefit from education, employment, health and social services. CBR is implemented through the combined efforts of people with disabilities, their families and communities and relevant government and non-government health, education, vocational, social and other services. Definition retrieved from <http://www.who.int/disabilities/cbr/en/>

technical and vocational training and guidance, job placement services and promoting opportunities for self-employment or entrepreneurship are all key elements that contribute towards this end.

- *Social, sport, and cultural activities*: aimed at the social inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, such as active participation in local community activities, recreation or sport activities.

### Sample Activities

- All components of the Movement actively seek opportunities to partner with relevant organisations, including PDOs in the delivery of disability specific services, where relevant and appropriate.
- All components of the Movement consult persons with disabilities in the design and delivery of disability specific services that are responsive to their needs and relevant to the context and mission of the particular component of the Movement.
- Map out services available for the specific needs of persons with disabilities and assist in ensuring access.

**Enabling action 2.3:** All components of the Movement actively adopt **prevention and early intervention** approaches to address the causes of impairments.

Impairment prevention and early intervention are based on the rationale that preventing impairment from occurring or acting early to reduce its impact results in better social, economic and environmental outcomes for the individual and the community, as well as being cost-effective<sup>35</sup>. It is a proactive approach that promotes better health and wellbeing, community participation and social inclusion.

### Sample Activities:

- Embed early intervention and prevention of impairments across relevant Movement policies, programs and services, including it as a program outcome wherever possible.
- Continue to provide the wide range of existing prevention and early intervention programs and services, including ensuring access of persons with disabilities to general health programs<sup>36</sup>.

**Enabling action 2.4:** All components of the Movement actively consider adopting **gender-sensitive poverty alleviation and violence prevention, mitigation and response** initiatives within its programs and services, where appropriate and relevant.

Up to 50% of preventable impairments are directly linked to poverty<sup>37</sup>; therefore, addressing poverty will result in a reduction of disability. Also, addressing disability is a concrete step towards reducing the risk of poverty. In addition, everyone has the right to be protected from violence and be supported and empowered to exercise their rights if they have been the victim of violence including persons with disabilities. Finally, as highlighted in the guiding principles section, gender should be an ever present consideration at all times when designing and implementing the examples below.

### Sample Activities

- Continue to deliver programs, services and activities aimed at building community resilience and ensure that these are inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Build violence prevention components into projects addressing disabilities and vice versa.
- Deliver economic empowerment programs and initiatives, where relevant and appropriate.

**Strategic Objective 3: All components of the Movement endeavour to change mind sets and behaviours in order to promote respect for diversity, including disability inclusion.**

Persons with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else in any community. However, persons with disabilities are often treated differently due to attitudinal barriers such as intolerance and stigmatization which result from fear, ignorance, misconceptions or stereotypes. These can lead to discrimination<sup>38</sup> which occurs when persons with disabilities are treated less favourably, on the basis of their impairment.

35 [http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0014/115025/M2011-2\\_Prevention\\_and\\_Early\\_Intervention\\_Framework\\_Attachment.pdf](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/115025/M2011-2_Prevention_and_Early_Intervention_Framework_Attachment.pdf)

36 These programs include but are not limited to Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Risk Reduction and climate adaptation, Mine Risk Education, economic security, road safety, child and maternal health, food security, prevention education on sexual health and sexually transmitted diseases, drug and alcohol misuse, mental health awareness and water and sanitation.

37 CBM 'Inclusive Project Cycle Management Trainers' Manual: Stage 2/Handout 8' available on [http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/54741/IPCM\\_Trainers\\_Stage\\_2\\_Handout\\_8.pdf](http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/54741/IPCM_Trainers_Stage_2_Handout_8.pdf)

38 The Movement has a strong commitment to fight against all forms of discrimination, as articulated in the Fundamental Principles of Impartiality and Unity.

This **strategic objective** aims to mobilise, both internally and externally, towards disability inclusion and in doing so, also to change mind sets and behaviour. It aims to foster acceptance and respect for diversity by recognising the differences that exist among individuals and groups and by acknowledging the intrinsic value of each individual. Diversity is an asset which fosters two-way learning and growth<sup>39</sup>. Personal exposure to and interaction with persons with disabilities is a powerful vehicle to influence improved behaviour and program outcomes as well as to foster mutual respect and understanding.

**Enabling action 3.1:** All components of the Movement **influence and model behaviour** to address discrimination and foster the full inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Changing perceptions about disability can go a long way towards breaking down the barriers that stigma and discrimination create. A multi-faceted and integrated approach is required to raise awareness, identify discrimination in all its forms and then take the steps to reduce it while building respect for diversity. Changing mind sets requires persistence, courage and leadership. At times, immediate results may not be evident, as a change in a person's perceptions and behaviours builds gradually and overtime.

### Sample Activities

- Provide disability awareness training<sup>40</sup> to all staff and volunteers upon commencement of their roles and develop a disability inclusive learning toolkit – case studies, guidelines, statistics, and training curriculum - available as a refresher at all other times, focusing on mainstreaming disability.
- Encourage Movement staff, volunteers and members to access self-reflection and learning tools<sup>41</sup> and opportunities aimed at identifying and addressing discriminatory behaviours; this may also include increasing contact, interaction and two-way learning between persons with various types of disabilities and persons without disabilities.
- Offer sensitization activities to promote positive attitudes and encourage positive role models

amongst beneficiaries, using innovative tools such as sports, arts or music.

- Participate and actively promote events that offer key opportunities for sensitization, awareness, and interaction with individuals with disabilities.

**Enabling action 3.2:** All components of the Movement actively increase their **knowledge of disability** in order to promote evidence- based practice.

Discrimination often occurs when people treat persons with disabilities differently because they have little or no knowledge of the particular needs of persons with disabilities and/or because of unconscious bias. This leads at times to a generic approach of persons with disabilities rather through a diversity-sensitive approach<sup>42</sup>. Therefore, all components of the Movement must increase their knowledge on how they and their societies are disabling persons with impairments in order to actively seek to reduce the disabling factors and work with persons with disabilities and their organisations to identify practical solutions.

### Sample Activities

- Commission, participate in and/or support research on relevant disability issues, such as examining attitudes and perceptions or learning lessons from international comparisons.
- Participate in national and international fora to acquire a better understanding of disability policy, programs and issues within relevant areas.
- Support documentation of best practices for disability inclusion, building and sharing an evidence base from within and external to the Movement.
- Join or support partner initiatives on data collection and analysis on issues facing people with disabilities to better understand individual contexts.

**Enabling Action 3.3:** All components of the Movement actively **advocate** for the full and meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities through Humanitarian Diplomacy.

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39 Non-discrimination and respect for diversity together make up one of the three essential pillars for the promotion of social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace (Strategic Aim 3, *International Federation Strategy 2020*).

40 This training should cover the mechanisms and results of exclusion, principles of inclusion and, practically, how and where to include persons with disabilities within the project cycle, services and programs.

41 On-line course “Influencing behaviour” and “Agents of Behavioural Change” toolkit through the International Federation Learning Platform.

42 It is important to point out that the Movement’s Fundamental Principle of Impartiality does not call for equal – or identical treatment - but for equity of treatment, which can in the case of persons with disabilities, call for differentiated approach.

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Humanitarian diplomacy aims to access and influence decision makers to act in the interests of persons in vulnerable conditions. Humanitarian Diplomacy may take the form of advocacy, negotiation, communication or formal agreements amongst other measures<sup>43</sup>.

### Sample Activities

- Advocate with governments for the effective implementation of anti-discrimination legislation, minimum standards of accessibility and inclusion and other initiatives geared towards the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in society.
- Advocate with governments to ensure that programmes are in place that reduce barriers in society.
- Advocate for the meaningful participation of PDOs and persons with disabilities at relevant national and international events, meetings and activities ensuring such gatherings are disability inclusive.
- Link disability inclusion advocacy with other relevant existing advocacy initiatives within the Movement, such as those on gender and other diversity inclusion.
- Encourage multi-sectorial approaches to disability inclusion that include governments, businesses and civic society collectives – including DPOs.
- Position relevant Movement members as speakers and key stakeholders in partner organizations to underscore the commitment to inclusive development on the part of the Movement.

## 3. MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION

An implementation committee with representation from National Societies (with equitable regional representation), International Federation and ICRC as well as representatives of persons with disabilities will monitor and support implementation progress.

All components of the Movement will be required to report to the Council of Delegates in 2017, outlining the achievements to date and showing progress against baseline data. A second report will be presented to the Council of Delegates in 2019 which will include achievements to date as well as recommendations on future revisions to this strategic framework. These reports will require input from all components of the Movement in relation to their implementation of this strategic framework.

## ANNEXES

### I. GLOSSARY

**Movement:** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement comprises of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) and the National Societies. These are all independent organisations, each having its own status and exercising no authority over the others.

#### Disability models<sup>44</sup>

**Medical model:** This traditional model of disability focuses on the impairment that requires ‘fixing or changing’ in order for the individual to be a ‘normal’ member of society. It implies that if a person cannot be ‘fixed’, they cannot participate equally in society.

**Social model:** This approach identifies disability as a result of limitations imposed by the particular context in which people live. Removing the ‘disabling’ barriers in the environment reduces the impact of impairment. This model shifts the responsibility for ‘inclusion’ from the individual being fixed to the society in which persons with disabilities live becoming more inclusive through the removal of barriers.

43 International Federation (2009) ‘Humanitarian Diplomacy policy’ available on [https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Governance/Policies/Humanitarian\\_Diplomacy\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Governance/Policies/Humanitarian_Diplomacy_Policy.pdf)

44 Models definitions adapted from CBM (2012) ‘Inclusion made easy: A quick program guide to disability in development’ retrieved on 15/12/2014 from [http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/78851/CBM\\_Inclusion\\_Made\\_Easy\\_-\\_complete\\_guide.pdf](http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/78851/CBM_Inclusion_Made_Easy_-_complete_guide.pdf)

**Human rights model:** This approach sees persons with disabilities as to having a right to access all within their society on an equal basis with others. This incorporates social model thinking where external barriers are identified in conjunction with the person with disabilities being the focal point in the attainment of their rights. The rights-based approach adopts awareness, participation, comprehensive accessibility and twin track as core disability-inclusive principles and has the main characteristic of being a binding approach under the CRPD.

**People with Disabilities Organisation (PDO):** are those controlled by a majority (51%) of persons with disabilities at the board and membership levels. The role of these organisations includes providing a voice of their own, identifying needs, expressing views on priorities, evaluating services and advocating change and public awareness<sup>45</sup>.

**Discrimination:** is treating a person or group of people less favourably on the basis of an attribute such as disability, race or gender that the person or group of people has. Discrimination can be either direct or indirect. An example of direct discrimination is flatly refusing to lease a house or unit to a person with disabilities. Indirect discrimination happens where rules, practices or policies which appear to be neutral have a disproportionate and detrimental impact on a person or a group of people with a certain attribute – like disability<sup>46</sup>.

**Impairment:** is one component of disability and refers to a problem in a bodily function such as an injury, illness, or congenital condition that causes or is likely to cause a loss or difference of physiological or psychological function<sup>47</sup>.

**Participation:** Participation can be understood as both a goal- the situation of social participation as opposite of the situation of social exclusion- and as a process - the active involvement of persons with disabilities in decision-making and actions that affect their lives<sup>48</sup>.

**Inclusion:** is a process that provides for the people included to have the same opportunities and decision-making powers on how to organise society as others. It is not just about “involvement” or “integration” but about upholding rights, recognizing specific needs and barriers to inclusion, and taking steps to address these issues to ensure the full participation of people with disabilities<sup>49</sup>.

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45 Adapted from <http://www.independentliving.org/docs5/RoleofOrgDisPeople.html>

46 Adapted from <http://www.idrs.org.au/legal/discrimination.php>

47 Adapted from ‘Defining disability and impairment’ <http://disability-studies.leeds.ac.uk/files/library/Northern-Officers-Group-defining-impairment-and-disability.pdf>

48 Adapted from <http://www.disabilityrightsfund.org/files/supporttodpo.pdf>

49 Handicap International (2014) Empowerment and participation: Good practices from South & South-East Asia in disability inclusive disaster risk management

## II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

7 Fundamental Principles		Fundamental Principles components	RCRC Humanitarian Values	Principles from RCRC DI resolution (and UNCRPD General principles)
		Humanity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alleviate and prevent suffering</li> <li>Protect life and health</li> <li>Assure respect for and protection of the individual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active goodwill and care</li> <li>Human dignity and well-being</li> <li>Mutual understanding, safety and peace</li> </ul>
Impartiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-discrimination</li> <li>Actions are solely guided by needs, proportional to the degree of suffering and prioritised on the basis of urgency</li> <li>No individual action or decision on the basis of prejudice or personal preference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equality</li> <li>Respect for diversity</li> <li>Objectivity and openness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-discrimination</li> <li>Equality of opportunity</li> <li>Equality between men and women, and between boys and girls</li> <li>Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity</li> </ul>	
Neutrality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No taking sides in armed conflicts</li> <li>No engagement in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confidence (trust)</li> <li>Self-control and discipline</li> <li>Freedom of action and objectivity</li> </ul>		
Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not letting political, economic, social, religious, financial, public pressure interfere or dictate RCRC line/action</li> <li>Auxiliary to public authorities</li> <li>Maintain autonomy to be able to act in accordance with the Fundamental Principles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sovereignty</li> <li>Co-operation</li> <li>Freedom of action and confidence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual autonomy</li> <li>Freedom to make own choices</li> <li>Independence of persons</li> </ul>	
Voluntary Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freely accepted commitment</li> <li>No desire for gain</li> <li>Selflessness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spirit of altruism and generosity</li> <li>Spirit of service</li> <li>Spirit of responsibility and discipline</li> </ul>		
Unity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One National Society per country</li> <li>Open to all</li> <li>Active in entire country</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harmony and cohesion</li> <li>Diversity and pluralism</li> <li>Confidence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full and effective participation and inclusion in society</li> </ul>	
Universality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Universal vocation</li> <li>Equality of National Societies</li> <li>Solidarity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Openness to all in the world</li> <li>Cooperation</li> <li>Mutual assistance</li> </ul>		
External principles	Disability Inclusive Development	Description		
	Accessibility	Comprehensive accessibility ensures socially imposed disabling barriers are removed to allow for improved access by persons with disabilities.		
	Participation & decision making	Participation promotes community access to the valuable contributions of persons with disabilities – ‘nothing about us without us’.		
	Awareness	Awareness encourages identification of incidence, type and impact of disability within a community.		
	Twin-track approach	The twin track approach encourages mainstream inclusion working alongside disability specific initiatives.		

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### III. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK SUMMARY

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	ENABLING ACTIONS	SAMPLE ACTIVITIES
1. All components of the Movement adopt a disability inclusive approach.	1.1 All components of the Movement better <b>understand the number and situation of persons</b> with disabilities within their respective areas.	Develop and implement consistent data collection systems across all components of the Movement that provide baseline information and enable planning for disability inclusion as well as relevant analysis to monitor progress against the strategic framework.
		Identify physical barriers to persons with disabilities by undertaking access audits on current and future properties and venues, and address these barriers as appropriate.
	1.2 All components of the Movement <b>identify and address physical, communication and institutional barriers</b> which may prevent the access, meaningful participation and/or employment of persons with disabilities.	Address communication barriers, including for instance making the Movement's websites accessible or providing relevant information in varied formats and through a variety of channels so that persons with disabilities have equal access.
		Identify and address institutional policies by for example including accessibility requirements and standards in all procurement policies and guidelines.
		Develop and implement a targeted recruitment and retention approach to increase the number of persons with disabilities employed and volunteering across the Movement.
	1.3 All components of the Movement have <b>Human Resources policies, systems and practices</b> that actively encourage and support the integration of persons with disabilities as staff, volunteers and members.	Implement merit-based policies and processes in recruitment, selection, professional development and promotion. An example of this is the removal of non-essential requirements from job descriptions that may create discrimination towards persons with disabilities.
		Develop and implement clear reasonable accommodation policies and procedures to request and provide workplace modifications such as screen reader software or accessible desks.
		Conduct a mapping exercise to identify PDOs and their areas of expertise that are relevant and specific to each Movement components' context and mandate.
	1.4 All components of the Movement actively build <b>partnerships</b> with appropriate. People with Disabilities Organisations (PDOs) and other relevant civil society organisations.	Develop formal and informal partnerships with PDOs to mutually enhance our respective knowledge as well as programmatic, organisational and advocacy skills and capacities.
		Engage PDOs and persons with disabilities during the development, implementation and evaluation of relevant inclusive programs and activities.
		Engage persons with disabilities in the delivery of disability awareness training



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	ENABLING ACTIONS	SAMPLE ACTIVITIES
<p>2. <b>Persons with disabilities have equal access to the services and programs the Movement provides, allowing their inclusion and full participation.</b></p>	<p>2.1 All components of the Movement <b>mainstream disability</b> inclusion throughout their programs and services.</p>	<p>All program plans identify barriers to participation of persons with disabilities and include specific strategies on how to address these barriers to enable persons with disabilities to be included.</p>
		<p>Staff and volunteers identify and consult with relevant persons with disabilities, PDOs and other relevant organisations during planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs and services, ensuring that information is provided in a variety of formats, targeting persons with diverse impairments.</p>
		<p>All programs and services report on how persons with disabilities have been included and what has been done to reach out to persons with disabilities in the target groups. This will require collecting data on disability at a programmatic level to get a better understanding of who is accessing their services or not and why.</p>
		<p>Include a reasonable accommodation budget line in all budgets to ensure to ensure a specific allocation is made to ensure services provided are non-discriminatory and will benefit people with disabilities.</p>
	<p>2.2 All components of the Movement provide <b>disability specific services</b>, where relevant and appropriate.</p>	<p>All components of the Movement actively seek opportunities to partner with relevant organisations, including DPOs in the delivery of disability specific services, where relevant and appropriate.</p>
		<p>All components of the Movement consult with persons with disabilities in the design and delivery of disability specific services, which are responsive to their needs and relevant to their context and mission.</p>
		<p>Map out services available for the specific needs of persons with disabilities and assist in ensuring access.</p>
	<p>2.3 All components of the Movement actively <b>adopt prevention and early intervention approaches</b> to address the causes of impairments</p>	<p>Embed early intervention and prevention of impairments across relevant Movement policies, programs and services, including it as a program outcome wherever possible.</p>
		<p>Continue to provide the wide range of existing prevention and early intervention programs and services, including ensuring access of persons with disabilities to general health programs.</p>



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	ENABLING ACTIONS	SAMPLE ACTIVITIES
	<p>2.4 All components of the Movement actively consider <b>adopting gender- sensitive poverty alleviation and violence prevention, mitigation and response initiatives</b> within its programs and services, where appropriate and relevant.</p>	<p>Continue to deliver programs, services and activities aimed at building community resilience and ensure that these are inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Build violence prevention components into projects addressing disabilities and vice versa.</p> <p>Deliver economic empowerment programs and initiatives, where relevant and appropriate.</p>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	ENABLING ACTIONS	SAMPLE ACTIVITIES
<p>3. All components of the Movement endeavour to change mind sets and behaviours in order to promote respect for diversity, including disability inclusion.</p>	<p>3.1 All components of the Movement <b>influence and model behaviour</b> to address discrimination and foster the full inclusion of persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>Provide disability awareness training to all staff and volunteers upon commencement in their roles and develop a disability inclusive learning toolkit –case studies, guidelines, statistics and training curriculum- available as a refresher at all other times, focusing on mainstreaming disability.</p>
		<p>Encourage Movement staff, volunteers and members to access self-reflection and learning tools and opportunities aimed at identifying and addressing discriminatory behaviours.</p>
		<p>Deliver awareness raising activities at a programmatic level to promote positive attitudes and encourage positive role models amongst beneficiaries.</p>
		<p>Participate and actively promote public disability awareness campaigns such as International Day of Persons with Disabilities.</p>
	<p>3.2 All components of the Movement actively increase their <b>knowledge of disability</b> in order to promote evidence- based practice.</p>	<p>Commission, participate in and/or support research on relevant disability issues, such as examining attitudes and perceptions or learning lessons from international comparisons.</p>
		<p>Participate in national and international fora to acquire a better understanding of disability policy, programs and issues within relevant areas.</p>
		<p>Support documentation of best practices for disability inclusion, building and sharing an evidence base within and external to the Movement.</p>
	<p>3.3 All components of the Movement actively <b>advocate</b> for the full and meaningful inclusion of persons of disabilities through Humanitarian Diplomacy.</p>	<p>Advocate with governments for the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation, minimum standards of accessibility and inclusion and other initiatives geared towards the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in society.</p>
		<p>Advocate with governments to ensure that programmes are in place which address barriers in society.</p>
		<p>Advocate for the meaningful participation of PDOs and persons with disabilities at relevant national and international events, meetings and activities ensuring such gatherings are disability inclusive.</p>
<p>Link disability inclusion advocacy with other relevant existing advocacy initiatives within the Movement</p>		
<p>Include multi-sectorial approaches to disability inclusion that include governments, businesses and civil society collectives – including PDOs.</p>		



### **1.1.6 Resolution 5: Preserving the historical and cultural heritage of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

The Council of Delegates,

*noting with appreciation* the follow-up work on Resolution 6 of the 2011 Council of Delegates carried out by a number of National Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum,

*endorsing* the recommendations of the report submitted to this Council of Delegates, and

*encouraging* all National Societies to establish an archive system and preserve their collections of images, objects and documents of historical value,

1. *recommends* that National Societies approach the national archives of their country or the relevant national association of museums for information about the professional norms and standards concerning archives and museography and establish any form of cooperation that will contribute to the training of their personnel and volunteers in these areas of expertise;
2. *recommends* that National Societies seek information from international professional associations, such as the International Council on Archives and the International Council of Museums (INCOM), in order to develop their own expertise in these fields;
3. *recommends* further that National Societies enhance the historical and cultural heritage of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) in their communication activities, particularly at events held to celebrate World Red Cross Red Crescent Day on 8 May, and in their promotional and fundraising campaigns, as appropriate;
4. *invites* National Societies to devote a specific page on their website to their history, providing inventories of their collections and, where appropriate, facilitating online access to them, and to encourage research and the publication of works based on their archives;

5. *takes note* of the readiness of the ICRC, the International Federation and a number of National Societies to assist sister National Societies in matters relating to the development and preservation of their archives and encourages the latter to make active use of these sources of expertise;
6. *invites* National Societies operating a museum to inform the International Museum of this fact, so that it can play a full role in providing liaison and guidance in the area of Red Cross and Red Crescent museography, and *invites* all National Societies intending to create a museum to contact the International Museum for any scientific support it may require in this regard;
7. *invites* the ICRC, the International Federation and the International Museum to take the opportunity provided by the international conference on the history of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, to be held at Flinders University, Adelaide (Australia) from 9 to 11 September 2016, in order to organize a side event to encourage efforts undertaken within the Movement aimed at preserving and promoting the historical heritage of its components.

### **1.1.7 Resolution 6: Revision of the Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund**

The Council of Delegates,

*noting with appreciation and congratulating* the ICRC and International Federation Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund on its report and the accomplishments achieved during 2013-2015,

*acknowledging* the need to improve the situation following the losses incurred to the Funds capital in 2008,

*recognizing* that following the above-mentioned losses, the revenues provided by interest and capital gains had to be used to replenish the reserves,

*thanking* the Joint Commission for proposing and the Japanese Red Cross for agreeing to replenish the reserve for the loss on investments by reallocating 1,700,00 Swiss francs from their exceptional contribution in 2013,

noting that this decision allows to increase the amount available for future distributions of the Empress Shôken Fund to the National Societies humanitarian activities,

welcoming the Joint Commission proposal to adjust the regulations in order to maintain the reserve for loss on investments at an adequate level with the Fund's capital,

appreciating the Joint Commission constant efforts to improve the management and the performance of the Empress Shôken Fund to support the National Societies in their humanitarian work,

1. Accepts the amendment in article 3 and approves the revised Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund, the text of which is as annex:

## **Annex Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund**

*(Approved by the Sixteenth International Conference of the Red Cross, London 1938, and revised by the Nineteenth International Conference, New Delhi 1957, the Twenty-fifth International Conference, Geneva 1986, the Council of Delegates, Budapest 1991, the Twenty-seventh International Conference, Geneva 1999, the Twenty-eighth International Conference, Geneva 2003, and the Council of Delegates, Seoul 2005)*

**Article 1** - The sum of 100,000 yen in Japanese gold presented by H.M. The Empress of Japan to the International Red Cross on the occasion of the Ninth International Conference (Washington, 1912) to promote "relief work in time of peace", was increased to 200,000 yen by a further gift of 100,000 yen from their Majesties The Empress and The Dowager Empress of Japan, on the occasion of the Fifteenth International Conference, (Tokyo, 1934). The Fund was further increased by a gift of 3,600,000 yen from H.M. The Empress of Japan, on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary in 1963, and by successive contributions from the Government of Japan since 1966, and from the Japanese Red Cross Society. This fund shall be entitled: "The Empress Shôken Fund".

**Article 2** - The Fund shall be administered and its revenues distributed by a Joint Commission of six members chosen in their personal capacity. The Joint Commission shall be composed equally of three members appointed by the International Committee of the Red Cross and three by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;

the quorum shall be four. The Chairman of the Joint Commission shall be on a permanent basis one of the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross whereas the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies shall provide the Joint Commission's Secretariat. The Joint Commission shall meet at Geneva, in principle at the headquarters of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

**Article 3** - The capital of the Fund as well as subsequent donations and contributions shall remain intact. The reserve for loss on investment has to be kept at adequate level (up to 20% of total assets) through donations, interest and capital gains. Only revenues provided by interest and capital gains may be used for allocations awarded by the Joint Commission to meet all or part of the cost of the activities enumerated below:

- a) Disaster preparedness
- b) Activities in the field of health
- c) Blood transfusion services
- d) Youth activities
- e) First aid and rescue programmes
- f) Activities in the field of social welfare
- g) Dissemination of the humanitarian ideals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
- h) Such other programmes of general interest for the development of the activities of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

**Article 4** - National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies wishing to receive an allocation shall make the necessary application through their Central Committees to the Secretariat of the Joint Commission before 31 December of the year preceding that in which the allocations are to be made. Applications shall be supported by full details concerning the particular activity selected from among those specified in Article 3 above.

**Article 5** - The Joint Commission shall examine the applications mentioned in the previous Article and shall make such allocations as it considers just and suitable. It shall each year communicate the decisions it has taken to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

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**Article 6** - National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies which feel obliged by circumstances to put the allocations received to uses other than those specified in their applications for grants under Article 4 must ask for the Joint Commission's approval before doing so.

**Article 7** - National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies shall send to the Joint Commission, not later than twelve months after receipt of the allocations, a report on the use of the allocations received.

**Article 8** - The announcement of distribution shall take place each year on 11 April, the anniversary of the death of H.M. The Empress Shōken.

**Article 9** - A sum which shall not exceed CHF 50,000 shall be set aside to cover the cost of administering the Fund and of assisting the National Societies concerned in the realization of their projects.

**Article 10** - The Joint Commission shall present to each Council of Delegates of the Red Cross and Red Crescent a report on the current financial situation of the Fund, the allocations which have been made since the preceding Council and the use made of those allocations by National Societies. The Council of Delegates shall transmit this report to the Japanese Imperial Family through the intermediary of the Japanese Red Cross Society.

### **1.1.8 Resolution 7: Movement statement on migration: Ensuring Collective Action to Protect and Respond to the Needs and Vulnerabilities of Migrants**

The 2015 Council of Delegates,

*Expressing its deep concern about the increased vulnerability of migrants mainly due to armed conflict and other emergencies, but also triggered by poverty, climate change and the increasingly dangerous journeys they are forced to take,*

*Recognizing that the diverse capacities, needs and vulnerabilities of migrant girls, boys, women and men must be taken into account to address their protection and assistance needs effectively,*

*Recognizing that the primary responsibility to assist and protect migrants resides with States; and reaffirming the importance of the international and national legal frameworks applicable for the protection of migrants which confer obligations on States,*

*Recognizing the respective roles and mandates of the different components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in working to ensure humane and dignified treatment, protection and assistance for migrants; including working to support states to meet their primary responsibility to protect and assist migrants,*

*Confirming the specific auxiliary status and role of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,*

*Emphasizing the importance of humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles in promoting respect for diversity, non-violence and social inclusion of all migrants,*

*Acknowledging that the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement must always work in accordance with its Fundamental Principles, including assisting migrants irrespective of their legal status,*

*Recalling and reaffirming Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement commitments to act collectively to protect and respond to the needs of migrants in the resolutions adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (especially in Resolution 1, Annex, Declaration: Together for humanity, Geneva 2007; Resolution 3, Geneva 2011) and the resolutions adopted by the Council of Delegates (Resolution 9, Budapest, 1991; Resolution 7, Birmingham, 1993; Resolution 4, Geneva, 2001; Resolution 10, Geneva 2003, Resolution 5, Geneva 2007; and Resolution 4, Nairobi 2009),*

1. *Commits to increase and sustain our Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement response aimed at saving lives and improving the protection, health and dignity of migrants without discrimination and irrespective of their legal status, and, where possible, to restoring contact and reunification between separated family members, recording and promoting the search and identification of the missing and dead, and advocating to ensure that protection and humanitarian needs are met;*
2. *Calls upon States to ensure fulfilment of their existing obligations under international refugee*

law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as applicable, as well as national law, in order to protect and ensure protection of migrants and to continue to collaborate with all components of the Movement in this regard;

3. *Calls upon* States to ensure that their national procedures include adequate safeguards to protect the dignity and ensure the safety of all migrants and to grant to migrants, in accordance with relevant international law and national legislation, appropriate international protection and access to relevant services;
4. *Calls upon* States to address the causes of forced displacement and to increase their efforts to guarantee effective access to international protection, in accordance with applicable international law and national legislation, and to find durable solutions for persons in need of international protection;
5. *Calls for* sustained co-operation between States, at all levels, and the components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to provide services, within their respective mandates, to address the humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities of migrants, and to promote respect for diversity, non-violence, and social inclusion regardless of their legal status along the length of the migratory routes.

### **Co-sponsors:**

Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Belgian Red Cross, Belize Red Cross, British Red Cross, Bulgarian Red Cross, Burundi Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Colombian Red Cross, Costa Rica Red Cross, Cyprus Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Dominican Red Cross, Ecuadorian Red Cross, Ethiopian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Guatemalan Red Cross, Guyana Red Cross Society, Haiti Red Cross Society, Hellenic Red Cross, Honduran Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Irish Red Cross Society, Italian Red Cross, Kenyan Red Cross, Lebanese Red Cross, Mexican Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Nicaraguan Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Palestine Red Crescent Society, Somali Red Crescent, South Sudan Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Sudanese Red Crescent, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, Turkish Red Crescent, Vietnam Red Cross Society, Zambia Red Cross

## **1.1.9 Resolution 8: Agenda and programme of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

**8-10 December 2015 (Opening ceremony: evening of 7 December)  
Agenda and programme Geneva  
International Conference Centre**

### **Agenda and programme**

#### **Monday 7 December (evening)**

##### **OPENING CEREMONY**

###### **Henry Dunant Medal ceremony**

*(Not part of the formal agenda of the Conference)*

#### **Tuesday 8 December (morning)**

##### **I. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE**

###### **Plenary**

1. **Opening by the Chair of the Standing Commission**
2. **Reading of the Fundamental Principles**
3. **Special humanitarian award for volunteers involved in the Ebola response from the Red Cross Societies of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone**
4. **Welcome address by the President of the Swiss Confederation**
5. **Election of the Conference officers and establishment of the Conference subsidiary bodies (commissions, drafting committee, and the Humanitarian Dialogue: a Vision Lab)**
6. **Organization of work**
  - Plenary meetings, general debate, drafting committee, commissions, Humanitarian Dialogue: a Vision Lab
  - Procedure for electing the members of the Standing Commission

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**7. Keynote addresses**

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

**8. Report on the work of the Council of Delegates**

**9. Report on the outcomes of the 31st International Conference**

**II. PANEL DEBATE**

**Plenary**

High-level panel debate on the overarching theme “Power of Humanity: the Fundamental Principles in action.”

**Tuesday 8 December (afternoon)**

**III. COMMISSIONS**

The following topics will be addressed in thematic plenary commissions. Each will run twice in different language groups to allow smaller groups and more interactive discussions, while also giving all delegations the opportunity to participate in debates on each topic (exceptions noted below).

- 10. Fundamental Principles in action** (commission A)
- 11. Contemporary challenges in international humanitarian law** (commission B)
- 12. Joint action on the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence** (commission C)
- 13. Health Care in Danger: Continuing to protect the delivery of health care together** (commission D)
- 14. Building resilience by scaling up local action and strengthening legal frameworks** (commission E)
  - Launch of the One Billion Coalition for Resilience
  - Strengthening legal frameworks for disasters and emergencies

*The two sub-themes will be addressed in two separate sessions. Interpretation will be provided*

*in all languages for both sessions, as the sessions will not be repeated.*

**IV. HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE: A VISION LAB**

The Humanitarian Dialogue: a Vision Lab will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss current and future humanitarian challenges and to collaboratively develop solutions. Conference sessions will draw on input from the Voices to Action initiative and be facilitated through a multi-stakeholder dialogue for measureable impact on the ground, to advance the debate beyond formal resolutions and toward the next, 33rd International Conference.

The Humanitarian Dialogue foresees two parallel streams: thematic dialogues and the vision lab.

Five thematic dialogues will be scheduled from Tuesday afternoon through Wednesday evening on the following topics:

- migration
- community-centred resilient health systems
- insecure environments
- risk in urban settings
- disaster risk and climate change

The vision lab will consolidate the discussions of the thematic dialogues through the lens of cross-cutting issues, including the Fundamental Principles, the auxiliary role, and partnership, volunteering, and gender.

**V. GENERAL DEBATE**

A general debate will run in parallel to other items on the Conference agenda. As it is a plenary meeting, a verbatim record of the general debate will be published.

**VI. COMMENCEMENT OF THE WORK OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE**

The drafting committee will work in parallel to the other subsidiary bodies of the Conference from the afternoon of Tuesday 8 December onward.

**Tuesday 8 December (evening)**

**Reception**

*hosted by the Swiss authorities  
(Not part of the formal agenda of the Conference)*



## Wednesday 9 December (morning)

### VII. FOCUS ON MIGRATION

#### Plenary

Spotlight on our shared humanitarian concern for the situation of vulnerable migrants throughout migration routes – in origin, transit and destination countries – with the aim of enhancing the humanitarian response to migrants' protection and assistance needs.

15. Progress report (2011-2015) on the implementation of Resolution 3 of the 31st International Conference, "Migration: Ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion"

*The plenary will take note of the report as a follow-up to the 31st International Conference*

### III. COMMISSIONS (continued)

### IV. HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE: A VISION LAB (continued) – runs continuously

### V. GENERAL DEBATE (continued) – runs continuously

### VI. DRAFTING COMMITTEE (continued) – runs continuously

## Wednesday 9 December (afternoon)

### III. COMMISSIONS (continued)

### IV. HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE: A VISION LAB (continued) – runs continuously

### V. GENERAL DEBATE (continued) – runs continuously

### VI. DRAFTING COMMITTEE (continued) – runs continuously

## Wednesday 9 December (evening)

*Meet the candidates for election to the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent*

*Visit the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum (Not part of the formal agenda of the Conference)*

## Thursday 10 December (morning)

### III. COMMISSIONS (continued)

### IV. HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE: A VISION LAB (continued) – runs continuously

### V. GENERAL DEBATE (continued) – runs continuously

### VI. DRAFTING COMMITTEE (continued) – runs continuously

## Thursday 10 December (afternoon)

### VIII. STANDING COMMISSION ELECTIONS

#### Plenary

#### 16. Election of the members of the Standing Commission

- Roll call
- Opening of the electronic voting
- Announcement of results or continuation of election

### IX. REPORTS AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

#### Plenary

#### 17. Follow-up items

1. Report on the implementation of the 4-year Action Plan for the implementation of international humanitarian law
2. Report on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding of 28 November 2005 between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in Israel

#### 18. Report on the work of the 32nd International Conference, featuring:

- reports from each of the five thematic plenary commissions
- report from the Humanitarian Dialogue: a Vision Lab
- overview of pledges made at the 32nd International Conference
- report of the drafting committee

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## 19. Adoption of resolutions:

1. Strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty  
*Follow-up on Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference*
2. Strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law  
*Follow-up on Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference*
3. Sexual and gender-based violence: Joint action on prevention and response  
*Follow-up on the recommendations of workshop 9 of the 2013 Council of Delegates*
4. Health Care in Danger: Continuing to protect the delivery of health care together  
*Follow-up on Resolution 5 of the 31st International Conference*
5. The safety and security of humanitarian volunteers  
*Follow-up on Resolution 4 of the 31st International Conference*
6. Strengthening legal frameworks for disaster response, risk reduction and first aid  
*Follow-up on Resolution 7 of the 31st International Conference*
7. Strengthening the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement response to growing humanitarian needs  
*Follow-up on several related areas addressed by the 2015 and previous Councils of Delegates as well as the 19th session of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies General Assembly, including Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation and the "Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance"*
8. Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in Israel  
*Follow-up on Resolution 8 of the 31st International Conference and based on the progress report*
9. Dissolution of the Augusta Fund and allocation of the capital to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund: Revision of the Regulations for the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund

## X. PANEL DEBATE

### Plenary

High-level panel debate on the outcomes of the Conference – turning outcomes into impact.

## XI. CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

### Plenary

Closing ceremony

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*In addition, a number of side events will be organized on the initiative of Conference participants. A programme of side events is published with the mailing of the official working documents of the Conference. Side events are not part of the formal Conference agenda.*

### 1.1.10 Resolution 9: Proposal of persons to fill the posts of officers at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The Council of Delegates,

having examined the list of candidates nominated by the Standing Commission for election as officers of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

endorses the list of candidates (see annex) and requests the Chairman of the Council to transmit it to the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for approval.

### Annex

### Proposal of persons to fill the posts of officers at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Reference: Article 14/Statutes of the Movement: "When meeting prior to the opening of the International Conference, the Council shall propose to the Conference the persons to fill the posts mentioned in Article 11, paragraph 3: the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General, Assistant Secretaries General and other officers of the Conference"

Chair of the Conference

**Ms Fatima Gailani** (Afghan Red Crescent Society)

Vice-Chair

**Ms Annemarie Huber-Hotz** (Swiss Red Cross)

Vice-Chair

**Dr Tha Hla Shwe** (Myanmar Red Cross Society)

Vice-Chair

**H.E. Ms Yvette Stevens** (Sierra Leone)

Vice-Chair

**H.E. Ms Marta Maurás Pérez** (Chile)

Vice-Chair

**Ms Bolormaa Nordov** (Mongolian Red Cross Society)

Chair of the Drafting Committee

**H.E. Mr Carsten Staur** (Denmark)

Rapporteur of the Conference

**H.E. Ms Saja Majali** (Jordan)

Chair of the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab

**Ms Ashanta Osborne-Moses** (Guyana Red Cross Society)

Conference Chairs of Thematic Commissions

Commission A: The Fundamental Principles in action

**Dr Werner Kerschbaum** (Austrian Red Cross)

Commission B: Contemporary challenges to international humanitarian law

**Mr Richard Rowe** (Australian Red Cross)

Commission C: Sexual and gender-based violence: Joint action on prevention of and response

**H. E. Ms Nazhat Shameem Khan** (Fiji)

Commission D: Health Care in Danger: Continuing to protect the delivery of health care together

**H.E. Mr Nthuthang Khumoetsile Martin Seleka** (South Africa)

Commission E: Building resilience by scaling up local action and strengthening legal frameworks

- Launch of the One Billion Coalition for Resilience  
**Dr Seyed Amir Mohsen Ziaee** (Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran)
- Strengthening legal frameworks for disasters and emergencies  
**Mr Fabrizio Curcio** (Italy)

**Other officers**

Secretary-General

**H.E. Mr Nicolas Lang**

Commissioner of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Switzerland)

Assistant Secretaries-General

**Ms Charlotta Relander** (International Committee of the Red Cross)

and

**Mr Frank Mohrhauer**

(International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)

**1.1.11 Resolution 10: 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**

The Council of Delegates,

*recalling* the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and Magen David Adom in Israel (MDA) on 28 November 2005, in particular the following provisions:

1. MDA and PRCS will operate in conformity with the legal framework applicable to the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel in 1967, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War.
2. MDA and PRCS recognize that PRCS is the authorized National Society in the Palestinian territory and that this territory is within the geographical scope of the operational activities and of the competences of PRCS. MDA and PRCS will respect each other's jurisdiction and will operate in accordance with the Statutes and Rules of the Movement.
3. After the Third Additional Protocol is adopted and by the time MDA is admitted by the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies:

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- a. MDA will ensure that it has no chapters outside the internationally recognized borders of the State of Israel.
- b. Operational activities of one society within the jurisdiction of the other society will be conducted in accordance with the consent provision of resolution 11 of the 1921 international conference.

(...)

4. MDA and PRCS will work together and separately within their jurisdictions to end any misuse of the emblem and will work with their respective authorities to ensure respect for their humanitarian mandate and for international humanitarian law.

(...)

6. MDA and PRCS will cooperate in the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding (...).

taking note of the report of November 2015 on the implementation of the MoU prepared by the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Standing Commission),

recalling Resolution 5 adopted by the Council of Delegates on 17 November 2013 concerning the implementation of the MoU and AOA between MDA and the PRCS,

reaffirming the importance for all of the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) to operate at all times in accordance with international humanitarian law as well as the Fundamental Principles, the Statutes and the rules and policies of the Movement,

noting that National Societies have an obligation to operate in compliance with the Constitution of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) and the existing policy “on the protection of integrity of National Societies and bodies of the International Federation” adopted in November 2009,

recalling both the dispute resolution mechanism set out in Resolution 11 of the 1921 International Conference as well as the Compliance and Mediation Committee of the International Federation, and recognizing the rights of National Societies thereunder,

while noting the humanitarian and political environment, expresses disappointment that after 10 years the MoU is not yet fully implemented and reaffirms our collective determination to support its full implementation,

taking note of the letter of 15 November 2015 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel in which the Israeli Government stated that “it is ready to support the MDA to ensure the full implementation of its commitments [under the MoU],”

reaffirming the necessity for effective and positive coordination between all components of the Movement in support of the full implementation of the MoU between the PRCS and MDA,

1. while noting with full appreciation the progress made and acknowledging the steps taken by both the PRCS and MDA over the last decade to fulfil the MoU/AOA, notes however and with deep regret the Standing Commission’s conclusion “that no additional steps since 2013 have been reported as having been taken in regard to the geographical scope provisions of the MoU”;
2. strongly urges MDA to comply with its obligations with respect to the geographic scope provisions of the MoU and take appropriate actions to end non-compliance;
3. requests MDA and other concerned parties, in Israel and beyond, to undertake further concrete measures to stop misuse of the MDA logo in the territory considered within the geographic scope of the PRCS;
4. calls on the State of Israel to continue to support MDA to ensure the full implementation of its commitments under the MoU;
5. requests the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation to facilitate the full implementation of the MoU by proposing, for endorsement by the Standing Commission, the appointment of an independent monitor by 31 March 2016;
6. urges the ICRC and the International Federation to define the terms of reference for the monitoring process within 45 days of the adoption of this resolution, to include, but not be limited to, the following main functions:

- a. undertake regular monitoring and report twice annually to the Movement and to the 2017 Council of Delegates;
  - b. validate the information provided by the two National Societies regarding the implementation of the MoU;
  - c. explore constructive options within the Movement to address issues identified in the reports;
7. *recognizes* that the independent monitor may wish to call upon assistance from National Societies and eminent individuals from within or outside the Movement to reach full implementation of the MoU;
  8. *urges* MDA and the PRCS to enhance their cooperation in fulfilling their humanitarian mandates and commitments, including through regular meetings;
  9. *requests* the ICRC and the International Federation to provide logistical and technical support to the monitoring process and to ensure the provision of a report on implementation of the MoU to the next Council of Delegates and through it to the 33rd International Conference;
  10. *expresses* the sincere desire that full implementation of the MoU will be achieved and validated prior to the 2017 Council of Delegates.

### 1.1.12 Resolution 11: Vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The Council of Delegates,

*noting with appreciation* the work undertaken by the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to produce, as an alternative to a Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement), a concise document taking stock of the current realities and an inspirational Vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,

*welcoming* the aspiration for a collective strategic direction for all the components of the Movement in response to changing contexts and new challenges,

1. *adopts* the Vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
2. *calls upon* all components of the Movement to take the Vision into account in their own strategic planning processes;
3. *requests* the Standing Commission to report on the impact of the Vision to the 2017 Council of Delegates.

#### Annex

Guided unequivocally by the common goal of better serving people in need, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its components have taken stock of their collective strengths and weaknesses in the light of the challenges and constraints of the global humanitarian environment. The following vision serves to build on these strengths and rectify weaknesses, setting out an aspirational view of the Movement as a unique humanitarian network, unparalleled in the relevance and effectiveness of its action. The hope is that this vision serves as a guide to inspire future strategic reflections for the Movement and each of its components. It is the basis for the development of appealing communications tools, a condensed guide to lead us in a common direction in the spirit of Henry Dunant.

#### Vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

*In a complex, turbulent and politicized humanitarian landscape, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) is a unique global humanitarian network that serves to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. It is a torchbearer for a relevant, effective humanitarian response to the multifaceted needs of people suffering the effects of armed conflicts, natural disasters and other crises. With humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence as the bedrock of its unity and universality, the Movement consistently demonstrates the application of its Fundamental Principles on the ground. Harnessing the strength of its relations with States and of its vast community-based volunteer networks embodying the principle of voluntary service, the Movement works optimally across its local, national, regional and international levels.*

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## **MISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

“... to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found, to protect life and health and ensure respect for the human being, in particular in times of armed conflict and other emergencies, to work for the prevention of disease and for the promotion of health and social welfare, to encourage voluntary service and a constant readiness to give help by the members of the Movement, and a universal sense of solidarity toward all those in need of its protection and assistance.”

Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

### **A complex, fragmented and unpredictable world**

The Movement – encompassing 190 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) – is working in an environment that is increasingly diverse, fragmented and unpredictable: where unexpected emergencies unfold alongside drawn-out and complex armed conflicts; where violence and instability are both causes and consequences of recurring conflict and suffering; and where natural disasters, environmental problems and socioeconomic crises further exacerbate situations of chronic vulnerability and hardship. In parallel, there is a widening gap between diverse, multi-layered humanitarian needs and the overall ability to deliver an effective response, marked by a striking absence of international convergence to resolve armed conflicts, the flagrant politicization of aid and the decreasing proximity of many international humanitarian actors to the people they aim to help.

### **Responding to growing needs**

In such a fragmented and divided environment, the Movement as a whole steps up its operations to respond to growing needs that would otherwise remain unmet, working to reduce the underlying causes of vulnerability, and to prevent and alleviate suffering. It strikes the appropriate balance between its solid tradition and innovative approaches, while adhering absolutely to its Fundamental Principles. Historically bound by these Principles and by its protective emblems, rooted in international humanitarian law, the Movement builds on and

cements its particular strengths, which are greater than simply the sum of its parts. They lie not just in numbers and outreach but in quality and diversity – of its workers and volunteers, their knowledge, skills, experience and motivation, and the synergy of the complementary roles, responsibilities and capacities of its components.

### **Health-care and social services**

Responding to the health-care and social service needs of vulnerable people and communities affected by conflict, disasters and socio-economic crises, in all their many dimensions, is one of the defining features of the Movement's operational identity – a key strength and a major common focus. The Movement and its components are perceived as a globally relevant and effective provider of health care and social services that has unparalleled access and proximity to people in need, offering services such as first aid in emergencies, surgical care for the war-wounded, psychosocial support for conflict- and disaster-affected people, primary community health care, and social-inclusion and livelihood support for vulnerable people. Closely linked to this, promoting food and nutrition security and increasing access to safe water and sanitation are, for many, common programmatic priorities.

### **Harnessing the diversity and strength of the Movement**

The distinct roles and particular strengths of each of the components of the Movement are properly used to achieve the most effective response possible to multi-layered humanitarian needs in a broad spectrum of crisis-affected contexts, reinforcing the Fundamental Principles of unity and universality.

With a mission focused on meeting humanitarian needs, complementary areas of competence of the Movement's components – such as capacity building and resilience strengthening, disaster risk reduction and preparedness, conflict prevention and preparedness, protection and assistance, and early recovery and development – are contextualized and effectively coordinated to best respond to a range of needs. The components of the Movement thereby also reinforce preparedness and their ability to deploy rapidly and effectively and, more broadly, to tackle issues of common interest. At the same time, the Movement in its different dimensions strengthens relations and key partnerships with a diverse range of external stakeholders – engaging in humanitarian diplomacy, consolidating its acceptance and trust,

and ultimately enhancing its impact. It makes full use of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as a key opportunity to better humanitarian outcomes.

### **Relevance of National Societies in their countries**

Relevance is demonstrated first and foremost at a local level: the localization ensured by National Societies is central to the depth and breadth of the Movement's reach. Each National Society ensures relevance primarily in its own country – supported by the international components of the Movement – capitalizing on its community roots and strong volunteer networks as well as its privileged relationship as an auxiliary to its government in the humanitarian field, while demonstrating its professionalism, accountability and adherence to the Fundamental Principles. Working in a multiplicity of contexts that go well beyond armed conflicts and emergencies, a key strength is providing a wide range of quality services to persons in vulnerable situations and people and communities facing social exclusion, regardless of their background or status, and regardless of how "developed" the particular country might be. These might include migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers; trafficked women and children; families of the missing; the chronically unemployed; the hungry; as well as any other groups facing severe deprivation, in both rich and poor countries. Not only National Societies but ultimately the Movement as a whole proves its relevance in the light of this test.

### **Embracing new ways of working**

The Movement in general continues to improve the ways in which it interacts with and involves the people it seeks to help, and meets their growing expectations, as they become increasingly empowered through better access to information and communication technologies. The Movement welcomes the increased influence and positive participation of its beneficiaries, and enjoys public support more broadly. To this end, the Movement

increasingly embraces the enormous opportunities – and manages the risks – posed by new technologies; it places emphasis on innovation and seeks new ways to better communicate with and involve beneficiaries in the most appropriate and well-adapted response to their diverse needs. Winning trust, acceptance and legitimacy through physical proximity to the beneficiaries remains indispensable.

Beyond strengthening beneficiary engagement, innovation and new technologies are optimally used to enhance service delivery – be it in the domain of communication or mapping technologies, innovative health-care and social services, shelter solutions, water or sanitation management, disaster risk reduction and the impact of climate change, among various others – and to improve internal management and coordination.

### **Appealing to youth**

The spirit of the Movement urges people everywhere and from every walk of life to be humane, inspiring them to mobilise and offer voluntary services to bring relief to the suffering of others. It appeals especially to the youth in society, motivating them to volunteer in large numbers and dedicate themselves to responding to crises and developing local capacities across the globe.

### **A champion of humanity through the power of its deeds**

By promoting humanitarian values and demonstrating a relevant, effective and coherent humanitarian response in these vital areas, the Movement is seen as a champion of humanity, a universal beacon of hope in a divided world, united in the strength of its principles and visionary in its approach. It consistently proves its worth – not least through its transparency, accountability and efficiency – to all relevant stakeholders, including States, donors, the public and, most importantly, the people it tries to help. By delivering timely and effective results with and for people in need, it earns its reputation as a unique, truly global humanitarian network.

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# 1.2 AGENDA AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE 32ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

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## 1.2.1 Agenda

### Monday 7 December (evening)

#### OPENING CEREMONY

Henry Dunant Medal ceremony  
*(Not part of the formal agenda of the Conference)*

### Tuesday 8 December (morning)

#### I. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

##### Plenary

1. Opening by the Chair of the Standing Commission
2. Reading of the Fundamental Principles
3. Special humanitarian award for volunteers involved in the Ebola response from the Red Cross Societies of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone
4. Welcome address by the President of the Swiss Confederation
5. Election of the Conference officers and establishment of the Conference subsidiary bodies (commissions, drafting committee, and the Humanitarian Dialogue: a Vision Lab)
6. Organization of work
  - Plenary meetings, general debate, drafting committee, commissions, Humanitarian Dialogue: a Vision Lab
  - Procedure for electing the members of the Standing Commission

#### 7. Keynote addresses

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

#### 8. Report on the work of the Council of Delegates

#### 9. Report on the outcomes of the 31st International Conference

#### II. PANEL DEBATE

##### Plenary

High-level panel debate on the overarching theme “Power of Humanity: the Fundamental Principles in action.”

### Tuesday 8 December (afternoon)

#### III. COMMISSIONS

The following topics will be addressed in thematic plenary commissions. Each will run twice in different language groups to allow smaller groups and more interactive discussions, while also giving all delegations the opportunity to participate in debates on each topic (exceptions noted below).

#### 10. Fundamental Principles in action (commission A)

#### 11. Contemporary challenges in international humanitarian law (commission B)

#### 12. Joint action on the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence (commission C)



**13. Health Care in Danger: Continuing to protect the delivery of health care together**  
(commission D)

**14. Building resilience by scaling up local action and strengthening legal frameworks**  
(commission E)

- Launch of the One Billion Coalition for Resilience
- Strengthening legal frameworks for disasters and emergencies

*The two sub-themes will be addressed in two separate sessions. Interpretation will be provided in all languages for both sessions, as the sessions will not be repeated.*

**IV. HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE: A VISION LAB**

The Humanitarian Dialogue: a Vision Lab will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss current and future humanitarian challenges and to collaboratively develop solutions. Conference sessions will draw on input from the Voices to Action initiative and be facilitated through a multi-stakeholder dialogue for measureable impact on the ground, to advance the debate beyond formal resolutions and toward the next, 33rd International Conference.

The Humanitarian Dialogue foresees two parallel streams: thematic dialogues and the vision lab.

Five thematic dialogues will be scheduled from Tuesday afternoon through Wednesday evening on the following topics:

- migration
- community-centred resilient health systems
- insecure environments
- risk in urban settings
- disaster risk and climate change

The vision lab will consolidate the discussions of the thematic dialogues through the lens of cross-cutting issues, including the Fundamental Principles, the auxiliary role, and partnership, volunteering, and gender.

**V. GENERAL DEBATE**

A general debate will run in parallel to other items on the Conference agenda. As it is a plenary meeting, a verbatim record of the general debate will be published.

**VI. COMMENCEMENT OF THE WORK OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE**

The drafting committee will work in parallel to the other subsidiary bodies of the Conference from the afternoon of Tuesday 8 December onward.

**Tuesday 8 December (evening)**

**Reception**

*hosted by the Swiss authorities  
(Not part of the formal agenda of the Conference)*

**Wednesday 9 December (morning)**

**VII. FOCUS ON MIGRATION**

**Plenary**

**Spotlight on our shared humanitarian concern for the situation of vulnerable migrants throughout migration routes – in origin, transit and destination countries – with the aim of enhancing the humanitarian response to migrants’ protection and assistance needs.**

**15. Progress report (2011-2015) on the implementation of Resolution 3 of the 31st International Conference, “Migration: Ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion”**

*The plenary will take note of the report as a follow-up to the 31st International Conference*

**III. COMMISSIONS (continued)**

**IV. HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE: A VISION LAB (continued) – runs continuously**

**V. GENERAL DEBATE (continued) – runs continuously**

**VI. DRAFTING COMMITTEE (continued) – runs continuously**

**Wednesday 9 December (afternoon)**

**III. COMMISSIONS (continued)**

**IV. HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE: A VISION LAB (continued) – runs continuously**

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**V. GENERAL DEBATE (continued) – runs continuously**

**VI. DRAFTING COMMITTEE (continued) – runs continuously**

**Wednesday 9 December (evening)**

*Meet the candidates for election to the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent*

*Visit the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum (Not part of the formal agenda of the Conference)*

**Thursday 10 December (morning)**

**III. COMMISSIONS (continued)**

**IV. HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE: A VISION LAB (continued) – runs continuously**

**V. GENERAL DEBATE (continued) – runs continuously**

**VI. DRAFTING COMMITTEE (continued) – runs continuously**

**Thursday 10 December (afternoon)**

**VIII. STANDING COMMISSION ELECTIONS**

**Plenary**

**16. Election of the members of the Standing Commission**

- Roll call
- Opening of the electronic voting
- Announcement of results or continuation of election

**IX. REPORTS AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

**Plenary**

**17. Follow-up items**

1. Report on the implementation of the 4-year Action Plan for the implementation of international humanitarian law
2. Report on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding of 28 November 2005 between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in Israel

**18. Report on the work of the 32nd International Conference, featuring:**

- reports from each of the five thematic plenary commissions
- report from the Humanitarian Dialogue: a Vision Lab
- overview of pledges made at the 32nd International Conference
- report of the drafting committee

**19. Adoption of resolutions:**

1. Strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty  
*Follow-up on Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference*
2. Strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law  
*Follow-up on Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference*
3. Sexual and gender-based violence: Joint action on prevention and response  
*Follow-up on the recommendations of workshop 9 of the 2013 Council of Delegates*
4. Health Care in Danger: Continuing to protect the delivery of health care together  
*Follow-up on Resolution 5 of the 31st International Conference*
5. The safety and security of humanitarian volunteers  
*Follow-up on Resolution 4 of the 31st International Conference*
6. Strengthening legal frameworks for disaster response, risk reduction and first aid  
*Follow-up on Resolution 7 of the 31st International Conference*
7. Strengthening the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement response to growing humanitarian needs  
*Follow-up on several related areas addressed by the 2015 and previous Councils of Delegates as well as the 19th session of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies General Assembly, including Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation and the “Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance”*
8. Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the

Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in Israel  
*Follow-up on Resolution 8 of the 31st International Conference and based on the progress report*

9. Dissolution of the Augusta Fund and allocation of the capital to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund:  
Revision of the Regulations for the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund

## X. PANEL DEBATE

### Plenary

High-level panel debate on the outcomes of the Conference – turning outcomes into impact.

## XI. CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

### Plenary

Closing ceremony

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*In addition, a number of side events will be organized on the initiative of Conference participants. A programme of side events is published with the mailing of the official working documents of the Conference. Side events are not part of the formal Conference agenda.*

### 1.2.2 Resolution 1: Strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty

The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference),

*mindful* that deprivation of liberty is an ordinary and expected occurrence in armed conflict, and that under international humanitarian law (IHL) States have, in all forms of armed conflict, both the power to detain, and the obligation to provide protection and to respect applicable legal safeguards, including against unlawful detention for all persons deprived of their liberty, and in this regard,

*deeply concerned* that persons deprived of their liberty in relation to armed conflict are vulnerable to murder, forced disappearance, the taking of hostages, torture, cruel or inhumane treatment, rape and other forms of

sexual violence, summary executions and disregard for their basic needs, and condemning any such acts,

*recognizing* that this Resolution does not give rise to new legal obligations under international law,

*also recognizing* that this Resolution does not modify the mandates, roles and responsibilities of the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) as prescribed in the Statutes of the Movement.

*recalling* the universal ratification of the 1949 Geneva Conventions,

*reiterating* that international humanitarian law – in particular the four Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as applicable to State parties thereto, and customary international law – remains as relevant today as ever in international armed conflict (IAC) and non-international armed conflict (NIAC) and continues to provide protection for all persons deprived of their liberty in relation to such conflicts,

*stressing* that greater respect for and implementation of international humanitarian law, by all parties to an armed conflict, is an indispensable prerequisite for improving the situation of persons deprived of their liberty in relation to armed conflict,

*mindful* of the need to strengthen international humanitarian law, in particular through its reaffirmation in situations when it is not properly implemented and its clarification or development when it does not sufficiently meet the needs of victims of armed conflict,

*also mindful* of the need to strengthen international humanitarian law in relation to the deprivation of liberty related to armed conflicts, in particular in NIAC,

*recalling* the important roles of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) and the International Conference with respect to strengthening international humanitarian law, as set forth in the Statutes of the Movement,

*recalling* that Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference recognized the importance of analysing the humanitarian concerns and military considerations related to the deprivation of liberty in relation to armed conflict with the aim, *inter alia*, of ensuring humane treatment, adequate conditions of detention (taking into account age, gender, disabilities and other factors that can increase vulnerability),

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and the requisite procedural and legal safeguards for persons deprived of their liberty, interned or transferred in relation to armed conflict,

*recalling* that Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference invited the ICRC to pursue further research, consultation and discussion in cooperation with States and, if appropriate, other relevant actors, including international and regional organizations, to identify and propose a range of options and its recommendations to ensure that international humanitarian law remains practical and relevant in providing legal protection to all persons deprived of their liberty in relation to armed conflict,

*noting* the consultative process facilitated by the ICRC, which included four regional consultations, two thematic consultations and one meeting open to all States, and the ICRC's respective reports and chair's conclusions summarizing those discussions, with a view to providing States with a relevant basis for discussions, and expressing appreciation to all stakeholders who contributed to the consultation process,

*acknowledging with appreciation* the close cooperation of States throughout the consultation process, and *thanking* in particular those States that hosted consultations,

1. *commends* the ICRC for facilitating consultations on strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty, which included notably an initial exchange of ideas on areas of humanitarian concern and related legal protections that should be considered for strengthening;
2. *thinks* the ICRC, and takes note of its concluding report submitted to the 32nd International Conference, the consultations held and the issues discussed, and the divergence of views expressed, based on the understanding that this concluding report is the sole responsibility of the facilitators and does not necessarily express the agreed views of States;
3. *thinks* States that participated in the consultation process for their constructive engagement on strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty in relation to armed conflict and for their willingness to share their operational knowledge and experience;
4. *recommends* that States engage in further work on strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty, in close cooperation with the ICRC, taking into account the discussions during the 2012-2015 consultation process and other recent work done by States;
5. *acknowledges* that strengthening the IHL protection for persons deprived of their liberty by any party to an armed conflict is a priority;
6. *reaffirms* the paramount importance and continued relevance of treaty-based and customary international humanitarian law in protecting persons deprived of their liberty in relation to armed conflict, and emphasizes that any future efforts towards strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty in relation to armed conflict take into account these and other relevant bodies of law, within their scope of application;
7. *takes note* that the areas identified for analysis by Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference – ensuring humane treatment and adequate conditions of detention, taking into account age, gender, disabilities and other factors that can increase vulnerability, and the requisite procedural and legal safeguards for persons detained, interned or transferred in relation to armed conflict – provide a basis for continued discussions;
8. *recommends* the pursuit of further in-depth work, in accordance with this Resolution, with the goal of producing one or more concrete and implementable outcomes in any relevant or appropriate form of a non-legally binding nature with the aim of strengthening IHL protections and ensuring that IHL remains practical and relevant to protecting persons deprived of their liberty in relation to armed conflict, in particular in relation to NIAC;
9. *welcomes* the readiness of States and the ICRC to collaborate in determining, at the outset of their further work and with the consensus of the participating States, the modalities of further work in order to ensure its State-led, collaborative and non-politicized nature in accordance with this Resolution
10. *invites* the ICRC to facilitate the work of States and to contribute its humanitarian and legal expertise in accordance with this Resolution and the Statutes of the Movement;

11. *also invites* States and the ICRC to consult with National Societies and other relevant actors, including international and regional organizations, to enrich the discussions where appropriate;
12. *stresses* that this Resolution and any outcomes should neither affect the legal status of parties to armed conflict, nor be invoked for the purpose of affecting the sovereignty of a State or the responsibility of the government, by all legitimate means complying with IHL, to maintain or re-establish law and order in the State or to defend the national unity and territorial integrity of the State;
13. *invites* the ICRC to present a report on the work done pursuant to this Resolution to the 33rd International Conference.

### 1.2.3 Resolution 2: Strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law

The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference),

*stressing* the importance and continued relevance of international humanitarian law (IHL) for regulating the conduct of parties to armed conflicts, both international and non-international, and providing protection and assistance for the victims of armed conflicts,

*recalling* the universal ratification of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and *emphasizing* the primary responsibility of States in the development of IHL,

*recalling* Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference, and taking note of the *Concluding Report* prepared by the ICRC and Switzerland on the consultations held in implementing the relevant provisions of this resolution,

*stressing* that the imperative need to improve compliance with IHL was recognized by all States in the consultation process facilitated by the ICRC and Switzerland as a key ongoing challenge, and that more can be done to address the current weaknesses and gaps in the implementation of IHL, including by non-State parties to armed conflict,

1. *thanks* Switzerland and the ICRC for facilitating the consultation process with States and other actors pursuant to the relevant provisions of Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference, and *recalls* the guiding principles of the consultation process:

- the State-driven and consensus-based character of the process and the need for the consultations to be based on applicable principles of international law
- the importance of avoiding politicization, including by ensuring that States address the implementation of IHL only within their own sphere of competence and responsibility
- the need for an IHL compliance system to be effective
- the avoidance of unnecessary duplication with other compliance systems
- the requirement to take resource considerations into account
- the need to find appropriate ways to ensure that the discussions address all types of armed conflicts, as defined in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols (for the latter as may be applicable), and the parties to them
- the need for the process to ensure universality, humanity, impartiality and non-selectivity
- the need for the process to be based on dialogue and cooperation
- the voluntary, i.e. non-legally binding, nature of the consultation process, as well as of its eventual outcome
- the need for the process and the mechanism to be non-contextualized.

2. *Recommends* the continuation of an inclusive, State-driven intergovernmental process based on the principle of consensus after the 32nd International Conference and in line with the guiding principles enumerated in operative paragraph 1 to find agreement on features and functions of a potential forum of States and to find ways to enhance the implementation of IHL using the potential of the International Conference and IHL regional forums in order to submit the outcome of this intergovernmental process to the 33rd International Conference.

### 1.2.4 Resolution 3: Sexual and gender-based violence: Joint action on prevention and response

The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference),

*condemning* in the strongest possible terms sexual and gender-based violence, in all circumstances,

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particularly in armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies and *deeply deploring* the suffering of all victims/survivors of such violence,

*noting with particular alarm* the persistent prevalence and the growing evidence of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies,

*stressing* that this Resolution does not give rise to new obligations under international law,

*also stressing* that this Resolution does not expand or modify the mandates, roles and responsibilities of the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) as prescribed in the Statutes of the Movement,

*recalling* the obligations to protect and assist victims/survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies in accordance with the applicable legal framework,

*bearing in mind* that international humanitarian law applies only to situations of armed conflict,

*recognizing* that factors such as the weakening of community and institutional protection mechanisms, disruption of services and community life, destruction of infrastructure, separation of families, displacement, and limited access to justice and health services, among others, in addition to structural gender inequalities, may contribute to an increased risk and impact of sexual and gender-based violence,

*recognizing also* that while women and girls are disproportionately affected, men and boys can also be victims/survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and that factors such as age, disability, deprivation of liberty, displacement, religion, ethnicity, race and nationality, among others, may increase the risk,

*affirming* that women's political, social and economic empowerment; gender equality; and the engagement of men and boys in the effort to combat all forms of violence against women are essential to long-term efforts to prevent sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies,

*affirming also* that, in order to adequately address this humanitarian concern, approaches are required that

effectively prevent sexual and gender-based violence, end impunity, protect victims/survivors and respond to their respective needs in a comprehensive and multidisciplinary manner in all phases of an emergency,

*stressing* the need to understand and address the root causes of sexual and gender-based violence in order to prevent and respond to such violence effectively,

*recognizing* that, despite their prevalence, incidents of sexual and gender-based violence are often invisible, as taboos, stigma, feelings of guilt or shame, fear of retribution, and the unavailability of support or lack of information about available support often prevent victims/survivors from coming forward, and as injuries, both physical and psychological, may be less obvious than those caused by other forms of violence,

*underlining* that it is therefore important to work towards the prevention and elimination of such violence and to prepare appropriate responses to the needs of potential victims/survivors before specific incidents arise, and noting that such action can be life-saving for victims/survivors of sexual and gender-based violence,

*noting with concern* the findings of a growing number of studies from around the world, including the recently published report of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation),<sup>1</sup> describing increased risks of sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies,

*deeply concerned* that there have been instances of national and international humanitarian workers and other representatives of the international community committing acts of sexual exploitation and abuse, *condemning* such acts in the strongest possible terms, and *calling on* States and relevant organizations to make all possible efforts to prevent, detect, investigate, and liaise with the appropriate authorities concerning cases of suspected sexual exploitation and abuse, for ensuring accountability,

*recalling* the basic mission of the Movement to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found, protect life and health and ensure respect for the human being, and *expressing appreciation* for the work and efforts of the components of the Movement so far in addressing sexual and gender-based violence, in accordance with their respective mandates and institutional focuses,

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1 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, "Unseen, unheard: Gender-based violence in disasters, global study," 2015.

expressing appreciation of existing relevant work and initiatives by the United Nations (UN), regional organizations, States, judicial bodies, humanitarian organizations and other actors in relation to sexual and gender-based violence, and *underlining* the complementary character of the work of the Movement and the International Conference with such work and initiatives,

recalling all relevant resolutions adopted by the UN and by the International Conference,

## I. Sexual violence in armed conflicts

### *Legal and policy frameworks*

1. *strongly urges* all parties to armed conflict to immediately cease all acts of sexual violence forthwith;
2. *recalls* all existing provisions of international humanitarian law that prohibit acts of sexual violence in armed conflict, which are binding upon both State and non-State parties to armed conflict, and notes that acts of sexual violence are also addressed in other legal frameworks, as applicable;
3. *recalls also* that sexual violence can constitute a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide, when it is committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group and that rape and other forms of sexual violence in armed conflict can constitute war crimes, that acts of sexual violence can amount to torture and that in international armed conflicts acts of sexual violence can constitute grave breaches as listed in the 1949 Geneva Conventions;
4. *underlines* the need for States to comply with their relevant obligations to put an end to impunity and to effectively use all appropriate means to thoroughly investigate and prosecute those subject to their jurisdiction that are alleged to have committed such crimes;
5. *stresses* the important contribution of international criminal tribunals and courts to end impunity for crimes of sexual violence;
6. *urges* all States to consider ratifying or acceding to international humanitarian law treaties to which they are not yet party and whose provisions prohibit acts of sexual violence;

7. *calls upon* States to criminalize acts of sexual violence if they have not done so and encourages States to review, as appropriate, their domestic legal frameworks to determine whether they fully implement applicable obligations with respect to sexual violence, provide for investigation and prosecution, and offer protection and other necessary responses to the needs of victims/survivors;
8. *encourages* States to make every feasible effort to ensure that their authorities at all levels, including military and civilian commanders and superiors, adopt and enforce a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual violence;

### *Prevention*

9. *calls upon* States, in times of peace as in times of armed conflict, pursuant to legal obligations, to disseminate international humanitarian law, including its existing provisions that prohibit sexual violence in armed conflict, as widely as possible in their respective countries and, in particular, in their programmes of military and, if possible, civil instruction, and also calls upon States to make every effort to fully integrate those prohibitions of sexual violence into all activities of their armed and security forces and their detaining authorities, with the support of the components of the Movement as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;
10. *underlines* the important role that, for example, local leaders and civil society, including women's and youth organizations, as well as the engagement of men and boys, can play in raising awareness among the wider population of the prohibition of sexual violence, of the need to prevent such violence and of the need to assist and protect victims/survivors, including against further victimization and stigmatization, and the avenues for obtaining redress, and *encourages* States to support their activities, to the degree practicable;
11. *further calls upon* States to make every feasible effort to ensure that their armed and security forces and their detaining authorities have in place appropriate internal systems for monitoring, and responding to sexual violence that are sensitive to the needs of victims/survivors;
12. *encourages* States to exchange experiences and good practices concerning prevention of sexual violence;

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### *Protection and access to justice*

13. *underlines* the need for States to make every feasible effort to increase individuals' protection from sexual violence by addressing security and safety concerns in a victim/survivor-oriented and gender-sensitive manner;
14. *calls upon* States to make every feasible effort to give victims/survivors access to justice, including by creating, in a culturally-sensitive, gender-sensitive and victim/survivor-oriented manner, an environment where victims/survivors can easily report incidents of sexual violence within the framework of applicable national and international law;
15. *recognizes* that protection and access to justice are also understood as a prevention measure and *calls upon* States to make every feasible effort to put in place specific training for the personnel of all their institutions who may need to respond to instances of sexual violence in armed conflict;
16. *stresses* the need to avoid any kind of discrimination in the efforts to prevent the occurrence of sexual violence, respond to and protect the needs of victims/survivors and punish the perpetrators;

### *Investigating and prosecuting*

17. *underlines also* that the effective investigation and ethical documentation of sexual violence can be instrumental in ensuring access to justice for victims/survivors and in bringing alleged perpetrators to justice and in this regard recognizes the utility of internationally recognized tools;
18. *also calls upon* States to put in place, to the degree practicable, specific training for their police, prosecutors, judiciary and relevant supporting personnel to enable them to investigate, prosecute and try acts of sexual violence in an effective, impartial and appropriate manner that, while guaranteeing the rights of alleged perpetrators, also fully respects the rights and needs of victims/survivors;
19. *encourages* States, particularly in situations of post-conflict, to consider addressing sexual violence in truth and reconciliation processes;

### *Support for victims/survivors*

20. *calls upon* States and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) to make every feasible effort to ensure, insofar as possible, that victims/survivors of sexual violence and, where appropriate, gender-based violence, have unimpeded and ongoing access to non-discriminatory and comprehensive health care, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, according to national law, physical rehabilitation, psychological and psychosocial support, legal assistance and socio-economic support and spiritual services, as required, always keeping in mind the need to ensure the dignity and safety of victims/survivors, and the importance of confidentiality and privacy, including addressing issues such as social stigmatization of victims/survivors;

## **II. Sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies**

### *Legal and policy frameworks*

21. *reaffirms* States' obligations under applicable international human rights law to prohibit acts of sexual and gender-based violence;
22. *calls upon* States to review and strengthen, if necessary, their domestic legal frameworks, to fully implement applicable international obligations related to sexual and gender-based violence, and to assess, as relevant, whether domestic procedures, policies and contingency and preparedness plans related to disasters and other emergencies in their territory ensure that adequate attention is paid to sexual and gender-based violence;

### *Prevention, information and training*

23. *encourages* States, with the support of their National Societies and other civil-society actors, including women's and youth organizations, as well as engagement with men and boys, to make every effort before, during and after disasters and other emergencies to make the prohibition of sexual and gender-based violence, and all services, facilities, mechanisms and support services available to address it, known as widely as possible among their populations;



24. *also encourages* States to gather, analyse and disseminate relevant disaggregated data and information relating to sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies in their territory, with support, as appropriate, from their National Societies and the International Federation;
25. *calls upon* States, National Societies, the International Federation and other relevant humanitarian and development stakeholders to ensure that their disaster- and emergency-management plans and activities include measures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in accordance with their respective mandates, such as putting in place specific training for relevant emergency- and disaster-response personnel, including the participation of women in disaster- and emergency-response teams, and engaging community members, in particular women, in decision-making about disaster risk management;
26. *encourages* States to ensure that their law enforcement and justice systems are equipped to effectively address sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies, including by undertaking specific gender-sensitive training, striving for a gender balance in their personnel, and assisting victims/survivors to easily and safely report incidents to competent domestic authorities;
27. *invites* international humanitarian organizations, including representatives of relevant sectors and clusters, to share good practices, guidelines and experiences related to addressing sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies with relevant actors;

#### ***Preparedness and response***

28. *calls upon* States, with support, as appropriate, from National Societies and other partners to make every effort to ensure that persons affected by sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and emergencies have unimpeded and ongoing access to non-discriminatory and comprehensive health care, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, according to national law, physical rehabilitation, psychological and psychosocial support, legal assistance, and socio-economic support, spiritual services as required, always keeping in mind the need to ensure their dignity and safety, and the importance of confidentiality and privacy, in order to reduce the

likelihood of them not seeking help and to avoid re-victimization;

### **III. Movement implementation, cooperation and partnerships**

29. *encourages* the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to intensify its efforts to prevent sexual violence, alongside its efforts to protect and assist the victims/survivors thereof, in line with its mandate as laid down in the Statutes of the Movement, including research and analysis, and to cooperate with other components of the Movement, in accordance with their respective mandates, as appropriate;
30. *also encourages* the International Federation, in collaboration with National Societies and other relevant partners, to continue its research and consultations with a view to formulating relevant recommendations to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies;
31. *calls upon* the components of the Movement, in accordance with their respective mandates and institutional focuses, to make every possible effort to make capacity-building on preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence one of their priorities, including by specifically training their relevant staff and volunteers at all levels, coordinating and cooperating with each other in line with their respective mandates and roles within the Movement, and exchanging experiences and good practices as appropriate;
32. *also calls upon* all components of the Movement to adopt and enforce zero-tolerance policies on sexual exploitation and abuse of beneficiaries by their staff and volunteers, and subject these individuals to sanctions for their actions;
33. *further calls upon* the components of the Movement, in accordance with their respective mandates, to make every effort to support, where and when appropriate, the development and strengthening of the capacity of national institutions to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, and to invest in training and strengthening local expertise and in community-based initiatives;
34. *further calls upon* the components of the Movement, in accordance with their respective mandates, to make every effort to coordinate and cooperate as appropriate with other relevant stakeholders

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working on preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence, such as the UN, regional organizations and humanitarian organizations, including, as appropriate, by exchanging experiences and good practices;

35. *requests* the ICRC and the International Federation to report to the 33rd International Conference on progress they have made and on any information provided for this purpose by members of the International Conference about their respective efforts.

### **1.2.5 Resolution 4: Health Care in Danger: Continuing to protect the delivery of health care together**

The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference),

*deeply concerned* about attacks, threats and obstructions affecting the wounded and sick, health-care personnel and facilities, and medical transports as well as the misuse of health-care facilities, medical transports or the distinctive emblems and other impediments to the delivery of health care in times of armed conflict or other emergencies, and *deploring* the fact that such acts lead to serious humanitarian consequences, including loss of life and widespread suffering, and to the weakening of the capacity of health systems on a national and regional level to provide health care to affected populations,

*recalling* Resolution 5 of the 31st International Conference entitled “Health care in danger: Respecting and protecting health care,” including its call upon the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in operative paragraph 14 “to initiate consultations with experts from States, the International Federation, National Societies and other actors in the health-care sector, with a view to formulating practical recommendations for making the delivery of health care safer” in armed conflicts or other emergencies, in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks, “and to report to the 32nd International Conference in 2015 on the progress made,”

*welcoming* the expert consultations held between 2012 and 2014 and *taking note with appreciation* of the practical recommendations resulting therefrom, as well as the progress report submitted by the ICRC

pursuant to operative paragraph 14 of Resolution 5 of the 31st International Conference,

*expressing* its appreciation for the specific role played by States, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) and health-care professional associations in hosting expert consultations,

*welcoming* the ongoing efforts made by States, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) and other actors in the health-care sector to improve the protection of the delivery of health care, in accordance with the applicable international and domestic legal frameworks, and efforts to implement relevant practical recommendations as well as to follow good practices in this regard,

*bearing in mind* that international humanitarian law applies only to situations of armed conflict and *recognizing* that international humanitarian law and applicable international human rights law provide a framework for protecting health care,

*stressing* that this Resolution does not give rise to new obligations under international law,

*also stressing* that this Resolution does not expand or modify the mandates, roles and responsibilities of the components of the Movement as prescribed in the Statutes of the Movement,

*recalling* the obligations to respect and protect the wounded and sick, health-care personnel and facilities, as well as medical transports, and to take all reasonable measures to ensure safe and prompt access to health care for the wounded and sick, in times of armed conflict or other emergencies, in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks,

*calling for* all States and all stakeholders to respect the integrity of medical and health-care personnel in carrying out their duties in line with their respective professional codes of ethics and scope of practice,

*bearing in mind* the specific health-care needs of certain categories of the wounded and sick, including children, women, persons with disabilities and the elderly,

*stressing* that identification of health-care personnel, facilities, and medical transports as such may enhance their protection, and in this regard *recalling* international legal obligations pertaining to the use and the protection of the distinctive emblems under the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and where applicable, their Additional Protocols,

*recalling* the Statutes of the Movement, in particular the mission of the components of the Movement as stated in the preamble of these Statutes, which guide the work of the Movement to make the delivery of health care safer in armed conflict or other emergencies,

*stressing*, in particular, the importance of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and recalling that “States shall at all times respect the adherence by all components of the Movement to the Fundamental Principles,” as laid down in the Statutes of the Movement,

*emphasizing*, in this context, the principle of humanity, whereby human suffering shall be prevented and alleviated wherever it may be found, and the principle of impartiality, whereby no discrimination on grounds of nationality, race, religious beliefs, class, political opinions or gender shall be made between individuals whose suffering is to be relieved, being guided solely by their needs and giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress,

*recalling* the importance of health-care personnel having sufficient practical knowledge of their rights and responsibilities, in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks and with their professional codes of ethics and scope of practice, and *stressing* that health-care personnel should be able to offer their services without obstruction, threat or physical attack,

*stressing* the need for continued and, where relevant and appropriate, strengthened cooperation between States, the Movement, international and national health-care professional associations and other health-care providers, international and regional organizations, civil society, religious and community leaders, affected communities and other relevant stakeholders to raise awareness, promote preparedness to address and address violence against the wounded and sick, health-care personnel and facilities, and medical transports, especially at a national level, bearing in mind existing roles, mandates and capacities,

1. *urges* full respect by all parties to armed conflicts for their obligations under international humanitarian law and by States for their obligations under international human rights law, as applicable and relevant for the protection of the wounded and sick and health-care personnel, facilities, and medical transports exclusively engaged in medical duties;

2. *recalls*, in this regard, the prohibitions against attacking the wounded and sick, health-care personnel and facilities, and medical transports, against arbitrarily denying or limiting access for the wounded and sick to health-care services, and against harassing, threatening or punishing health-care personnel for carrying out their duties, in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks;

3. *notes* that attacking, threatening or otherwise preventing health-care personnel from fulfilling their medical duties undermines their physical safety and the integrity of their professional codes of ethics;

4. *expresses* its deep concern about attacks against health-care personnel and facilities, and reaffirms the commitment of all components of the Movement to the protection of health-care personnel, facilities and medical transports as afforded by international humanitarian law, and calls upon States, as are required, to conduct full, prompt and independent investigations with a view to reinforcing preventive measures, ensuring accountability and addressing the grievances of victims;

5. *calls upon* States, where relevant and appropriate, to adopt and effectively implement the required domestic measures, including legislative, regulatory and practical ones, to ensure respect for their international legal obligations pertaining to the protection of the wounded and sick and health-care personnel, facilities, and medical transports, and the protection and use of the distinctive emblems by authorized medical personnel, facilities and transports;

6. *calls upon* States to ensure that their armed forces and security forces, within their respective competencies under domestic law, make or, where relevant, continue their efforts to integrate practical measures for the protection of the wounded and sick and health-care services into the planning and conduct of their operations;

7. *calls upon* States, where relevant, also to contribute to the integration of such practical measures by armed forces and security forces in the operational practices and procedures of regional or international organizations;

8. *calls upon* States, in cooperation with the Movement, the health-care community and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to enhance

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- their understanding of the nature of violence affecting the delivery of health-care services with a view to developing and effectively implementing domestic legal, regulatory and practical measures for preventing and addressing such violence, where relevant, and to this end, *encourages* States and the Movement, in cooperation with the health-care community and other relevant stakeholders, to regularly share challenges and good practices in this regard;
9. *calls upon* States and the Movement, in cooperation with the health-care community and academia, as appropriate, to continue making use of or otherwise support existing training tools or, where relevant, developing new tools to enhance the understanding by health-care personnel of their rights and responsibilities resulting from applicable law and their professional codes of ethics, as well as understanding of national and local customs and traditions, in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks, and of dilemmas in the discharge of their legal and ethical responsibilities and stresses that this may contribute to behaviour that could increase their acceptance with local communities and thereby to their safety and security;
  10. *calls upon* States and the Movement, in cooperation with the health-care community and academia, as appropriate, to intensify or otherwise support efforts to make instruction on the rights and responsibilities of health-care personnel part of the curricula of relevant university faculties, including but not limited to medical faculties, and of training institutions for health-care personnel;
  11. *calls upon* National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to continue supporting and strengthening the capacity of local health-care facilities and personnel around the world and to continue providing training and instruction for health-care staff and volunteers by developing appropriate tools on the rights and obligations of health-care personnel and on protection for and the safety of health-care delivery, to the extent possible;
  12. *calls upon* States and the Movement, where relevant, and in cooperation with affected local communities and their leaders, to enhance the secure functioning of health-care facilities through preparatory and practical measures;
  13. *calls upon* States and National Societies, where relevant, to engage or continue to engage with each other, with a view to strengthening domestic law, regulations and practice regarding the auxiliary role of National Societies to the public authorities in the humanitarian field for the safer delivery of health care, including the effective coordination of their respective health-care services, and *calls upon* National Societies, in the fulfilment of that auxiliary role, to promote and support the implementation of States' international legal obligations and dissemination efforts in this regard;
  14. *calls upon* National Societies to intensify their commitment and efforts to increase their acceptance, safety and security in order to access persons in communities where they deliver health-care services, including by providing training or other support to their staff and volunteers to ensure that they operate in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, by applying existing operational approaches and approaches designed to enhance the organizational development of National Societies, such as the Safer Access Framework, and by continuing to work, where relevant, on specific procedures, protocols and capacities to enhance risk management and the overall security of their ambulance and emergency health-care services, and encourages other National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation, as appropriate, to support them in these efforts.

### 1.2.6 Resolution 5: The safety and security of humanitarian volunteers

The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

noting that the purpose of this resolution, among others, is to raise awareness and promote the safety and security of humanitarian volunteers,

recognizing with gratitude the enormous contribution of humanitarian volunteers and other humanitarian personnel, including the 17 million volunteers working with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies), to the well-being of their communities,

*highlighting* in particular, the service of the 7,000 Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers who worked in Ebola-affected countries in 2014-15 and the 1 million Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers who live and work in countries exposed to armed conflict,

*noting* with grave concern the highly elevated risks that volunteers and other humanitarian personnel face in armed conflicts, which include but are not limited to physical attack, psychological trauma, social stigma and accidental injury, and which may be affected by gender,

*acknowledging* that humanitarian volunteers and other personnel can also face these and other risks in other circumstances, such as disasters, health emergencies and even in daily support to their communities,

*noting* with dismay that nearly 100 Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers lost their lives in the course of their duties since the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference) in 2011, *expressing* its sympathy for their families and communities, as well as its solidarity with volunteers who have been injured, traumatized or otherwise harmed,

*recalling* that, under international humanitarian law, humanitarian relief personnel, as civilians, must be respected and protected and that international human rights law also provides a framework for protecting persons;

*acknowledging* that protecting humanitarian volunteers is both a moral and humanitarian imperative, in light of their humanity and their service, and a practical necessity, in light of their indispensable role in humanitarian action and the impacts that insecurity can have on their recruitment and retention,

*recognizing* that while the safety and security of all humanitarian personnel is extremely important, research recently completed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) has shown that the situation of volunteers has often received far less attention,

*affirming* our determination to cooperate in preventing and mitigating risks to volunteers to the degree feasible, to collaboratively implement initiatives that will promote a safer environment for them, and to strengthen our efforts to meet the needs of injured or traumatized volunteers and of the families of volunteers killed or injured in the line of duty,

*stressing* the importance of strong data, research and learning to understand and reduce risks to humanitarian volunteers and other humanitarian personnel, including gender-related risks,

*recalling* relevant resolutions of the International Conference, including Resolution 4 of the 31st International Conference, which called on States and National Societies to create and maintain an enabling environment for volunteering, including through the promotion of supportive legislation and policy,

*recognizing* the complementarity of the present resolution with Resolution 4 of the present International Conference entitled “Health care in danger: continuing to protect the delivery of health care together,” as regards the safety and security of Red Cross and Red Crescent personnel,

*recalling* that United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/138 of 2012 requested States and the UN to work together with other volunteer-involving organizations to support efforts to enhance the security and protection of volunteers,

*reaffirming* that the work of humanitarian volunteers will be critical to success in meeting international goals related to community resilience, as set out in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

#### ***Determination to protect***

1. *calls on* National Societies, and all other actors deploying humanitarian volunteers, to make every effort to provide their volunteers in a timely manner with the best safety-related information, guidance, training, protective equipment, psychological support and insurance within their means;
2. *urges* National Societies, and all actors deploying humanitarian volunteers, to continuously review potential threats to their volunteers, including but not limited to those related to gender, and to ensure that their plans and programmes include measures to reduce and mitigate these risks;
3. *invites* States and other relevant stakeholders to support National Societies and other actors deploying humanitarian volunteers in these endeavours, including, as appropriate, through training, expertise and resources;
4. *calls on* States to promote the safest environment feasible for humanitarian volunteers, bearing in

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mind the inherent risks in some of their activities, including, in accordance with national practice, measures to promote public understanding and acceptance of the role of humanitarian volunteers, the integration of measures to protect volunteer safety and security in national laws, policies, plans and programmes for emergency management, and measures to hold perpetrators of crimes against humanitarian volunteers accountable;

#### ***Enhancing knowledge***

5. *encourages* States, in cooperation, as appropriate, with National Societies and other relevant stakeholders, to develop and/or maintain national systems for the collection and dissemination of comprehensive data, including sex and age disaggregated data, relevant to the safety and security of humanitarian volunteers in a manner consistent with applicable national law and calls for international data collection efforts on humanitarian safety to also include information about volunteers;
6. *encourages* States, National Societies, and all other relevant stakeholders to regularly share challenges and good practices with regard to improving the safety and security of humanitarian volunteers;
7. *invites* the academic community to increase its research into problems concerning humanitarian volunteers and potential solutions to those problems and encourages States to consider increasing their financial support for such research;

#### ***Enhancing understanding***

8. *stresses* the importance of ensuring that humanitarian volunteers are aware and respectful of national and local customs and traditions and communicate clearly their purpose and objectives within communities in order to enhance their acceptance, thereby contributing to their safety and security, and in this regard to ensure that humanitarian action is guided by humanitarian principles;
9. *encourages* National Societies to ensure that their volunteers are fully trained in applicable safety procedures and protocols, including the use of any necessary protective equipment, in the application of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and are familiar with the use of global tools such as the International Committee of

the Red Cross Safer Access Framework and the International Federation's "Stay Safe" toolkit;

#### ***Promoting insurance or equivalent protection***

10. *urges* National Societies and all actors deploying humanitarian volunteers to make every effort, within their means, to ensure that their volunteers have adequate insurance or equivalent "safety net" assistance with regard to death, injury, sickness or trauma they may endure while carrying out their duties;
11. *commends* those States that have provided direct or indirect support for the insurance or equivalent "safety net" assistance for volunteers of National Societies and other actors deploying humanitarian volunteers within their territories and *urges* others to consider doing so, to the maximum extent feasible;
12. *urges* States and other relevant stakeholders to also consider providing such support in other countries, as donors, in accordance with national legislation and the humanitarian principles;
13. *encourages* the International Federation to continue to support National Societies in identifying cost-effective means to insure or otherwise respond to the needs of their volunteers;

#### ***Implementation and support***

14. *invites* the International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to offer their support to National Societies and States in carrying out the implementation of this resolution and also encourages National Societies to support each other with the sharing of best practices and challenges;
15. *encourages* the International Federation, ICRC and National Societies to continue to strengthen partnerships with other stakeholders, including the UN, in promoting the safety and security of volunteers;
16. *requests* operational partners to National Societies to cooperate with them, with support, as appropriate, from the International Federation and/or the ICRC, to ensure that any joint projects do not pose unnecessary risks to volunteers;
17. *requests* the International Federation to submit a report on progress with this resolution at the 33rd International Conference.

### 1.2.7 Resolution 6: Strengthening legal frameworks for disaster response, risk reduction and first aid

The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*recalling* Final Goal 3.2 of the 28th International Conference, Resolution 4 of the 30th International Conference and Resolution 7 of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*recalling* relevant resolutions of the United Nations, which encouraged States to strengthen their regulatory frameworks for international disaster assistance, taking the Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance (“IDRL Guidelines”) into account,

*noting* the completion of the final “Model Act on the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance” by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation), the United Nations Office of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 2013 and the initiative of the International Federation and OCHA to develop a “Model Emergency Degree on the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance”,

*noting with satisfaction* that some 23 States have adopted new laws, rules or procedures drawing on the IDRL Guidelines since 2007 and that a significant number of regional organizations and initiatives have increased their support to their member States in preventing or resolving regulatory issues in international disaster response operations,

*noting with concern* the findings of the background report by the International Federation that regulatory problems nevertheless continue to impact the timeliness and effectiveness of international disaster response operations and that there are still many States that lack comprehensive laws, rules or procedures for managing international disaster assistance,

*noting* that the International Law Commission has completed the first reading of its “Draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disaster” and has requested States and some organizations, including the International Federation and the

International Committee of the Red Cross, to provide their comments by 1 January 2016,

*recalling* the critical roles played by the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World in 1994, the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2005 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 (Sendai Framework) in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, which was made possible with the facilitating role of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR),

*welcoming* the Sendai Framework, which encourages States, *inter alia*, to strengthen the content and implementation of their laws, regulations and policies related to disaster risk reduction, underlines that a gender, age, disability and cultural perspective should be integrated in all risk reduction policies and practices and that women’s and youth leadership should be promoted, and recognizes the importance of reviewing national laws and procedures in light of the IDRL Guidelines,

*taking note* of the progress made at the first meeting of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology, as a practical step to implement the Sendai Framework,

*welcoming* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which calls for commitment, *inter alia*, to build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and disasters and other economic, social and environmental shocks,

*noting* the initiative of the International Federation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to undertake comparative research on best practices and common gap areas in domestic law related to disaster risk reduction, as described in the report entitled “Effective law and regulation for disaster risk reduction: a multi-country report” published in 2014, and *noting* their findings that there has been encouraging progress in the strengthening of legislation for disaster risk management in recent years, but gaps still remain in many countries, particularly with regard to addressing financing, capacity building, community participation, implementation, and accountability for disaster risk reduction,

*noting* the consultation and pilot process conducted by International Federation and UNDP from 2012 to 2015 on the “Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction,” which sought feedback and contributions

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from a broad range of governmental and non-governmental practitioners,

*acknowledging* that widespread training and individual practice of first aid is a cost-effective way to ensure that life-saving help is close at hand in the first moments of a sudden health crisis,

*welcoming* the strong contribution provided by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in promoting first aid,

*noting* the findings of the International Federation background report that targeted mandates for first aid training can increase the chance that a person with appropriate skills will be available in a situation of crisis, but that there is substantial variability among States in the degree to which such mandates are imposed,

*noting further* the finding that many States lack minimum standards for the quality and content of first aid training and *welcoming* in this respect the International First Aid and Resuscitation Guidelines developed by the International Federation in 2011, as an important reference tool,

*noting further* the finding that even trained volunteers are hesitating to provide first aid out of fear of potential liability in the event that their good faith efforts are unsuccessful and that there are, in fact, no special legal protections for them in many States' laws,

*recognizing* that women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and building resilience,

*emphasizing* that the affected state has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters,

***Accelerating progress in the facilitation and regulation of international disaster response***

1. *commends* those States that have adopted comprehensive laws, policies, rules and procedures for facilitating and regulating international disaster assistance and *encourages* them to share their experiences with others;
2. *calls on* those States that have not yet adopted appropriate laws, policies, rules and procedures

to do so at national and subnational level in order to avoid being caught unprepared in the event of a future disaster and *encourages* them to consider developing their own institutional measures to ensure adequate discussion and planning relating to the management of international disaster assistance;

3. *welcomes* the support that National Societies and the International Federation have provided to interested States to make use of the IDRL Guidelines and *encourages* them to continue their efforts, including integration with their national plans, in collaboration with relevant partners, including the United Nations and relevant regional organizations;
4. *invites* National Societies and States to collaborate in disseminating information to the public about the most appropriate donations of goods in the wake of a major disaster and to discourage the shipment of unnecessary and unsolicited items;
5. *welcomes* the International Federation's initiative to foster dialogue on further options to accelerate progress in resolving regulatory problems in international disaster response operations, including country-level efforts as well as the potential for further strengthening global and/or regional legal frameworks, and *invites* it to continue to lead consultations with States and other stakeholders in this regard;

***Strengthening cooperation and laws for disaster risk reduction***

6. *recognizes* that National Societies, as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, have an important role to play in supporting their States to achieve a number of the goals, targets and priorities set out in the context of the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and outcomes of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including those related to building community resilience, reducing disaster risks and adapting to climate change;
7. *encourages* National Societies and States to consider ways to enhance their cooperation to achieve these goals, targets and priorities, including cooperation to address urban risks and to promote strong and well-implemented domestic legal frameworks;



8. *commits to work together to strengthen community-driven, holistic resilience efforts, including by encouraging partnerships and alliances and, in this respect, welcomes the One Billion Coalition for Resilience;*
9. *recognizes the Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction as a useful and non-binding assessment tool to help states, when applicable, to review domestic legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction at the national, provincial and local levels and notes its utility to States in carrying out related commitments set out in the Sendai Framework;*
10. *invites States to use the Checklist to evaluate and, as needed, improve the content and implementation of their laws, regulations and public policies related to disaster risk reduction, with support from National Societies, the International Federation, the United Nations System, local civil society, the private sector, academia and other partners;*
11. *encourages National Societies and States to cooperate in generating greater public awareness about disaster risk reduction and related rights and responsibilities of relevant actors under national and international law;*

***Providing supportive legal frameworks for saving lives through first aid***

12. *encourages States to promote regularly refreshed first aid education across the life-span of their citizens, in particular, to the degree capacity and national systems allow, through mandatory training for school children and teachers and driver's licence applicants and to ensure equal participation of women, girls, men and boys in first aid training;*
13. *further encourages States to adopt and regularly update official guidelines as to the minimum content of first aid education programmes, taking into account standards already in use, including the International Federation's International First Aid and Resuscitation Guidelines, as well as the results of impact assessments;*
14. *further encourages States to consider all necessary steps to encourage the provision of first aid by laypersons with appropriate training, including, where appropriate, establishing protection from liability for their good faith efforts and ensuring that they are aware of this protection;*

15. *invites States to exchange good practices in this area, including the use of digital communication, and requests National Societies and the International Federation to support interested States in assessing and, as needed and requested, strengthening their existing legal frameworks related to first aid;*

***Extending support and partnerships***

16. *encourages National Societies, as auxiliaries to their public authorities in the humanitarian field, to continue to provide advice and support to their governments in the development and implementation of effective legal and policy frameworks relevant to disaster and emergency management at all levels, in particular with respect to the areas of concern mentioned in this resolution;*
17. *requests the International Federation to continue to support National Societies and States in the field of disaster law, including with respect to the areas of concern mentioned in this resolution, through technical assistance, capacity building, the development of tools, models and guidelines, advocacy and ongoing research and promoting the sharing of experiences and best practices between countries;*
18. *welcomes the increasing cooperation of the International Federation and National Societies with other partners, in accordance with their respective mandates, in providing support to interested States in this area, in particular with the United Nations, regional organizations, civil society, including national NGOs, the private sector, and academia and encourages them to continue to develop new partnerships;*

***Ensuring dissemination and review***

19. *reaffirms the role of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as one of the key international fora for continued dialogue about disaster laws and on recovery action in synergy with actions conducted by States and international organisations;*
20. *invites States, the International Federation, and National Societies to disseminate this resolution to appropriate stakeholders, including by bringing it to the attention of relevant international and regional organizations;*

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21. *requests* the International Federation, in consultation with National Societies, to submit a progress report on the implementation of this resolution to the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

### **1.2.8 Resolution 7: Strengthening the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement response to growing humanitarian needs**

The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*expressing deep concern* at the growing humanitarian needs,

*stressing* the importance of the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) to continually strengthen and improve their ability to respond to humanitarian needs through efficient collective action and coordination,

*reaffirming* the significant ethical and operational value of the seven Fundamental Principles of the Movement for all the components of the Movement in the accomplishment of their humanitarian mission,

*recalling* the commitments made by States to facilitating the activities and the safe access of the Movement's components and respecting at all times their adherence to the Fundamental Principles,

*stressing* in particular the importance of a constant dialogue in this regard between States and components of the Movement in order to ensure that States implement relevant commitments set out in international humanitarian law and reflected in the Statutes of the Movement,

*encouraging* the continuous efforts of the Movement to ensure an efficient, coherent and complementary and principled response to growing humanitarian needs, in accordance with respective mandates, by strengthening internal processes and the culture of cooperation and coordination before, during and after emergencies,

*acknowledging* the need for the Movement, in pursuing its collective ambition, to have a coherent approach to branding and visual representation for global communication, promotion and fundraising purposes,

*affirming* the importance of the distinctive emblems recognized under the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and the primary function of the emblems as a protective device in times of armed conflict, and *emphasizing* the need to preserve and ensure respect for the emblems at all times in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and with the Regulations on the Use of the Emblem of the Red Cross or the Red Crescent by the National Societies (Emblem Regulations), as adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference) in 1965 and revised by the Council of Delegates in 1991, with subsequent endorsement by the States parties to the Geneva Conventions

*also affirming* the responsibility of States, in cooperation with their National Societies, to protect the integrity of the distinctive emblems, as set out in the Statutes of the Movement,

*taking note* of the decision of the 19th Session of the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) endorsing the "Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance," and requesting that they be presented to the International Conference,

*recalling and reaffirming* the past commitments adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and in particular Resolution 1 and its annexed Declaration "Together for Humanity" as adopted by the 30th International Conference, and Resolution 3 "Migration: ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion" as adopted by the 31st International Conference,

*noting* the adoption by the 2015 Council of Delegates of the Movement statement "Ensuring collective action to protect and respond to the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants",

1. *notes* the adoption by the 2015 Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement of the "Vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement," *strives* to support the components of the Movement in living up to this vision, and *calls upon* States to support and facilitate the Movement in achieving this aim;

2. *recalls* States' commitment to respect at all times the adherence by all the components of the Movement to the Fundamental Principles, and *urges* States and National Societies to maintain a constant dialogue regarding respect for and

adherence to the Principles, to ensure that every country has the full benefit of a neutral and impartial auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, and one which remains autonomous in carrying out its humanitarian activities for the most vulnerable;

3. *welcomes* the commitments made during the 2013 and 2015 Councils of Delegates to “strengthening Movement coordination and cooperation,” aimed at increasing operational coordination and cooperation in both preparedness and response, and *urges* the Movement components to continue their efforts to serve affected populations in the most effective and inclusive manner possible;
4. *takes note* of the initiative of the Movement components adopting a Movement logo for exceptional use in representation, communication, global fundraising and promotional activities, and *stresses* the commitment of Movement components to only display the Movement logo in accordance with the conditions and rules governing its use in order to ensure that it is coherent with existing regulations and is complementary to the existing logos of individual Movement components;
5. *encourages* States to recognize as appropriate the Movement logo and facilitate its use on their territory, in compliance with applicable national and international law and in conformity with the 1991 Emblem Regulations;
6. *endorses* the “Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance” as revised by the General Assembly of the International Federation in 2013, which govern National Societies and their International Federation in international humanitarian assistance (excluding armed conflict, internal strife and their direct results); *requests* States to facilitate and support the implementation of these Principles and Rules; and *recalls* the auxiliary role of National Societies to their public authorities in the humanitarian field;
7. *welcomes* the initiative of the Movement to share its unique perspective and experience with the World Humanitarian Summit, thereby complementing the efforts of other humanitarian actors to address the most pressing humanitarian challenges.

### **1.2.9 Resolution 8: Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Operational Arrangements dated 28 November 2005 between Palestine Red Crescent Society and Magen David Adom in Israel**

The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

1. *notes* the adoption of Resolution 10 of the Council of Delegates on 7 December 2015 on the 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 (see annex for the text of the Resolution);
2. *endorses* this Resolution.

#### **ANNEX - RESOLUTION**

##### **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**

The Council of Delegates,

*recalling* the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and Magen David Adom in Israel (MDA) on 28 November 2005, in particular the following provisions:

1. MDA and PRCS will operate in conformity with the legal framework applicable to the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel in 1967, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War.
2. MDA and PRCS recognize that PRCS is the authorized National Society in the Palestinian territory and that this territory is within the geographical scope of the operational activities and of the competences of PRCS. MDA and PRCS will respect each other's jurisdiction and will operate in accordance with the Statutes and Rules of the Movement.

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3. After the Third Additional Protocol is adopted and by the time MDA is admitted by the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies:

- a. MDA will ensure that it has no chapters outside the internationally recognized borders of the State of Israel.
- b. Operational activities of one society within the jurisdiction of the other society will be conducted in accordance with the consent provision of resolution 11 of the 1921 international conference.

(...)

4. MDA and PRCS will work together and separately within their jurisdictions to end any misuse of the emblem and will work with their respective authorities to ensure respect for their humanitarian mandate and for international humanitarian law.

(...)

6. MDA and PRCS will cooperate in the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding (...).

taking note of the report of November 2015 on the implementation of the MoU prepared by the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Standing Commission),

recalling Resolution 5 adopted by the Council of Delegates on 17 November 2013 concerning the implementation of the MoU and AOA between MDA and the PRCS,

reaffirming the importance for all of the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) to operate at all times in accordance with international humanitarian law as well as the Fundamental Principles, the Statutes and the rules and policies of the Movement,

noting that National Societies have an obligation to operate in compliance with the Constitution of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) and the existing policy “on the protection of integrity of National Societies and bodies of the International Federation” adopted in November 2009,

recalling both the dispute resolution mechanism set out in Resolution 11 of the 1921 International Conference as well as the Compliance and Mediation Committee of the International Federation, and recognizing the rights of National Societies thereunder,

while noting the humanitarian and political environment, expresses disappointment that after 10 years the MoU is not yet fully implemented and reaffirms our collective determination to support its full implementation,

taking note of the letter of 15 November 2015 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel in which the Israeli Government stated that “it is ready to support the MDA to ensure the full implementation of its commitments [under the MoU],”

reaffirming the necessity for effective and positive coordination between all components of the Movement in support of the full implementation of the MoU between the PRCS and MDA,

1. while noting with full appreciation the progress made and acknowledging the steps taken by both the PRCS and MDA over the last decade to fulfil the MoU/AOA, notes however and with deep regret the Standing Commission’s conclusion “that no additional steps since 2013 have been reported as having been taken in regard to the geographical scope provisions of the MoU”;

2. strongly urges MDA to comply with its obligations with respect to the geographic scope provisions of the MoU and take appropriate actions to end non-compliance;

3. requests MDA and other concerned parties, in Israel and beyond, to undertake further concrete measures to stop misuse of the MDA logo in the territory considered within the geographic scope of the PRCS;

4. calls on the State of Israel to continue to support MDA to ensure the full implementation of its commitments under the MoU;

5. requests the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation to facilitate the full implementation of the MoU by proposing, for endorsement by the Standing Commission, the appointment of an independent monitor by 31 March 2016;

6. *urges* the ICRC and the International Federation to define the terms of reference for the monitoring process within 45 days of the adoption of this resolution, to include, but not be limited to, the following main functions:
  - a. undertake regular monitoring and report twice annually to the Movement and to the 2017 Council of Delegates;
  - b. validate the information provided by the two National Societies regarding the implementation of the MoU;
  - c. explore constructive options within the Movement to address issues identified in the reports;
7. *recognizes* that the independent monitor may wish to call upon assistance from National Societies and eminent individuals from within or outside the Movement to reach full implementation of the MoU;
8. *urges* MDA and the PRCS to enhance their cooperation in fulfilling their humanitarian mandates and commitments, including through regular meetings;
9. *requests* the ICRC and the International Federation to provide logistical and technical support to the monitoring process and to ensure the provision of a report on implementation of the MoU to the next Council of Delegates and through it to the 33rd International Conference;
10. *expresses* the sincere desire that full implementation of the MoU will be achieved and validated prior to the 2017 Council of Delegates.

### **1.2.10 Resolution 9: Dissolution of the Augusta Fund and allocation of the capital to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund. Revision of the Regulations for the Florence Nightingale Medal**

The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference),

taking note of the report on the Augusta Fund submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC),

also taking note of the lack of sustainability of the Augusta Fund,

further taking note of the ICRC's proposals concerning the Regulations for the Florence Nightingale Medal,

recalling the purposes of the Augusta Fund and the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund,

1. *requests* the ICRC to make arrangements for the dissolution of the Augusta Fund and the transfer of its capital to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund;
2. *approves* the new Regulations for the Florence Nightingale Medal, which read as follows:

#### **Regulations for the Florence Nightingale Medal**

*Amended text adopted by the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Geneva, 2015)*

##### **Article 1**

*In accordance with the recommendation of the 8th International Conference of the Red Cross held in London in 1907, and the decision of the 9th International Conference held in Washington in 1912, a Fund was established by contributions from National Red Cross Societies in memory of the great and distinguished services of Florence Nightingale for the improvement of the care of the wounded and the sick.*

*The income from the Fund shall be used for the distribution of a Medal, to be called the "Florence Nightingale Medal," to honour the spirit which marked the whole life and work of Florence Nightingale.*

##### **Article 2**

*The Florence Nightingale Medal may be awarded to qualified male or female nurses and also to male or female voluntary nursing aides, active members or regular helpers of a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society or of an affiliated medical or nursing institution.*

*The Medal may be awarded to those of the above-mentioned persons who have distinguished themselves in time of peace or war by:*

- *exceptional courage and devotion to the wounded, sick or disabled or to civilian victims of a conflict or disaster;*
- *exemplary services or a creative and pioneering spirit in the areas of prevention, public health or nursing education.*

*The Medal may be awarded posthumously if the prospective recipient has fallen on active service.*

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### Article 3

The Medal shall be awarded by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on proposals made to it by National Societies.

### Article 4

The Medal shall be in silver-gilt with a portrait on the obverse of Florence Nightingale with the words "Ad memoriam Florence Nightingale 1820-1910." On the reverse it shall bear the inscription on the circumference "Pro vera misericordia et cara humanitate perennis decor universalis." The name of the holder and the date of the award of the Medal shall be engraved in the centre. The Medal shall be attached by a red and white ribbon to a laurel crown surrounding a red cross. The Medal shall be accompanied by a diploma on parchment.

### Article 5

The Medal shall be presented in each country either by the Head of the State, or by the President of the Central Committee of the National Society directly or by their substitutes. The ceremony shall take place with a solemnity consistent with the distinction of the honour conferred.

### Article 6

The distribution of the Florence Nightingale Medal shall take place every two years. Not more than 50 Medals may be issued at any one distribution. If by reason of exceptional circumstances due to a widespread state of war it has been impossible for one or more distributions to take place, the number of Medals awarded at subsequent distributions may exceed the figure of 50 but may not exceed the total number which would normally have been attained, if the preceding distributions had been able to take place.

### Article 7

From the beginning of September of the year preceding the year in which the Medal is awarded, the ICRC shall invite the Central Committees of the National Societies by means of a circular and application forms to submit the names of the candidates they consider qualified to be awarded a Medal, in accordance with the conditions mentioned in Article 2.

### Article 8

The Central Committees of the National Societies, having taken all requisite advice, shall submit to the ICRC the

names and qualifications of the candidates they propose. To enable the ICRC to operate a fair selection, the candidates' names shall be accompanied by all relevant information justifying an award of the Medal, in accordance with the criteria mentioned in Article 2.

All applications submitted must come from the Central Committee of a National Society. The Central Committees may submit one or more applications, but are not bound to submit applications for each distribution.

### Article 9

The applications with the reasons in support of them must reach the ICRC by 1 February of the year in which the award of the Medal is to take place. Applications reaching the International Committee after that date cannot be considered except in connection with a subsequent award.

### Article 10

The ICRC retains complete freedom of choice. It may refrain from awarding the total number of Medals contemplated, if the qualifications of the applicants submitted do not appear to merit this distinguished honour.

### Article 11

The ICRC shall issue on the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, namely on 12 May, a circular informing the Central Committees of the National Societies of the names of those to whom the Medal has been awarded.

### Article 12

The Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement shall be empowered to study and decide on any change to the Regulations for the Florence Nightingale Medal. The present Regulations, adopted by the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva in 2015, supersede all previous rules relating to the Florence Nightingale Medal, in particular those of the 9th International Conference (Washington, 1912), the Regulations of 24 December 1913 and the amendments thereto by the 10th International Conference (Geneva, 1921), the 13th International Conference (The Hague, 1928), the 15th International Conference (Tokyo, 1934), the 18th International Conference (Toronto, 1952), the 24th International Conference (Manila, 1981) and the Council of Delegates (Budapest, 1991)<sup>1</sup>

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1 Following the postponement of the 26th International Conference, the ICRC submitted these Regulations for the approval of the States party to the Geneva Conventions, which had six months in which to voice any objections. Since no objection was raised by that deadline, the Regulations were considered as adopted and came into force on 30 June 1992.

### 1.2.11 Resolution 10: Power of Humanity

The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*commemorating* the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the theme of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference), and recognizing the continuing relevance of these principles,

*taking account* of the views expressed during the International Conference on its three aspirations – *prevent and respond to violence, safeguard safety and access to humanitarian assistance and services, and reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience,*

*welcoming* the numerous pledges made by members and observers of the International Conference in pursuit of these three aspirations,

*taking note* with appreciation of the measures taken by States and the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to implement the resolutions of the 31st International Conference as well as the associated pledges as requested in Resolution 9 of the 31st International Conference, and *welcoming* the follow-up report prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) on the progress made,

*noting* with appreciation the outcomes of the “Humanitarian Dialogue: a Vision Lab,”

1. *urges* all members of the International Conference to include the resolutions adopted and their pledges made at the International Conference in their efforts to optimize interaction and partnerships among themselves;
2. *invites* all members of the International Conference to review in 2017 progress made with respect to the implementation of the resolutions of the International Conference, as well as of their pledges, and to report on the implementation thereof to the 33rd International Conference in 2019;
3. *requests* the ICRC and the International Federation to report to the 33rd International Conference on the follow-up by International Conference members on the resolutions and pledges of the 32nd International Conference;
4. *encourages* all members of the International Conference and the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Standing Commission) to make use of the “Idea Chart” from the “Humanitarian Dialogue: a Vision Lab” as a living source of inspiration for even more effective work at local and global level;
5. *decides* to hold an International Conference in 2019, the date and place of which is to be determined by the Standing Commission.

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# LISTE DES DÉLÉGUÉS LIST OF DELEGATES LISTA DE DELEGADOS

## قائمة المندوبين

### 2.1

#### MEMBRES DE LA CONFÉRENCE MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE MIEMBROS DE LA CONFERENCIA

#### أعضاء المؤتمر

Selon le Règlement du Mouvement international, l'ordre alphabétique des membres de la Conférence est celui des noms de leur pays dans la langue française. Les indications relatives à la composition des délégations sont dans la langue choisie par la délégation.

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Movement, the alphabetical order of the members of the Conference shall be the alphabetical order of the French names of their respective countries. All details pertaining to the composition of delegations are in the language chosen by the delegation.

De acuerdo con el Reglamento del Movimiento Internacional, el orden alfabético de los miembros de la Conferencia es el de los nombres de sus países en francés. Las indicaciones relativas a la composición de las delegaciones están en el idioma escogido por la propia delegación.

وفقاً للنظام الداخلي للحركة الدولية، يكون الترتيب الأبجدي لأعضاء المؤتمر هو الترتيب الأبجدي لأسماء بلدانهم باللغة الفرنسية. وتكون كل التفاصيل الخاصة بتشكيل الوفود باللغة التي يختارها كل وفد.



**AFGHANISTAN / AFGHANISTAN / AFGANISTÁN / أفغانستان**

**Société nationale • National Society •**

**Sociedad Nacional • الجمعية الوطنية**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Mr Mohammed Naim Dindar  
Secretary General
- Ms Fatima Gailani  
President
- Mr Mohammad Zahir Walizada  
Vice President
- Mr Mohammad Nabi Burhan  
Deputy Secretary General
- Mr Abdul Rahman Kalantary  
Director of Disaster Management  
Department
- Mr Mohammad Taib Yosufzai  
Head of Organisational Development  
Department
- Ms Mursal Mahmoodi  
Youth delegate
- Mr Wais Ahmad Barmak
- Ms Homa Nader  
Volunteer
- Mr Hamzah Mangal Zekrya  
Volunteer

**État • State • Estado • الدولة**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- H.E. Dr Suraya Dalil  
Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
- Mr Nazir Ahmad Foshanji  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva

**AFRIQUE DU SUD / SOUTH AFRICA / SUDÁFRICA / جنوب أفريقيا**

**Société nationale • National Society •**

**Sociedad Nacional • الجمعية الوطنية**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Mr Duke Mpapele  
President
- Mr Derick Naidoo  
CEO

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*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- H.E. Mr A S Minty  
Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva

H.E. Mr NKM Seleka  
Ambassador, Director Humanitarian  
Affairs, DIRCO

Ms NP Notutela  
Deputy Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission, Geneva

Ms T Grobbelaar  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva

Ms S V Mancotywa-Kumsha  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva

Ms KS Matlhako  
Assistant Director, DIRCO

Mr NE Sekonyana  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva

Ms CK Naidoo  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva

**ALBANIE / ALBANIA / ALBANIA / ألبانيا**

**Société nationale • National Society •**

**Sociedad Nacional • الجمعية الوطنية**

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- Mr Ylli Alushi  
President
- Mr Shyqyri Subashi  
President of Honour
- Mr Artur Katuçi  
Secretary General

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*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- H.E. Ms Filloreta Kodra  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary, Permanent  
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Secretary General

Ms Mildred Milly Molefhi  
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Mr Fernando Claudio Antunes Araújo

Member of National Governing Board, and Finance Commission President

Mr André José Camargo Filho

Advisor to the President

Mr Thiago de Abreu Quintaneiro Matias

Headquarter Head of Volunteer National Department

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Mr Guilherme Wagner

Superintendent for Primary Health Care, Rio de Janeiro Municipal Health Secretariat

Mr João Lucas Quental Novaes de

Almeida

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Mr Roberto Salone

First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

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First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Francisco Figueiredo de Souza

Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Eduardo Freitas de Oliveira

Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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- Ms Ananda Melo King  
Intern, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Ms Joana Silvestrin Zanon  
Intern, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Ms Thais Dutra Fernandez  
Intern, Permanent Mission, Geneva

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Affairs  
Ms Tsvety Romanska  
Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign  
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Ms Boyana Trifonova  
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M. Serges Natori  
Délégué jeunesse

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- Ambassadeur Thomas Barankitse  
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Ambassadeur, Représentant  
permanent, Mission permanente,  
Genève  
M. Philippe Minani  
Deuxième Conseiller, Mission  
permanente, Genève

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- H.E Ms Chantinie Pum  
Secretary General
- H.E. Ms Chanthy Mom  
Deputy Director of Health  
Department
- Ms Pisey Hang  
Youth Delegate

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Geneva

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- M. Nicolas Mbako  
Directeur du développement  
organisationnel
- M. Aristide Guy Aimé Daboulé  
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- Mlle Lyly Madeleine Kouamo  
Responsable nationale Jeunesse

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Director, Global Health
- Ms Catherine Gribbin  
Senior IHL Advisor
- Ms Melinda L. Wells  
Senior Advisor

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Assistant Deputy Minister, Head of  
Delegation Global Affairs Canada
- H.E. Ms Rosemary McCarney  
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Representative, Permanent Mission,  
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- Ms Anne Burgess  
Director of Humanitarian Affairs  
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Affairs Canada
- Ms Catherine Godin  
Deputy Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Bruce Scoffield  
Minister Counsellor, Immigration,  
Refugees and Citizenship, Permanent  
Mission, Geneva
- Mr Joshua Tabah  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
- Lt. Col. David Sinclair  
Assistant Deputy Judge Advocate  
General, Office of the Judge Advocate  
General Canadian Armed Forces

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- Cdr. Andrew Thomson  
Director, Directorate of International  
and Operational Law Department  
Office the Judge Advocate General  
Canadian Armed Forces
- Ms Sandra Rossiter  
Deputy Director of Humanitarian  
Affairs and Disaster Response Group,  
Global Affairs Canada
- Mr Thomas Fetz  
Deputy Director, United Nations,  
Human Rights & Humanitarian Law  
Section, Global Affairs Canada
- Ms Esther Van Nes  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission,  
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- Ms Gul Joya Jafri  
Senior Program Officer, Global Affairs  
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- Ms Petra Demarin  
Humanitarian Affairs Officer,  
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<sup>1</sup> This delegation recalled the position expressed in the communication addressed to the Depositary of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and circulated by the Depositary by Notifications GEN 3/14 of 21 May 2014

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Ministro Consejero, Representante  
Permanente Alternativo, Misión  
Permanente, Ginebra
- Sr. Claudio Troncoso  
Director de Asuntos Jurídicos,  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- Sr. Patricio Guesalaga  
Ministro Consejero, Misión  
Permanente, Ginebra
- Sr. Fernando Guzmán

- Segundo Secretario, Misión  
Permanente, Ginebra
- Srta. Rosalía Framil  
Agregada, Misión Permanente,  
Ginebra
- Sr. Rodrigo Paillalef  
Agregado, Misión Permanente,  
Ginebra
- Srta. Noemí Blázquez  
Asistente, Misión Permanente,  
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Division, External Liaison  
Department
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Deputy Head of Youth and  
Volunteering Division, Organization  
and Communication Department
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Organization Division, External  
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Red Cross, Branch of the Red Cross  
Society of China
- Ms Yuen Han, Bonnie So  
Secretary General of Hong Kong  
Red Cross, Branch of the Red Cross  
Society of China
- Ms Yuen Fong, Grace Lo  
Deputy Secretary General of Hong  
Kong Red Cross, Branch of the Red  
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- Mr Quin Va  
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- Mr Jun'an Zhang  
Counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Xing Zhao  
Counselor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Zhiqiang Sun  
Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Wu Zhou  
Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Kefei Tan  
Expert
- Ms Dan Wang  
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- Ms Xin LV  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
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- Mr Demetris Samuel  
Councillor, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Ms Michaelia Avani  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Ms Maria Sologgianni  
Advisor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

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Director of Emergencies, Ministry of Health
- Mr Juan Carlos Moreno  
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Permanente Alterno, Misión  
Permanente, Ginebra
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Multilaterales, Ministerio de  
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permanent, Mission permanente,  
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Genève
- Mme Nogozené Bakayoko  
Conseiller, Mission permanente,  
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- M. Karim Silue  
Conseiller, Mission permanente,  
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Representative, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
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Minister Counsellor, Head of Division  
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International Organizations and  
Initiatives, Ministry of Foreign and  
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Mr Toma Galli  
Minister Counsellor, Director,  
International Law Directorate,  
Directorate General for European  
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Affairs, Ministry for Foreign and  
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Ms Ivana Kozar Schenck  
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Consejero, Misión Permanente,  
Ginebra  
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Consejera, Misión Permanente,  
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Permanente, Ginebra  
Sr. Frank Ernesto Díaz Díaz  
Primer Secretario, Misión  
Permanente, Ginebra  
Sra. Belkis Romeu Álvarez  
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Danish Red Cross Youth  
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M. Moussa Djama Warsama  
Secrétaire général adjoint  
M. Wais Abdillahi Rayaleh  
Chargé de programme

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M. Djama Mahamoud Ali  
Conseiller, Mission Permanente,  
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Mr Hesham Elsaeed  
Second Secretary, Permanent  
Mission, Geneva

Mr Mohamed Elwy  
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Representative, Permanent Mission,  
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Representative, Permanent Mission,  
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Ms Rosibel Menendez  
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Ms Maria Jose Granadino  
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<sup>1</sup> This delegation recalled the position expressed in the communication addressed to the Depository of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and circulated by the Depository by Notifications GEN 3/14 of 21 May 2014

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Représentant national Jeunesse  
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M. Cletche Sanhá  
Point Focal des droits humains et  
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Etrangères

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Mme Estefanía Nsang  
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Mlle Esperanza Mebiam  
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Ms Natalia Short  
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Mr Alok Ranjan Jha  
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Co Chairman for Disaster  
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Deputy Director General of  
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- Mr Jabbar Aslani  
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IHL
- Ms Nasrin Puladi  
Desk officer of Rules, Principles and  
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Foreign Minister Legal Advisor
- Dr Nassereddin Heidari  
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- Ms Zahra Ershadi  
Second Secretary, Permanent  
Mission, Geneva
- Mr Bahram Heidari  
Member

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- Mr Husam Sabri Abed Al-Zubaidi  
Head, International Relations  
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- Dr Yas Mohammed Musadaq Jaafar  
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Head, Youth Department

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- Mr Qusay Mohammed Mahal Mahal  
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- Ms Nelly Henrion  
International HR Desk Officer
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Mr Daniel Sissling  
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Mr Seán Ó hAodha  
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Ms Gisela Schmidt-Martin  
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Mr Atli Vidar Thorstensen  
Director of Humanitarian Operations

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Director of Movement Coordination

Mr Chaim Rafalowski  
Disaster Management Coordinator

Ms Racheli Icar Cohen  
Dissemination Officer

Ms Maya Kaplan Oved

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<sup>1</sup> This delegation recalled the position expressed in the communication addressed to the Depositary of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and circulated by the Depositary by Notifications GEN 3/14 of 21 May 2014

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- Ms Arianna Marchetti  
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- Prof. Giulio Bartolini  
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- Mr Giuseppe Casella  
Youth Delegate
- Ms Silvia Cannas  
Youth delegate
- Mr Andrea Bortolotto  
Volunteer
- Ms Maria Rosaria Lanzillotto  
Volunteer
- Mr Mark Mattioli  
Volunteer
- Ms Federica Rizzuto  
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Ms Zeinab Elayan  
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Deputy Director General
- Mr Nurlan Uderbay  
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- Ms Akdana Abdiraiymova  
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- Mr Rustem Mustafin  
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First Deputy Governor
- Mr Taariq Twaha  
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Deputy Secretary General
- Mr Ahmed-Irshad Idris  
Director, Policy and Advocacy
- Ms Susan Ngonga  
Managing Director
- Ms Arnolda Angela Lutomia Shiundu  
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- Mr Azamat Baialinov  
Youth Delegate, Vice Chairperson
- Mr Marat Kachkynbekov  
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Commission Nationale du Droit  
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Affairs Department, Ministry of  
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- Ms Ingunn Vatne  
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Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of  
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Affairs Department, Ministry of  
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- Mr Don Wallace  
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Senior Relations manager, Corporate  
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Mr Mirjam de Bruin  
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department, Ministry of Foreign  
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Ms Anna Houck  
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Ms Razia Azizi  
Assistant Humanitarian Affairs,  
Permanent Mission, Geneva

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Ms Katherine Gail Villanueva Uyan  
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Ms Marivil Valles  
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Department, Ministry of Foreign  
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the Development Cooperation  
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Intern, Permanent Mission, Geneva
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Movement Relations and Cooperation
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Patto  
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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- Ms Rita Cruz  
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Mission, Geneva
- Mr Ahmed Al-Shikaki  
Expert, Permanent Mission, Geneva

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- Mr Louay Alhaddad  
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Counsellor, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
- Mr Young-joe Yun  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
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Second Secretary, Permanent  
Mission, Geneva
- Ms Mi-young Song  
Second Secretary, Treaties Division,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Young-sok Kim  
Professor of International Law,  
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acts, General Directorate Legislation,  
Ministry of Justice

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First Secretary, Legal directorate,  
General Directorate of International  
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European Integration  
Ms Olga Bogdan  
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Ms Un Hye Ri  
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Mr Myong Nam Choe  
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Programme Department, project  
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Lawyer at the International  
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Ministry of Justice

Ms Kristina Hornácková  
Lawyer at the International Law  
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Mr Michal Dvorák  
Second Secretary, Permanent  
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Ms Liana Greavu  
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Princess Margareta of Romania

Mr Paul Petroias  
Migration assistant

Ms Andreea Dumitroae  
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Ms Raluca Stratulat  
Assistant to HRH Crown Princess  
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- Ms Alina Orosan  
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- Ms Laura Georgeta Stresina  
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- Mr Marius-Anton Motoc  
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- Mr Michael Meyer  
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- Ms Sorcha O’Callaghan  
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- Mr Lewis Emmerton  
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Commonwealth Office
- Baroness Joyce Anelay  
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Director General, Army Legal  
Services
- Mr John Swords  
Central Legal Services, Ministry of  
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- Ms Margaret Purdasy  
Legal Counsellor, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
- Mr Adrian Lee  
Head of War Crimes Team,  
International Organisations  
Department, Foreign and  
Commonwealth Office
- Mr David Ennis  
Humanitarian Counsellor, Permanent  
Mission, Geneva
- Mr Nev Jefferies  
Humanitarian Counsellor,  
Department for International  
Development
- Colonel Charles Barnett  
Army Legal Services
- Ms Lucy Earle  
Humanitarian Adviser, Department  
for International Development
- Ms Deborah Baglole  
Humanitarian Adviser, Department  
for International Development
- Mr Carl Godwin  
Legal Policy, Ministry of Defence
- Mr Edward Munn  
Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative  
Team, Foreign and Commonwealth  
Office
- Ms Celia Sommerstein  
War Crimes Team, International  
Organisations Department, Foreign  
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- Ms Fleur Heyworth  
Legal Officer, Permanent Mission,  
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Mr Jonathan Han  
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International Law Department,  
Ministry of Foreign and European  
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Ms Kristina Spasic  
International relations, Youth &  
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Humanitarian Aids High  
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Ministry of Justice

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Mr Achuil Achuil Deng Achuil  
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**SRI LANKA / SRI LANKA /**

**سرري لانكا / SRI LANKA**

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- Mr Melker Måbeck  
Director of International Department
- Mr Dick Clomé  
Head of Policy and Strategic, advisor  
to the Secretary General
- Ms Sara Revell Ford  
Head of National Department
- Mr Stefan Jan Agerhem  
Senior advisor and project leader,  
volunteering in conflicts and  
emergencies
- Mr Balthazar Bacinoni  
Team member, global study on  
volunteering in conflicts and  
emergencies
- Ms Cecilia Tengroth  
Legal Advisor
- Mr Andreas Malm  
Psychologist
- Ms Lisa Martina Qvarfordt  
Communication Advisor
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Ministry for Foreign Affairs
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Geneva
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Affairs
- Mr Oscar Schlyter  
Deputy Director, Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs
- Ms Maria Velasco  
Deputy Director, Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs
- Mr Peter Lundberg  
Head of Unit Humanitarian  
Assistance Sida
- Ms Malin Greenhill  
Programme manager-Specialist Sida
- Ms Antonia Hultin  
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- Mme Myriam Fojtu  
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- Mme Carine Fleury  
Responsable Centres de compétences  
Bénévolat et Jeunesse
- Mme Carolin Krauss  
Responsable suppléante Intégration  
et retour
- Mme Nicole Rähle  
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- Mlle Nadine Bosshard  
Déléguée jeunesse
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- H.E. Mr Alexandre Fasel  
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International Law
- H.E. Mr Manuel Bessler  
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humanitarian aid and Head of Swiss  
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- H.E. Mr François Voeffray  
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- Mr Carl Marchand  
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International Relations Defence,  
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- Mr Vincenzo Mascioli  
Chief of Staff to the Head of the  
Federal department of Justice and  
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- Mr Arno Wicki  
Deputy Head of Swiss Humanitarian  
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Youth Commissioner
- Mr Omar Joel Eugene Overman  
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Ms Mureije Winter  
Legal Adviser

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Representative, Permanent Mission,  
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Mr Alton Sandile Lukhele  
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Ms Zarina Iskhakova  
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Mr Nabidzhon Sidikshoev  
National Youth Coordinator

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Mr Chamnong Sangmahachai  
Assistant Secretary General for  
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Ms Sunisa Nivesrungsun  
Deputy Director, Red Cross Youth  
Bureau

Ms Sirikanya Sirirangsi  
Deputy Director, Red Cross Volunteer  
Bureau

Ms Wassika Phueaksomon  
Director of International Relations  
Department

Mr Chayawat Thongkrua  
Red Cross Youth Volunteer

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Representative, Permanent Mission,  
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Health Emergency Response,  
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- Ms Suphanvasa Chotikajan Tang  
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Treaties and Legal Affairs, Ministry of  
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- Mr Natapanu Nopakun  
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Assistant Secretary-General Nation  
Institute for Emergency Medicine
- Ms Jitvipa Benjasil  
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Counsellor, Department of  
International Organizations, Ministry  
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- Mr Celito Cardoso  
National Director, Human Rights,  
Ministry of Justice
- Ms Rita da Assuncao  
Technical Support

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Delegate
- Mr Julio de Jesus  
Delegate
- Ms Celestina dos Reis Amaral  
Delegate
- Mr Marcos Xavier  
Delegate
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- M. Yawo Etse  
Chef Mobilisation des Ressources
- Mme Hafoudhoi Oussene Epse Seddoh  
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- Mlle Affi Passah  
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a.i., Mission permanente, Genève
- M. Afègnindou Gnassingbe  
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- M. Afo Ousmane Salifou  
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AND TOBAGO / TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO /  
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permanent, Mission permanente,  
Genève  
Mme Intissar Ben Attitallah  
Ministre plénipotentiaire, Mission  
permanente, Genève

**TURKMÉNISTAN / TURKMENISTAN /  
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Head of Organizational Development  
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Mr Eziz Garayev  
Head, Finance department  
Ms Ogulshirin Karliyeva  
Head of Medical and Social  
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Mr Guvanch Hummedov  
Specialist of International  
Cooperation Department  
Ms Ayna Karataeva  
Specialist of Organizational  
development department  
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Coordinator, Settlement Systems  
Production Enterprise  
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Head of International Relations  
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Ms Seval Güzelkiliç  
Head, International Programs  
Department  
Mr Kamil Erdem Güler  
Executive, International Programs  
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Department  
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- Mr Berk Baran  
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Permanent Mission, Geneva
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Head of Department, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs
- Lt. Col. Halil Murat Berberer  
Lieutenant Colonel, General Staff,  
Legal Department
- Mr Ahmet Ulutas  
Judicial Counsellor, Permanent  
Mission, Geneva
- Mr Huseyin Dogan  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
- Mr Firat Bayar  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
- Mr Yasar Ozbek  
Judicial Counsellor, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs
- Mr Ismail Yesil  
Legal Adviser, Prime Ministry's  
Disaster and Emergency  
Management Authority (AFAD)
- Mr Arif Hakan Yeter  
Head of Section, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs
- Mr Goksel Gokce  
Second Secretary, Permanent  
Mission, Geneva
- Ms Evrim Akin Yazgan  
Expert, Prime Ministry's Disaster and  
Emergency Manangement Authority  
(AFAD)

**TUVALU / TUVALU / TUVALU / توفالو**

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Secretary General

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- Mr Isaia Vaipuna Taape  
Health and Social Services  
Department
- Hon. Satini Tulaga Manuella  
Minister of Health

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First Under-Secretary General
- Dr Valerii Sergovskiy  
Under-Secretary General
- Ms Maryna Kozhedub  
Coordinator of Youth Movement

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Deputy Minister of Justice for  
European integration
- H.E. Mr Yurii Klymenko  
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Representative, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
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Deputy Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Ms Olha Kavun  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
- Mr Denys Demchenko  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
- Ms Alona Dovgan  
Third Secretary, Directorate General  
for International Law, the Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs
- Ms Nataliya Fedorovych  
Director of the Department of Family,  
Gender Policy and combating human  
trafficking, Ministry of Social Policy
- Ms Natalya Kostynchuk  
Chief Specialist of Department of  
International Law, Ministry of Justice

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**URUGUAY / URUGUAY /**

**URUGUAY / أوروغواي**

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Dra. Nívea Lucinda García Benítez de Meerhoff  
Presidenta Nacional

Dr. Walter Udo Meerhoff Behrens  
Consejero Área de Salud

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Lic. Sra. Alejandra Costa  
Directora de Derechos Humanos y Derecho Humanitario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Excmo. Sr. Ricardo González Arenas  
Ambassador, Representante Permanente, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

Sra. Cristina González  
Minister Counsellor, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

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Advisor

Mr. Xavier Kaliura Willy  
IHL & Youth Program Officer

Mr. James Woodford  
Board Secretary

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Sra. Arline Cristina Díaz Mendoza  
Segundo Secretario, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

Sr. Edgardo Toro Carreño  
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Sr. Lenín Pérez Rangel  
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Ms. Lan Anh Thi Ha  
Deputy Director, International Relations and Development Department

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- Mme Duc Hanh Le  
Conseillère, Représentante permanente Adjointe, Mission permanente, Genève
- Mme Thi Minh Nguyet Nguyen  
Directrice général adjoint, Département du Droit International et des Traités, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
- Mme Thi Mai Lien Vu  
Conseiller juridique, Mission permanente, Genève
- M. Ba Viet Pham  
Expert juridique, Département du Droit international et des Traités, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères

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- Dr Abdulwahab Abbas Mohsen Al-Ghurbani  
Taiz Branch secretary general
- Dr Mohammed Mohsen Ali Al-Kubati  
SG Assistance for finance
- Mr Mohammed Hasan Mohammed Al Fakih  
National Programmes Coordinator
- Mr Waleed Hael Abdullah Al-Selwi  
Youth & Volunteers Development Advisor

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- Mr Mohamed Al-Foqumi  
Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission, Geneva

- Mr Hussein Al-Ashwal  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Mithaq Aljarf  
Third Secretary, Person in Charge of ICRC, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Mohamed Alqasemy  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Murad Issa  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

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Youth Delegate

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- Ms Margaret Mary Lungu Kaemba  
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- Mr Samson Lungo  
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- Mr Sonny Kachale Katongola  
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Representative, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
- Mr Charles Chishiri  
Minister Counsellor, Deputy  
Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Poem Mudyawabikwa  
Attaché, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Collen Chiutsi  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
- Ms Nomsa Ndongwe  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
- Ms Paidamoyo Sharon Takaenzana  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva

**COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-  
ROUGE (CICR) / INTERNATIONAL  
COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)  
/ COMITÉ INTERNACIONAL DE LA CRUZ  
ROJA (CICR) / اللجنة الدولية للصليب الأحمر**

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- Ms Doris Schopper  
Member of the Assembly
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- Mr Balthasar Staehelin  
Deputy Director-General
- Ms Helen Alderson  
Director of Financial Resources and  
Logistics
- Dr Helen Durham  
Director of International Law and  
Policy
- Ms Charlotte Lindsey-Curtet  
Director of Communication and  
Information Management
- Mr Gherardo Pontrandolfi  
Director of Human Resources
- Mr Dominik Stillhart  
Director of Operations

- Ms Pascale Meige  
Deputy Director of Operations
- Mr Jean-Christophe Sandoz  
Deputy Director of International Law  
and Policy
- Mr Sébastien Carliez  
Head of the Public Communication  
Division
- Ms Susan Chippendale  
Head of the Corporate  
Communication Division
- Dr Knut Dörmann  
Head of the Legal Division
- Mr Pascal Hundt  
Head of the Assistance Division
- Ms Carla Mardini  
Head of External Resources Division
- Ms Charlotta Relander  
Head of the Division for Cooperation  
and Coordination within the  
Movement
- Mr Bruno Pommier  
Deputy Head of the Division for  
Cooperation and Coordination within  
the Movement
- Mr Laurent Saugy  
Deputy Head of the Division of  
the Central Tracing Agency and  
Protection
- Dr Jean-François Queguiner  
Head of the Thematic Legal Unit
- Mr Hugo Slim  
Head of Policy Cell
- Mr Christophe Martin  
Head of Unit for Multilateral  
Organizations and Humanitarian  
Action
- Ms Elyse Mosquini  
Head of Project for Movement  
meetings, 32nd International  
Conference and Council of Delegates
- Mr Pascal Daudin  
Senior Policy Advisor
- Ms Clare Dalton  
Diplomatic Advisor
- Ms Alexandra Boivin  
Chief of Staff for the President and  
Secretary of the Assembly

**FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIÉTÉS DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT-ROUGE / INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES / FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE SOCIEDADES DE LA CRUZ ROJA Y DE LA MEDIA LUNA ROJA / الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de*

*Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

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President

Mr Osvaldo Manuel A. Ferrero  
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Ms Annemarie Huber-Hotz  
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Vice-President

Dr Baige Zhao  
Vice-President

Mr Elhadj As Sy  
Secretary General

Mr Garry Conille  
Under Secretary General,  
Programmes and Operations

Ms Anitta Underlin  
Under Secretary General,  
Management

Mr Jagannath Chapagain  
Chief of Staff and Director OSG

Ms Jemilah Mahmood  
Under Secretary General designate,  
Partnerships

Mr Robert Tickner  
Under Secretary General ad interim,  
Partnerships

Mr Xavier Castellanos  
Regional Director, Asia Pacific

Mr Walter Cotte  
Regional Director, Americas

Mr Elias Ghanem  
Regional Director, Middle East and  
North Africa

Mr Alasan A. Senghore  
Regional Director, Africa

Dr Simon Missiri  
Regional Director ad interim, Europe

Mr Frank Mohrhauer  
Head of Governance Support, Policy  
Implementation and Oversight  
Department

Mr Pierre Kremer  
Head, Communication Department

Ms Françoise LeGoff  
Head, Administration Department

Ms Elise Baudot  
Head, Policy, Strategy and Knowledge  
Department

Mr David Fisher  
Coordinator, Disaster Law  
Programme

Dr Yasuo Tanaka  
Senior Advisor to the President

Ms Anca Zaharia  
Coordinator of the 32nd International  
Conference and Council of Delegates

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**2.2**  
**COMMISSION PERMANENTE**  
**DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT-ROUGE**  
**STANDING COMMISSION**  
**OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**  
**COMISIÓN PERMANENTE**  
**DE LA CRUZ ROJA Y DE LA MEDIA LUNA ROJA**  
**اللجنة الدائمة للصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر**

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Mr Greg Vickery  
Chair

Mr Steve Carr  
Vice-Chair

Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid  
Member

Dr Massimo Barra  
Member

Min. (Hon.) Pär Stenbäck  
Member

Mr Tore Svenning  
Secretary



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**2.3**  
**BUREAU DU COMMISSAIRE SUISSE**  
**OFFICE OF THE SWISS COMMISSIONER**  
**OFICINA DEL COMISIONADO SUIZO**  
مكتب المفوض السويسري

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H.E. Mr Nicolas Lang  
Commissioner of the 32nd International  
Conference  
Ms Amélie Larocque  
Advisor

## 2.4 OBSERVATEURS OBSERVERS OBSERVADORES

### المراقبون

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**2.4.1 Sociétés nationales en attente de reconnaissance et d'admission / National societies awaiting recognition and admission / Sociedades nacionales en espera de reconocimiento y admisión / الجمعيات الوطنية التي تنتظر الاعتراف بها وقبولها**

#### ÉRYTHRÉE / RED CROSS SOCIETY OF ERITREA /

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

Ms Nura Mohammed Omer  
Secretary General

Mr Iyassu Habte Teclu  
Deputy Secretary General

**2.4.2 Entités et organisations ayant participé en qualité d'observateurs / Entities and organizations that participated as observers/ Entidades y organizaciones que han participado en calidad de observadoras / الكيانات والمنظمات التي شاركت بصفة مراقب**

#### Action contre la faim

Mme Pauline Chetcuti  
Responsable plaidoyer et politique  
humanitaire

**Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)**

Ms Franziska Schwarz  
Participant

**African Commission on Human and People's Rights**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

Me Sohayata Maïga  
Commissioner and Vice Chairperson,  
Chairperson of the WG on Indigenous  
Populations & Communities in  
Africa, Chairperson of the Committee  
on the Protection of People living  
with HIV

**African Union (AU)**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

Dr Bertrand Jiogue  
Political Affairs

H.E. Mr Jean-Marie Ehouzou  
Ambassador, Permanent Observer,  
Permanent Delegation, Geneva

**Airbus Foundation**

Ms Andrea Debbane  
Executive Director

**Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization - General Secretariat (ARCO)**

Dr Abdullah Mohammed Al Hazaa  
Secretary General

Mr Moez Hedhli  
Legal council

### Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Mr Miguel Rafael Villanueva Musngi  
Senior Officer

### Caritas Internationalis

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

Ms Suzanna Tkalec  
Humanitarian Director

Ms Floriana Polito  
Humanitarian Policy Officer

### Center of Comparative Studies on Islam and IHL

Mr Seyed Mohammad Reza Dastgheib

### CHS Alliance

Ms Judith Frances Greenwood  
Executive Director

### Commission internationale humanitaire d'établissement des faits

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

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Prof. Thilo Marauhn  
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Col. Charles Garraway  
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Mme Vera Kissling  
Assistant administratif

### Connectik

Mr Serge Cantacuzène  
President

Mr Hachim Badji  
Chief Executive Officer

Mr John Meadows  
Chief Executive Officer

Mr Rajinder Sagoo  
Project manager

### Control Arms

Ms Anna Elizabeth Macdonald  
Director

Mr Robert Perkins  
Researcher

### Dalberg Global Development Advisors

Ms Libby Bova  
Consultant

Mr Sam Lampert  
Associate Partner

### European Union

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Ambassador, Head of EU Delegation,  
Permanent Delegation, Geneva

H.E. Ms Kristalina Georgieva  
Ambassador, Vice-President for  
Budget and Human Resources,  
European Commission

Mr Dominic Porter  
Deputy Head of Delegation,  
Permanent Delegation, Geneva

Mr Christian Behrmann  
Human Rights and Multilateral  
Diplomacy

Mr Daniel Beck  
Policy Officer

Ms Dina Sinigallia  
Desk Officer

Mr Erwan Marteil  
Policy Officer

Ms Florika Fink-Hooijer  
Director - Strategy, Policy and  
International Co-operation

Mr Frank Hoegemann  
Political Administrator

Mr Gaspard De Bousies  
Press Officer

Mr Giorev Daniel  
Member of Cabinet

Ms Joachime Nason  
Head of Section

Mr Jonas Hakansson  
Policy Assistant

Ms Laura Vincent  
Press Officer

Ms Lucie Samcova  
Press Officer

Ms Maria Lensu  
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Ms Nicoleta Birladianu  
Policy Officer - Humanitarian Affairs  
Advisor

Ms Cynthia Kracmer  
Intern

Ms Lucie Hinzelin  
Intern

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Ms Moretto Claire  
Intern

### Every Casualty

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Ms Annabelle Giger  
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Ms Hana Salama  
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Mr Jesus Tecu Osorio  
Director of the Rabinal Community  
Legal Clinic

Mr John Sloboda  
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### Fédération Internationale Terre des Hommes

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Mme Eylah Kadjjar-Hamouda  
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Mr Mauro Patti  
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### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

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Ms Sandra Aviles  
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Relations, Humanitarian Affairs

Mr Silvano Sofia  
Partnerships & Communications  
Officer

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Natural Resources/Climate Change  
Officer

### Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law

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Teaching Assistant

### Geneva Call

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Mr Pascal Bongard  
Head of Policy and Legal Unit

### Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

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Policy Advisor

### Graduate Institute

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### Handicap International

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Institutional Relations

Mr Camille Gosselin  
Humanitarian Advocacy Manager

Ms Laurence Boymond  
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Ms Mroue Tamam  
Head of Mission, Lebanon

Dr Nathalie Herlemont Zoritchak  
Director of Operational Development,  
Handicap International Foundation

Mr Paul Vermeulen  
Project Manager, Strategic Innovation

### HERE-Geneva

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Ms Marzia Montemurro  
Research Director

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Geneva Director  
Mr Constantin Gouvry  
Advocacy Intern  
Mr David Das Neves  
Coordinator, Development and  
Global Initiatives  
Ms Leila Swan  
Associate, Advocacy and Emergencies  
Ms Seulgee Jung  
Advocacy Fellow

### Indigenous People's Centre for Documentation, Research and Information (DOCIP)

Mr David Matthey-Doret  
Director  
Mr Andres Del Castillo  
Cooperation coordinator  
Ms Ellen Marie Walker  
Intern

### International Association of Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP)

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Ms Angharad Laing  
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Ms Naz Modirzadeh  
Governing Member

### International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Ms Beatrice Fihn  
Executive Director  
Ms Arielle Denis  
Campaign Director

Mr Daniel Högsta  
Network Coordinator  
Ms Daniela Varano  
Communications Manager

### International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)

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Ms Amelie Chayer  
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Mr Firoz Alizada  
Campaigns and Communications  
Manager

### International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO)

Dr Saltanat Tashmatova  
Director of the International  
Cooperation Department

### International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy

Major General (rtd) Roger Van Hoof  
Secretary General

### International Council of Nurses

Mr Pierre Théraulaz  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

### International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)

Ms Nan Buzard  
Executive Director

### International Criminal Court (ICC)

Mr Renan Villacis  
Director of the Secretariat of Assembly  
of States Parties to the Rome Statute  
Mr James Stewart  
Deputy Prosecutor

### International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)

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Mr Karim Mohamed Abdeltawab  
Liaison officer for Human Rights and  
Peace Issues

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Ms Anne-Lou McNeil-Gauthier  
Delegate  
Ms Dina Tadros  
Delegate  
Mr Marián Sedlák  
Delegate

**International Hospital Federation (IHF)**

Mr Eric de Roodenbeke  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ms Sara Perazzi  
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**International Institute of Humanitarian Law**

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Council Member  
Col. Carl Marchand  
Council Member  
Col. John Hardy  
Director, Military Department  
Mr Patryk Labuda  
Legal Advisor  
Mr Guillaume Fournier  
Assistant  
Ms Dominika Kianickova  
Assistant  
Ms Anna Requejo  
Assistant

**International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO)**

Mr Saleh Taieb Ehssan  
Secretary General  
Ms Fawzia Al Ashmawi  
Representative in Geneva

**International Islamic University Malaysia**

Mr Mohd Hisham Bin Mohd Kamal  
Associate Professor of Law

**International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

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Mr William Lacy Swing  
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Ms Ioana Popp  
Migration Policy Officer  
Ms Jill Helke  
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Mr Nuno Nunes  
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**International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)**

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Executive Officer  
Dr Michel Buchmann  
Immediate Past President

**International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum**

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Director  
Ms Catherine Burer  
Head of Project Collections

**International Save the Children Alliance**

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Ms Aurélie Lamazière  
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Ms Filipa Schmitz Guinote  
Guidelines Coordinator

**Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)**

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**Islamic Committee of the International Crescent (ICIC)**

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Prof. Dr Mohamed H.A. Elsbali  
Executive Director

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Secretary General

Ms Soheila Sabri  
Executive Secretary

**John Kufuor Foundation**

Mr Njack Diaguily Harold Babaly Kane  
Director

**Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

Mr Mamadi Diakite  
Chief, Office of Security and Humanitarian Affairs

Ms Sylvie Joselyne Tele Kouassigan  
Daouda

**King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

Mr Abdullah Al Ruwaili  
Director of Humanitarian Aid Department

Mr Raafat Alsabbagh  
Spokesman

**League of Arab States**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

H.E. Mr Sameh Aboulenein  
Ambassador, Permanent Observer, Permanent Observer Delegation, Geneva

Mr Youcef Tiliouant  
First Secretary, Permanent Observer Delegation, Geneva

Mr Abderrahmane Belhout  
Second Secretary, Permanent Observer Delegation, Geneva

Mr Ali Charouite  
Expert

**Médecins Sans Frontières**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

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International President

Mr Andreas Wigger  
International Board Member

Ms Barbara Rehbinder  
Humanitarian Affairs Officer

Ms Beatrice Godefroy  
International Operations, Representation and Advocacy Coordinator

Mr Christian Captier  
Project Manager

Mr Dimitri Eynikel  
Project Officer

Dr Gustavo Fernandez  
Migration Project Manager

Ms Olivia Blanchard  
Project Officer

Ms Samantha Bolton  
Member

**Medtronic Foundation**

Dr Jacob Gayle  
Vice President

Ms Audrey Isabelle Guibat Demont  
Global Engagement Portfolio Lead

**NCTRC**

Mr Ahmet Ulubay  
President

Ms Ciler Incirli  
Advisor to the President

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### **Nestlé S.A.**

- Mr Eugenio Simioni  
Senior Vice President and Head of  
Corporate Communications
- Ms Bineta Mbacké  
Public Affairs Manager

### **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de  
Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Mr Petr Chalupecky  
Head of Section
- Col. Bo Overgaard  
Head of Section, Operations and  
Plans Branch, Intl. Military Staff
- Mr Endre Sebok  
Staff Officer
- Brigadier General Ivan Caruso  
Deputy Director Cooperation &  
Security Division International  
Military Staff
- Mr Justin Suni  
Staff Officer
- Ms Kathy Fulwood  
Administrative Assistant
- Ms Loredana Alemanno-Testa  
Head of Section
- Mr Steven Hill  
Legal Adviser and Director, Office of  
Legal Affairs
- Lt. Col. Terry McCollom  
Senior Legal Advisor, NATO  
International Military Staff

### **Norwegian Refugee Council**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de  
Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Ms Ingrid Macdonald  
Director, Geneva
- Mr Alberto Pasini  
Institutional Donor Advisor
- Ms Brooke Lauten  
Humanitarian Policy Advisor
- Mr Christian Huber  
Humanitarian Principles Advisor
- Ms Emma Louise Williams  
Humanitarian Policy Associate
- Ms Kate McGrane  
Humanitarian Policy Advisor

### **Novartis**

- Ms Rebecca Stevens  
Head, Access Partnerships,  
Novartis Access

### **Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de  
Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- S.E. M. Ridha Bouabid  
Ambassadeur, Observateur  
permanent, Délégation permanente,  
Genève
- M. Antoine Barbry  
Conseiller affaires économiques  
et de développement, Délégation  
permanente, Genève
- M. Bakary Bamba Junior  
Conseiller pour les questions paix,  
sécurité et Droits de l'Homme,  
Délégation permanente, Genève
- Mme Lauren Gimenez  
Responsable du programme  
"Prévention des crises et médiation"
- Mlle Natasha Harbonnier  
Stagiaire auprès du conseiller  
paix, sécurité, Droits de l'Homme,  
Délégation permanente, Genève

### **Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de  
Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- H.E. Mr Slimane Chikh  
Ambassador, Permanent Observer,  
Permanent Observer Mission, Geneva
- H.E. Mr Youssef Hesham  
Ambassador, Assistant Secretary  
General for Humanitarian Affairs
- Mr Halim Grabus  
Counsellor, Permanent Observer  
Mission, Geneva
- Ms Yasemin Eren  
First Secretary, Permanent Observer  
Mission, Geneva

### **Overseas Development Institute**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de  
Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Dr Sara Pantuliano  
Director of Humanitarian  
Programmes



Ms Eva Svoboda  
Research Fellow, The Humanitarian  
Policy Group

#### **OXFAM International Advocacy**

Ms Charlotte Stemmer  
Humanitarian Representative,  
Geneva

#### **Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO)**

Mr Ugarte Casafranca Ciro  
Director, Department of Emergency  
Preparedness and Disaster Relief

#### **Philips Foundation**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de  
Delegación / رئيس الوفد*  
Ms Katy Hartley  
Head of Foundation

#### **Pictet Asset Management**

Ms Justine Trabant  
Senior Client Relationship Manager

#### **Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de  
Delegación / رئيس الوفد*  
Dr Maarten van Aalst  
Director  
Ms Fleur Monasso  
Senior Programme Manager

#### **Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition**

Mr Leonard S Rubenstein  
Director, Program on Human Rights,  
Health and Conflict, Center for Public  
Health and Human Rights, John  
Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public  
Health

#### **Salesforce Foundation**

Mr Siveen Laryan  
SF Architect

#### **Sovereign Military Order of Malta**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de  
Delegación / رئيس الوفد*  
H.E. Ms Marie-Therese Pictet-Althann  
Ambassador, Permanent Observer,  
Permanent Delegation, Geneva

Prof. Michel Veuthey  
Minister Counsellor, Deputy  
Permanent Observer, Permanent  
Delegation, Geneva

Mr Jean-François Kammer  
Counsellor, Permanent Delegation,  
Geneva

Ms Yajna Moloo  
Delegate

#### **Special Olympics**

Ms Annemarie Louise Hill  
Director, Global Development and  
Government Relations

#### **SPHR International**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de  
Delegación / رئيس الوفد*  
Prof. Asma AlKetbi  
Chief Executive Officer & Founder

#### **Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response**

Ms Kate Half  
Executive Secretary

#### **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**

Dr Rachel Elizabeth Irwin  
Senior Researcher

#### **The Sphere Project**

Ms Christine Knudsen  
Director  
Ms Cecilia Furtade  
Training and Promotion officer  
Mr Juan Michel  
Communications  
Ms Malena Lonardo  
Ms Wassila Mansouri

#### **The University of Manchester**

Dr Adele Aubrey

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Manager: Humanitarian and Conflict  
Response Institute

**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

- Ms Marie-Louise Wandel  
Chief, Inter-Agency Humanitarian  
Partnerships Section
- Mr Sikander Khan  
Director, Office of Emergency  
Program
- Mr Johnny Johansen  
UN Staff
- Mr Julien Temple  
Humanitarian Partnerships Manager
- Mr Naqibullah Safi  
Emergency Response Team  
Coordinator
- Mr Raymond Zingg  
Early Warning and Emergency Officer
- Ms Sofie De Dobbelaere  
Emergency Specialist, Interagency  
Humanitarian Partnership Section,  
EMOPS
- Ms Tsvetomira Bidart  
Information Management and  
Reporting Officer

**United Nations Development Programme  
(UNDP)**

- Ms Maria Luisa Silva  
Director
- Ms Rekha Das  
Interagency Early Recovery Advisor

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de  
Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Mr Abdulaziz Almuzaini  
Director of the Geneva Liaison Office
- Mr Bobir Tukhtabayev  
Senior Liaison Officer
- Mr David Fernandez Puyana  
Delegate
- Ms Jinhee Kim  
Innovation and Leadership in  
Curriculum Learning
- Ms Laeticia Mendy  
Intern
- Mr Yu Xiao  
Publication Team

**United Nations Environment Programme  
(UNEP)**

- Ms Amanda Sofia Yvonne Kron  
Associate Legal Expert
- Ms Barbara Ruis  
Legal Officer
- Mr David Jensen  
Head of Environmental Cooperation  
for Peacebuilding

**United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de  
Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Prof. Cécile Aptel  
Senior Legal Policy Adviser
- Ms Aikaterini Pitsoli
- Mr Alexander Moorehead
- Ms Nicole Oberholzer  
Human Rights Officer
- Mr Sebastiaan Verelst  
Human Rights Officer
- Ms Sonia Muller-Rappard

**United Nations High Commissioner  
for Refugees (UNHCR)**

- Mr Arafat Jamal  
Head of the Inter-Agency  
Coordination Service
- Mr Volker Türk  
Assistant High Commissioner for  
Protection
- Ms Caroline Dulin Brass  
Senior Legal Officer (International  
Humanitarian Law), Protection Policy  
and Legal Advice Section, Division of  
International Protection
- Mr Daniel Endres  
Director of the Division of External  
Relations
- Ms Elizabeth Eyster  
Senior Protection Officer, IDP and  
Protection Cluster, Division of  
International Protection
- Mr Johan Cels  
Head of the Governance and  
Partnership Service
- Ms Marlene Grundstrom  
Project Officer, Division of  
Programme Support and  
Management
- Mr Sebastien Moretti  
Legal Specialist, Asylum & Migration,  
DIP

**United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Mr Jarmo Sareva  
Director
- Ms Kerstin Vignard  
Chief of Operations and Deputy to the Director
- Ms Christina Wille  
Consultant Researcher
- Ms Elena Finckh  
Assistant Researcher
- Mr Hardy Giezendanner  
Researcher
- Mr Himayu Shiotani  
Project Manager and Researcher
- Mr John Borrie  
Chief of Research
- Mr Tim Caughley  
Senior Fellow

**United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Ms Margareta Wahlstrom  
Special Representative of Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Dr Adam Bouloukos  
Director
- Mr Denis McClean  
Chief, Communications
- Mr Jerry Velasquez  
Chief, Monitoring, Advocacy, Partnerships and Communications Unit
- Mr Marco Toscano-Rivalta  
Chief, Intergovernmental policy support & legal questions
- Mr Neil McFarlane  
Chief of Regional Coordination and National Implementation unit
- Dr Chadia Wannous  
Senior Advisor
- Mr Abhilash Panda  
Programme Officer, Regional Coordination and National Implementation unit
- Ms Ana María Castillo Pareja  
Programme Officer, Advocacy and Outreach
- Ms Muthoni Njogu  
Programme Management Officer

**United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Mr Stephen O'Brien  
Under Secretary General
- Mr Alan W. Butterfield  
Emergency Services Branch
- Ms Astrid Van Genderen Stort  
Mr Aurelien Buffler  
Humanitarian Affairs Officer
- Mr Daniel Pfister  
Personal Assistant
- Ms Dina Abou Samra  
Humanitarian Affairs Officer
- Ms Eleonora Del Balzo Di Presenzano  
Humanitarian Affairs Officer OCHA/ESB
- Ms Emmi Antinoja  
Mr Hansjoerg Strohmeyer  
Chief, PDSB
- Ms Isabelle de Muyer-Boucher  
World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat
- Ms Justyna Susla  
Humanitarian Affairs Officer
- Ms Kyung-Wha Kang  
Acting Secretary General
- Ms Laila Bourhil  
Personal Assistant
- Mr Milan Magyar  
World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat
- Ms Natasha Kindergan  
Humanitarian Affairs Officer
- Ms Nathalie Weizmann  
Senior Legal Officer
- Ms Nishanie Jayamaha  
World humanitarian Summit Secretariat
- Mr Olivier Bangerter  
Thematic Team Leader
- Mr Rashid Khalikov  
Director
- Mr Robert Smith  
World Humanitarian Summit secretariat
- Mr Tensai Berhane Asfaw  
Member

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**United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Dr Marco Kalbusch  
Officer in Charge, Conference on  
Disarmament Secretariat and  
Conference Support Branch
- Ms Hine Way Loose  
Political Affairs Officer
- Mr Reint Louis Vogelaar  
Associate Political Affairs Officers

**United Nations Organization (General Secretariat)**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Ms Leila Zerrougui  
Special Representative of the  
Secretary-General for Children and  
Armed Conflict
- Ms Anne-Lise Robin  
Associate Expert in Political Affairs

**United Nations Population Fund**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Mr Ingo Piegeler  
Humanitarian Coordination Advisor
- Ms Henia Dakkak  
Senior Technical Specialist

**United Nations Volunteers (UNV)**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Mr Richard Dictus  
Executive Coordinator
- Ms Amanda Mukwashi  
Chief, Volunteer Knowledge and  
Innovation Section

**Voluntary Service Overseas International**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Mr Clive Matthew Ingleby  
Lead Adviser - Health, HIV and AIDS
- Ms Dorothy Flatman  
Freelance Health Consultant
- Ms Katie Turner  
Lead Advisor, Volunteering for  
Development

**World Animal Protection**

- Ms Rosemary Forest  
Member

**World Assembly of Muslim Youth**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Dr Saleh Sulaiman Alwohaibi  
Secretary General
- Dr Mohammed Ahmad A Alzamzami  
Head, Medical Committee

**World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts**

- Ms Anne Guyaz  
World Board Member

**World Bank Group**

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Mr Daniel Kull  
Humanitarian-Development Attaché
- Mr Colin Bruce  
Senior Adviser

**World Economic Forum**

- Mr Silvio Dulinsky  
Head of Business Engagement -  
Europe, Eurasia and Latin America

**World Food Programme (WFP)**

- Ms Gordana Jerger  
Director
- Mr Anthony Craig  
Senior Preparedness and Response  
Adviser
- Mr Ilya Ivanov  
Inter-agency Affairs
- Ms Paola Di Tommaso  
Inter-Agency Affairs
- Ms Paulette Jones  
Partnerships Officer
- Ms Ute Kohler  
Interagency Consultant

### World Health Organization (WHS)

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Dr Rudi Coninx  
Coordinator
- Dr Adelheid Marschang  
Coordinator a.i. surge and crisis support
- Ms Erin Kenney  
Technical officer and project manager, Under Attack: Protecting Health Care from Violence,
- Mr Guillaume Simonian  
Inter-Agency Focal Point
- Mr Jon Ericsson Carver  
Surge and Partnerships
- Mr Jonathan Abrahams  
Focal Point - Disaster Risk Management
- Dr Mark Van Ommeren  
Public Mental Health Adviser
- Mr Olexander Babanin  
Member
- Mr Tunoy Mukherjee  
Office of the Director-General, DGO/EVL
- Mr Ville Lahelma  
Programme Officer

### World Heart Federation

- Ms Alice Grainger Gasser  
Program Development Manager

### World Humanitarian Summit

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Mr Antoine Gerard  
Chief
- Mr Charles-Antoine Hofmann  
Senior thematic advisor
- Ms Marie-Helene Kapryanou  
Seconded from WFP
- Dr Olivier Bangerter  
Thematic team leader

### World Jewish Congress

- Ms Lauren Alisa Rose  
Representative to the United Nations, Geneva

### World Medical Association

- Dr Otmar Kloiber  
Secretary General
- Ms Clarisse Delorme  
Advocacy Advisor

### World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Mr Filipe Lucio  
Director, Global Framework for Climate Services
- Mr A. Hainsworth  
Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction
- Dr X. Tang  
Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction Services Department

### World Vision International

*Chef de Délégation / Head of Delegation / Jefe de Delegación / رئيس الوفد*

- Dr Mesfin Teklu Tessema  
Partnership Leader for Health and Nutrition

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## 2.5 INVITÉS GUESTS INVITADOS المدعوون

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### 2.5.1 ORATEURS INVITÉS / GUEST SPEAKERS / ORADORES INVITADOS / المتحدثون المدعوون

#### CÉRÉMONIE D'OUVERTURE ET DÉBATS INTERACTIFS / OPENING CEREMONY AND PANELS DEBATE / CEREMONIA DE APERTURE Y PANELES DE DIÁLOGO /

#### حفل الافتتاح والمناقشات التفاعلية

- H.E. Ms Simonetta Sommaruga  
President of the Swiss Confederation
- Mr Matteo Pedrazzini  
President, Geneva branch of the  
Swiss Red Cross
- Ms Hala Gorani  
CNN correspondent and anchor  
(moderator of the panel debate on  
"Power of Humanity: Fundamental  
Principles in Action")
- Sir Richard Shirreff  
Former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied  
Commander for Europe (panellist of  
panel debate on "Power of Humanity:  
Fundamental Principles in Action")
- Dr Mostafa Souag  
Acting Director General of Aljazeera  
Center of PL & HR, Al Jazeera Media  
Network (panel list of the closing  
panel)
- Mr Charlie Winston  
Artist, singer
- Ms Jennifer Lynn  
Artist, singer

#### SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES ET COMMISSIONS / PLENARY SESSIONS AND COMMISSIONS/ SESIONES PLENARIAS Y COMISIONES / الجلسات العامة واللجان

- Mr Pascal Cassan  
Head, Red Cross Red Crescent First  
Aid Reference Centre (panellist  
of Commission E, session:  
Strengthening legal frameworks for  
disasters and emergencies)
- Mr Bernardo Castro  
Chief of Staff, National Emergencies  
Office, Chili (panellist of Commission  
E, session 2: strengthening legal  
frameworks for disasters and  
emergencies)
- Dr Xavier Deau  
Immediate Past President, World  
Medical Association (panellist of  
Commission D: Continuing to protect  
the delivery of health care together)
- Dr Cordula Droege  
ICRC (panellists of Commission B:  
Contemporary challenges in IHL)
- Ms Natasha Issa  
Group Head of Corporate  
Responsibility, Zurich Insurance  
Company (panellist of Commission E,  
session 1: Building resilience: launch  
of the "One Billion Coalition for  
Resilience")
- Mr Lars Johan Lönnback  
IOM, (guest speaker of the migration  
plenary)
- Ms Soyata Maïga  
Special rapporteur on rights of  
women in Africa of the African  
Commission on Human and Peoples'  
Rights (panellists of Commission C:  
Joint action on the prevention of and  
response to sexual and gender-based  
violence)

- Ms Izumi Nakamitsu  
Assistant Secretary-General,  
Assistant Administrator and Director  
of the Crisis Response Unit, UNDP  
(panellist of Commission E, session 2:  
Strengthening legal Frameworks for  
disasters and emergencies)
- Prof. Sandesh Sivakumaran  
Professor, University of Nottingham  
(Panellists of commission B:  
contemporary challenges in IHL)

**2.5.2 Croix-Rouge et Croissant-  
Rouge / Red Cross and Red  
Crescent / Cruz Roja y Media  
Luna Roja / الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر**

- Mr René Kosimik,  
Chair, Joint ICRC/IFRC Commission  
for National Society Statutes

**2.5.3 Autres invités / Other guests /  
Otros invitados / مدعوون آخرون**

- Prof. Matt Baillie Smith  
Professor of International  
Development, Northumbria  
University
- Mr Adham Sami Hunt  
Instinct Artist Management
- Mr Denis Ines Gudiel  
Voices to Action
- Ms Fatma Mohammed Naib  
Al Jazeera Media Network
- Ms Maya Brehm  
Consultant, Member of INEW
- Mr Tashi Tashi  
Working Committee of Bhutan Red  
Cross Society

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# 2015 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

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## 3.1 CONVOCATION

To the Members and Observers of the  
**COUNCIL OF DELEGATES**  
of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement  
Geneva, Switzerland, 7 December 2015

**REGISTERED**

Geneva, 5 June 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

As co-hosts of the 2015 Council of Delegates, we have the pleasure of sending you this notice of convocation.

In conformity with the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Council will follow immediately after the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (5-6 December) and precede the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (8-10 December).

We look forward to welcoming you:

**on Tuesday 7 December 2015**  
**at 9.00 a.m. at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG)**  
Rue de Varembe, 15 – 1211 Geneva.

Enclosed with this notice of convocation is the provisional agenda and programme of the Council, prepared by the Standing Commission. Also enclosed are a reference sheet listing preparatory documents currently available on the Movement's meetings website at [www.rcrcconference.org](http://www.rcrcconference.org) and such useful information as instructions for registering to participate in the Council.

In accordance with Rules 5 and 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement, this convocation is addressed to all members and observers invited to participate in the Council.



Rule 6.2 of the Rules of Procedure requires that all observations, amendments or additions to the provisional agenda be received by the Standing Commission no later than 60 days before the opening of the Council (8 October 2015). We would, however, appreciate receiving all comments by 30 August.

Under Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure, any document submitted by a member of the Council for inclusion as an official working document must be received by the Standing Commission no later than 90 days before the opening of the Council (8 September 2015).

The official working documents for the various agenda items of the Council, including draft resolutions, will be sent 45 days before the opening of the Council (23 October 2015).

Yours sincerely,

Tadateru Konoé  
President  
International Federation of Red Cross  
and Red Crescent Societies

Peter Maurer  
President  
International Committee of the Red Cross

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## **3.2 AGENDA**

### **COUNCIL OF DELEGATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Geneva, Switzerland, 7 December 2015

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**See 1.1.1 above**  
*(page 11)*

## 3.3 CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

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### **Chair**

Mr Peter Maurer (International Committee of the Red Cross)

### **Secretaries**

Ms Charlotta Relander (International Committee of the Red Cross)

Mr Frank Mohrhauer (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)

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## 3.4 SUMMARY RECORD

### COUNCIL OF DELEGATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Geneva, Monday 7 December 2015

*First plenary meeting*  
9 a.m.

#### 3.4.1 Openings and procedural matters

##### Item 1: Opening of the Council

**Mr Greg Vickery** (Chair, Standing Commission) opened the meeting stating that the Council of Delegates (Council) would prepare for the International Conference, including making a decision on the Standing Commission's draft vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement), which was the result of follow-up work on its strategy and summarized how the Movement as a whole should be perceived. Its concise format would serve as a useful guide for all Movement components. Decisions would also be made on improved coordination and cooperation within the Movement; such arrangements should not be permanent, but evolving, and trust and confidence at all levels and between all components would be key to ensuring that the Movement had the collective strength needed to address future change. Branding represented another important aspect of the Movement's strategy, and proposals had therefore been made for a shared logo, which had been the subject of broad consultation; the logo would be a useful tool and would help the Movement to better fulfil its humanitarian mission. Consideration would also be given to the draft Movement-wide strategy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of the Movement's humanitarian work, and to measures to address its historical and cultural heritage which is a source of strength and stability. A report and a resolution on the Memorandum of Understanding between Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent would be tabled. The Council would also agree on a message to be sent to

the World Humanitarian Summit, due to take place in May 2016, so as to convey the Movement's views and concerns on humanitarian issues. He welcomed the Tuvalu Red Cross to the Movement, the 190th recognized National Society.

##### Item 2: Election of Chair and secretaries of the Council

**Mr Peter Maurer** (President, ICRC) was elected Chair of the Council of Delegates, to be assisted by **Ms Charlotta Relander** (ICRC) and **Mr Frank Mohrhauer** (International Federation) as co-secretaries.

**Mr Maurer**, accepting the honour of chairing the Council of Delegates once again, said that the Council's decisions would shape the outcome of the International Conference and have a decisive impact on how the Movement cooperated internally and with the wider humanitarian community. The Council should focus on working together; improved cooperation, coordination and complementarity were required in order to continue to lead as a Movement. Pragmatism was also vital, and internal issues should not weaken the Movement's external leadership. Additionally, innovation was required in the form of creativity in securing funding and partnerships with the private sector and others. Principled humanitarian action was increasingly challenged, while also being in high demand; it was important that the Movement should meet those challenges and respond to that demand.

### Item 3: Adoption of the agenda of the Council of Delegates

(document CD/15/3REV)

Mr Maurer (Chair, Council of Delegates) said that the National Societies of Austria, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden had proposed the addition of an agenda item relating to migration, accompanied by the draft “Movement statement on migration: ensuring collective action to protect and respond to the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants”. The proposal had since garnered the support of other National Societies, and he therefore invited the Council to adopt the agenda with the addition of the item on migration (item 11bis).

*The agenda, as amended, was adopted.*

#### 3.4.2 Items for decision

**Mr Maurer** (Chair, Council of Delegates) invited Mr Elhadj As Sy (Secretary General, International Federation), Mr Yves Daccord (Director General, ICRC), Mr Dev Ratna Dhakhwa (Secretary General, Nepal Red Cross Society), Ms Ulrika Årehed Kågström (Secretary General, Swedish Red Cross) and Dr Mehmet Güllüoğlu (Director General, Turkish Red Crescent Society) to introduce the first four items for decision.

**Mr Sy** (International Federation) said that the General Assembly of the International Federation had already reflected on many of the challenges faced by the Movement, which needed to use all of its resources to develop responses to support those in need. Relevance was important, and it was vital to understand each community’s priorities. The scale of the challenges meant that no single entity could overcome them alone and, although the Movement was present at all levels, complementarity, teamwork and inclusion were important; the Movement was committed to those values.

**Mr Daccord** (ICRC) said that change was occurring at all levels, and the Movement would be required to deal with protracted conflicts and crises, making current divisions between development and humanitarian action irrelevant. New ways of working together and viewing the world were therefore necessary. Furthermore, Movement beneficiaries increasingly viewed it as a service provider, and their expectations were higher. Although the situation was complex, it represented an opportunity to develop cooperation

within the components and the Movement itself and with external partners.

**Mr Sy** (International Federation) said that the Movement’s response should match the complexity of the problems it faced. A key aspect of that response would be cooperation by putting existing tools and agreements into practice. However, many of those agreements focused on the division of labour, roles and responsibilities, but the Movement should move towards complementarity, based on understanding, respect, trust, learning and communication.

**Mr Daccord** (ICRC) said that the International Federation and the ICRC had responded to the demands made by the Council in 2013 for closer cooperation and that significant progress had been made, for example in relation to the situations in Yemen, Myanmar and Nepal. It was time for National Societies to demonstrate leadership and propose collective solutions. The Council had thus been tasked with addressing difficult issues that were vital to developing cooperation.

**Mr Sy** (International Federation) said that it was important to focus on the spirit of the issues to be addressed, namely that the Movement was stronger working together. While friendship between the organizations was important, delivering results and challenging and supporting each other were necessary. Awareness should be raised of the tensions between the organizations so as to resolve them, for example by eradicating egotistical attitudes and competition when implementing programmes.

**Mr Daccord** (ICRC) said that, in the current age of uncertainty and complexity, the Movement should be guided by its Fundamental Principles, which formed the core of the Movement’s vision and would aid understanding of rapidly changing needs. The vision also spelled out the need to bolster the Movement’s ability to devise collective health solutions; health would be a central issue in the coming years. The changing nature of vulnerability should also be understood. The Fundamental Principles would help guide the International Conference, central to which would be the resolution relating to compliance with international humanitarian law so as to protect medical staff, detainees, people affected by sexual and gender-based violence and volunteers. He called upon the Movement to use its unique position to urge States to support humanitarian action.

**Mr Sy** (International Federation) said that the organizations were resolved to deliver on their promises.

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**Mr Dhakhwa** (Nepal Red Cross) - addressing the topic of strengthening Movement coordination and cooperation, said that National Societies had long been seeking to strengthen Movement coordination. His National Society had developed a mechanism involving regular meetings with Movement partners and another to coordinate Movement components. In the past, the Nepal Red Cross had worked with local partners to try to understand a given situation before turning to the Movement for solutions. That system had become institutionalized. For example, in the wake of the recent earthquake in Nepal, an accurate understanding of the situation had been developed by Movement coordinators, enabling joint recovery and relief work to be carried out despite various challenges. That large-scale operation was ongoing and would be carried out under a single, integrated operational mechanism involving all Movement components, which also addressed training and participation.

**Ms Årehed Kågström** (Swedish Red Cross) – addressing the topic of the Movement logo, said that she had participated in discussions on the Movement branding initiative. In order to remain relevant, the Movement must be confident that it could work together, and branding would be one way of ensuring that. The proposed Movement logo had been tested in focus groups in 12 countries, including Sweden, which had concluded that it had the potential to raise the profile of National Societies and provide an opportunity for people to feel a part of something larger. The Movement should take that on board and demonstrate visibly that it was one entity. She had also participated in the reference group, which had agreed that the Movement would miss out on significant opportunities if it did not develop mutual understanding, trust and goodwill. The conditions for the use of the logo prioritized individual National Society logos and protected National Society fundraising territories. The responses from 86 National Societies to a survey on the branding initiative had revealed overwhelming support for it.

**Mr Güllüoğlu** (Turkish Red Crescent) – addressing the message to the World Humanitarian Summit, said that the participation of National Societies in the World Humanitarian Summit was important because it would help raise the profile of the Movement as a whole. The Movement should reposition itself in relation to the United Nations and international non-governmental organizations so as to demonstrate its unique ability to meet humanitarian needs at all levels and in all areas.

#### **Item 4: Vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

*(documents: CD/15/4 and CD/15/4DR)*

**Mr Senent Garcia** (Spanish Red Cross) said that the vision should revolve around the Movement's Fundamental Principles. Given the Movement's mission to alleviate human suffering and to aid public authorities, the vision should place greater emphasis on social services, which were frequently sidelined.

**Mr de Vries** (The Netherlands Red Cross) said that the vision lacked a clear message, and a distinct line should be drawn between it and the Movement's strategy. He suggested that the document should be rewritten so as to be more concise. He suggested basing the vision on the "seven Cs": communities, commitment from young volunteers and staff, collaboration between the Movement's components, climate change, collective campaigning, control of risks and central sponsorships.

**Ms Abu Ghoush** (The Palestine Red Crescent Society) said that the vision should reflect the Movement's position as a unique global humanitarian network. Furthermore, it should refer to natural disasters, armed conflict, other emergencies and the attendant health needs, along with community resilience, adherence to the Fundamental Principles, young people's contributions to the Movement, persons with disabilities, the elderly and the positive perception of the Movement as a provider of services to governments.

**Mr Ruiz Rodas** (Salvadorean Red Cross Society) said that many of the problems facing the Movement, particularly those relating to violence, were not well known and there was no written guidance on how to deal with them. A unified approach was needed in that regard.

**Mr Bakyono** (Burkinabe Red Cross Society) said that the Movement's vision, Fundamental Principles and agreements had proven to be of great importance during the various crises that had affected Burkina Faso in recent years. The Movement was highly visible among the population, and its easily recognizable logo had facilitated the work of volunteers. That was thanks to joint efforts with the Movement's partners, demonstrating the relevance of its Fundamental Principles and partnership agreements.

**Mr Kettaneh** (Lebanese Red Cross) said that the Movement's central administration in Geneva failed to pay sufficient attention to smaller National Societies. The 20 National Societies in Lebanon held regular meetings to discuss strategy and overcome obstacles. However, some National Societies undertook action at the request of the Government, contravening the National Society's plan and leading to conflict. The institutions in Geneva should intervene in such cases. The ICRC should also assist National Societies in developing their capacities. The Movement should act with transparency and honesty and use constructive criticism so as to reach solutions. The capacities of all Movement components should be considered to ensure complementary roles.

**Mr Barra** (Standing Commission) said that violence was often connected to drugs, a fact that the Movement had taken too long to recognize. He called upon National Societies to act to make up for lost time in that area.

**Mr Fakih** (Yemen Red Crescent Society) said that his National Society was able to fulfil its mission, despite the increasingly complicated humanitarian environment, thanks to cooperation with the ICRC, the International Federation and partner National Societies. He wished to express his National Society's sympathy with the families of the seven volunteers and two officials who had lost their lives in his country. The Yemen Red Crescent Society faced many challenges and required coordination and a clear vision. Work towards the Movement's objectives was needed at the national, regional and international levels, and he encouraged all National Societies to work together to support his country. Coordination was a vital aspect of strengthening the Movement's presence and image.

**Dr Attar** (Syrian Arab Red Crescent) said that coordination within the Movement had played a vital role in providing support during the ongoing Syrian crisis. Coordination on the ground was of utmost importance because the situation was changing every day. The sacrifice made by the Movement often went unnoticed; to date, 49 volunteers had been killed and more than 800 ambulances, two mobile clinics and one hospital had been destroyed. Although the Movement was most commonly associated with the distribution of food parcels, it was also working in other areas, including water and sanitation. Joint work was beginning between the Movement's branches and sub-branches and non-governmental organizations in other countries, and the National Society was working with the ICRC on a programme relating to international humanitarian law and courses for

police officers, members of the armed forces, judges, lawyers, parliamentarians and the general public. Assistance had been received from around the world, and he called on other Arab countries to lend greater assistance within Syria.

**Mr Kparh** (Liberian Red Cross Society) said that his country had benefited from Movement coordination while fighting the Ebola outbreak and had subsequently established two levels of coordination: technical coordination between the Movement's components regarding operations in the field; and tripartite coordination that brought together the heads of the various institutions to share information and discuss policy matters.

**Mr Mbao Bogo** (Central African Red Cross Society) said that partnership within the Movement had allowed his National Society to overcome many difficulties. Despite the killings and violence against Red Cross staff and volunteers, all components of the Movement were present in the country. The Pope's visit, for example, had been covered entirely by the National Society, in the absence of governmental action. The National Society provided care to all, and would continue to do so; for instance, it had organized the burials of both Muslims and non-Muslims. The tripartite agreement was working perfectly and the country had received assistance from several foreign National Societies.

**Mr Abusalih** (The Sudanese Red Crescent) said that he supported the vision for the Movement, which would help in identifying how to strengthen coordination and cooperation between all components. Clarification of the roles of the various components would be of great assistance.

**Mr Anani** (Nigerian Red Cross Society) said that partnership and coordination should be present at all levels of the Movement. Trust between partners was critical, and it was earned through transparency, accountability and skill. The Nigerian Red Cross was addressing those issues, in part through an external evaluation. Trust also needed to be maintained through effective communication, partner involvement in each other's work and mutual respect.

**Ms Worku** (Ethiopian Red Cross Society) said that cooperation within the Movement would only be possible if capacity-building on the ground was carried out jointly so as to ensure that National Societies possessed the necessary skills. That was particularly true in underdeveloped States.

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**Mr Kantabaze** (Burundi Red Cross) said that the branding initiative should be adopted because presenting the Movement as a single entity would afford it more credibility, as had been demonstrated in his country when the National Society had presented a contingency plan for the 2015 elections.

**Item 5: Strengthening Movement coordination and cooperation (SMCC): optimizing the Movement's humanitarian response**

(documents: CD/15/5 and CD/15/5DR)

**Mr Staehelin** (ICRC) said that the process to strengthen Movement coordination and cooperation had enjoyed contributions from more than 140 National Societies. The process had drawn on practice in the field and had resulted in a report with 10 main findings and recommendations and a plan of action. The plan aimed to make progress in the areas of standardizing preparedness, contingency planning, operation agreements and leadership capacity-building for National Societies. It also addressed inclusive, complementary responses to crises, as well as enabling factors, such as communication and resource mobilization. Some National Societies had called for the revision of the Movement's normative framework; that call had been given consideration in the plan of action so as to examine situations in which it was perceived to be a hindrance. The most important outcome of the process had been a shift in attitude, allowing for highly effective cooperation between the Movement's components.

**Mr Conille** (International Federation) said that considerable effort had been made to strike a balance between Movement coordination and the realities on the ground, and the performance of major operations had improved as a result. Although work remained to be done, the process had demonstrated that working together was possible, particularly when the host National Society was at the centre of the response. The report included a commitment to building the capacities of host National Societies collectively and constituted an important tool that would improve effectiveness before, during and after crises.

**Mr Pinney** (Australian Red Cross) said that coordination and cooperation would be hindered by internal competition and failure to recognize components' strengths. The Movement was united by its Fundamental Principles and the complementary roles of its components, and continuous effort was necessary to maintain cooperation through mutual respect, trust and transparency.

**Mr Molleklev** (Norwegian Red Cross), noting the incremental change that had occurred since the Council's previous meeting, said that structural change was necessary. Countries should submit plans and reports to the Movement, rather than to each component separately, and security, logistical and appeal systems should be merged so as to increase efficiency and credibility. It was important to comply with the operational arrangements already in place and to document joint work.

**Mr Sauv ** (The Canadian Red Cross Society) said that the Movement benefited from its ability to mobilize both local and global resources and from increased cooperation between National Societies around the world. However, if National Societies were to take a central role in large-scale disasters, they should assist the International Federation and the ICRC in implementing action plans.

**Prof Khasawneh** (Jordan National Red Crescent Society) said that coordination and cooperation were complex administrative processes at the leadership level and required evaluation. He wondered what evaluation mechanisms existed at all levels of the Movement and what concerns regarding cooperation and coordination between components had arisen. Although coordination and cooperation were extremely complex for the Movement because of its global nature, that very nature meant that it could draw on a wealth of experience, and he asked how that experience was harnessed at the global level. Centralization would enable coordination and cooperation.

**Ms Lilova** (Bulgarian Red Cross) said that there was much willingness among members of the reference group to work together. Trust was the most important aspect of cooperation and National Societies affected by disasters should be trusted to carry out their role, with the support of management. The proposed plan of action and Movement coordination tool were key cooperation instruments, and their implementation should be supported by all.

**Mr Brooks** (American Red Cross) said that the overarching priorities for strengthening the Movement were trust, mutual understanding and respect, values to which all Red Cross staff should be committed as individuals. Trust was key to fulfilling the Movement's potential and mission. The Movement had a responsibility to improve its coordination, and that began with placing host National Societies at the centre of its responses. National Societies wanted to work with the Movement as equal partners. Cooperation would be brought about by improving



preparedness, simplifying existing coordination and tools, formalizing the Movement response toolkit, making systems compatible, merging support services and investing in joint planning and training. The result would be more effective engagement with partners and stakeholders, including governments, civil society leaders and communities. The One Billion Coalition for Resilience provided a platform to extend the Movement's coordination to those stakeholders. Progress had already been made, for example with the launch of a single, Movement-wide appeal in response to the Nepal earthquake, but such action should become the norm.

**Mr Traoré** (Red Cross Society of Guinea) said that communication between the Movement and governments should be strengthened, perhaps by drafting a document to that end. For example, during the 2014 Ebola outbreak in his country, there had been difficulties in convincing the Government of the mandate of the ICRC. While communication was good within the Movement, coordination and cooperation was not fully established and should be improved.

**Mr Ziaee** (Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran) said that effective humanitarian responses required the coordination of many actors. Coordination and cooperation would improve the Movement's transparency and visibility, particularly joint appeals during large-scale operations, such as the joint appeal launched after an earthquake in his country in 2003, which had raised the operation's profile. The main benefit of joint planning and operations was a fuller understanding of each party's capacities, as well as increased trust. Furthermore, clear exit strategies following operations should be planned with national partners and those outside the humanitarian community, as part of a longer-term, outcome-oriented approach.

**Mr Soumaili** (The Comoros Red Crescent) said that the support of the International Federation was lacking in eastern Africa because the countries had small populations, and it was assumed that there were no severe problems. However, the countries in the region suffered problems relating to vulnerability, epidemics and catastrophes. While the region had previously been represented within the International Federation, that was no longer the case.

**Princess Margriet** (The Netherlands Red Cross) said that the draft resolution lacked the urgency needed to exploit the Movement's potential, and National Societies should ensure that all volunteers acted in the spirit of coordination and cooperation. She therefore proposed replacing the word "cooperation"

by "collaboration" in the heading of the draft resolution; collaboration was a more proactive word. She also suggested adding "to serve the most vulnerable" to the second paragraph of the draft resolution, replacing "coordination" by "collaboration" in the fifth paragraph, changing the beginning of the eighth paragraph to read "expressing the urgency that improvements to Movement coordination and collaboration will contribute ..." and moving the eleventh paragraph to form a new section G at the end of the draft resolution. She further proposed adding an extra clause to section E.6, to read, "preparedness is necessary for National Societies in disaster-prone countries to be ready ahead of the influx of Movement partners, people and goods when a disaster has taken place".

**Dr Al-Khatib** (The Palestine Red Crescent Society) said that the issue of conflict had not been sufficiently addressed. The Movement's resources were growing and were being managed by many National Societies working in undeveloped countries or that served large, vulnerable populations. Better systems and frameworks for using those resources were required, along with frameworks and matrices that defined the roles and responsibilities of the Movement's different components so as to improve coordination and efficiency. The Seville Agreement should be reviewed.

**Mr Rimane** (German Red Cross) said that the Movement's volunteers were often the only ones able to access crisis-hit populations and often paid a high price for being on the front line of humanitarian action. Cooperation between National Societies was unique and often reciprocal, as illustrated by the support received by the German Red Cross during the refugee crisis. National Societies should be involved in implementing action plans and in understanding the successes and challenges linked to an operation.

**Mr Shayev** (Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan) said that communication between Movement components, resource mobilization following joint planning and decision-making, and management of operations by experienced Movement components should be established. In the past, coordination had been successfully undertaken according to the Seville Agreement; he had no doubt that the same would happen in future. However, the nature of humanitarian crises was changing, rendering the agreement an obstacle in some cases. Therefore, amendments to the agreement should be considered.

**Mr Kerschbaum** (Austrian Red Cross) said that training on existing coordination and cooperation frameworks and policies should be given to staff

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and volunteers. Additionally, a coherent, focused and complementary joint approach to coordination mechanisms should be developed. It was important to focus on the Movement's successes with regards to coordination and cooperation, rather than its failures, in order to build trust. When planning responses, needs should be prioritized and international Movement capacity utilized so as to meet those needs. More consideration should also be given to slow-onset crises, which required the same degree of cooperation and coordination.

**Dr Abbas** (Iraqi Red Crescent Society) said that his National Society attached great importance to coordination and cooperation, with the participation of all Movement components. However, any coordinated activity must be based on the Movement's principles as laid out in its Constitution, which must be respected by all National Societies. Activities must respect the essential role of local National Societies, which were able to offer the best response to humanitarian needs. The Movement's goal should be to offer the best service possible to those suffering, rather than to serve its own institutions, and he hoped that coordination and cooperation would lead to a revision of the Seville Agreement that took all aspects of the Constitution into account.

**Mr Lobor** (South Sudan Red Cross) said that his National Society was already seeing the benefit of Movement coordination and cooperation and had been cited as a good example of where coordination and cooperation were working, particularly in the areas of capacity-building, communication and joint planning. Applying the Fundamental Principles of uniformity and dependence had facilitated work between conflicting parties in the country.

**Mr Mohamed** (Somali Red Crescent Society), after outlining the history of the conflict in Somalia, said that the coordination of Movement components had been vital in responding to the crisis and had been undertaken through weekly meetings, the Movement Coordination Platform in Nairobi and preparedness activities in line with the Seville Agreement. His National Society coordinated the ICRC and the International Federation, provided assistance to the Government and participated in cluster meetings. That coordination facilitated effective service delivery. However, some National Societies that had lent their support in Somalia had been viewed as partisan and had disregarded advice to adhere strictly to the Fundamental Principles, making coordination with them difficult.

**Mr Osman** (The Sudanese Red Crescent) said that coordination and cooperation should begin long before a crisis hit; a common mechanism for analysing the global and national situation would avoid misunderstandings at the operational level and allow for planning and the division of responsibilities. There should also be an accountability framework and mechanisms aiming to ease tensions at the operational level.

**Mr Gullet** (Kenya Red Cross Society), speaking in his capacity as International Federation Vice-President and as a representative of his National Society, said that he was happy to see the Director General and the Secretary General standing together; he had observed real action on their part with regards to coordination, with both organizations allowing the other to lead in different situations. It was important to trust either the ICRC or the International Federation to be the international coordinating partner because some National Societies struggled to coordinate the many partner National Societies present in their territories during operations. The current refugee crisis in Europe was giving European National Societies an appreciation of the challenges linked to being domestic operators.

**Mr Maurer** (Chair, Council of Delegates) said that the fact that there was a consensus on the direction in which to move represented significant progress compared to 2013. Some elements required further clarification and amendments had been suggested that addressed the concerns of the Netherlands Red Cross in particular.

**Mr Mohrhauer** (Secretary, Council of Delegates) said that the comments and suggested amendments would be reflected in the revised draft resolution. In addition to those amendments, "need" would be changed to "urgent need" in the new section G (previously the eleventh paragraph in the original draft resolution).

*Resolution 1 (CD/15/R1), as amended, was adopted by acclamation.*

#### **The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.**

*Second plenary meeting  
1.45 p.m.*

**Item 6: International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement branding initiative: Adoption of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement logo**

(documents: CD/15/6 and CD/15/6DR)

**Mr Tickner** (International Federation) said that the resolution and plan of action on branding were the result of extensive consultation and protected the branding efforts of individual National Societies. The initiative would allow the Movement to present a united front in the exceptional cases in which it would be used.

**Ms Lindsey** (ICRC) said that the Movement logo provided a visual representation of the Movement, allowing its components to position themselves collectively. The conditions and rules outlined the strict conditions under which it could be used. The consultation process had involved fundraising, legal and communication teams from National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC, and the outcome had been guided by a reference group, with the participation of more than 20 National Society leaders. National Society leaders had also been asked to complete a survey to gauge support for the logo and to garner their opinions on the conditions and rules. The survey had revealed overwhelming support for the initiative. As requested by National Societies, the conditions and rules ensured that the Movement logo would not replace or undermine the individual logos of Movement components; rather, it would complement them. Its use must be approved in advance, and National Societies could opt out of any specific fundraising initiative using the Movement logo in their territory. Public opinion of the Movement logo had also been tested, and it had been found to demonstrate unity and communicate the Movement's global reach. However, it was important to explain what it represented and how it related to National Societies; doing so would also increase the visibility of National Societies and their missions. Materials to aid National Societies in the use of the Movement logo would be developed, and the resolution provided for adjustments to be made once the logo was in use.

**Mr Tickner** (International Federation) said that the resolution specified that National Societies must agree in advance to participate in global fundraising initiatives that used the Movement logo in their territory. A Movement logo was necessary to take advantage of the new opportunities offered by global digital marketing, for example global initiatives with partners such as Facebook.

**Mr Mirzayev** (Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan), noting that private companies and individuals made significant donations to humanitarian causes via online channels, said that the different names and mandates of the Movement's components could confuse donors and lead them to give money to other organizations instead; a single Movement logo was therefore needed.

**Mr Abbas** (Iraqi Red Crescent Society) said that the branding initiative was a positive step because it responded to market needs and kept pace with technological developments. However, in order to exploit its full potential, there was a need for enhanced supervision mechanisms and transparency with regards to fundraising and the distribution of funds, in which beneficiaries should be involved. His National Society has reservations about a sense of a veto right by the International Federation and ICRC for the use of the Movement logo because it would contravene the rules of procedure.

**Mr Simasiku** (Zambia Red Cross Society) said that branding was important at all levels of the Movement, which had been obliged to position itself appropriately throughout its history and would need to do so in the future. His own National Society had recently undergone rebranding.

**Mr Senent Garcia** (Spanish Red Cross) said that increasing globalization meant that it is vital for the Movement to present itself as a single global actor. It was also important to distinguish between the Movement logo and the use of the emblems to strengthen our image and prestige. He also noted that his National Society participated in testing the Movement logo with the public and they responded positively.

**Mr Meltzer** (American Red Cross), speaking on behalf of the American Red Cross, the Mexican Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross, said that, while those National Societies supported the establishment of a Movement logo as a valuable tool, unless its design was improved, many National Societies may opt out of using it, including those of the United States, Mexico and Canada. Additionally, the conditions and rules should more clearly define the process for approving its use; that decision should be made democratically and by a simple majority of the approval committee. They should also highlight the importance of collecting donor data and the rules for the management of that data.

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**Mr Simonis** (Luxembourg Red Cross) said that the branding initiative would allow the Movement to exploit its full potential and supports this ability to enhance our work and our response to the needs of vulnerable people. However, the threshold of CHF 100,000 that National Societies must reach in order to access donor information and funds donated to the Movement placed National Societies in smaller countries, including his own, at a disadvantage. National Societies should be strongly engaged in the initiative, rather than forced to choose between supporting a Movement campaign and their own fundraising. He therefore suggested that the self-evaluation measures cited in the resolution should take into account the situation of countries below the threshold.

**Mr Adamson** (British Red Cross) said that his National Society would have preferred if the Movement logo included the words “Red Cross” and “Red Crescent”. Relationships between donors and their local National Societies should be prioritized and managed by the Movement component best placed to maximize their collective benefit. Governments had not had the opportunity to comment on the Movement logo before its adoption, so the British Red Cross would work with its government so that it could be endorsed at the International Conference or afterwards, thus ensuring its legal standing.

**Dr Naseer** (Pakistan Red Crescent) said that it was important to examine why the brands of other humanitarian organizations were gaining more strength and becoming increasingly successful in their fundraising. The Movement should strive to be the leader and credible in a few specific humanitarian topics rather than attempting to engage in all of them so people only donate to us in case of any emergency or disaster.

**Dr McMahon** (New Zealand Red Cross) said that, while there was a need for the Movement to react to the rapidly changing environment for resource mobilization, her National Society was small and not convinced that the initiative would strengthen its capacity to generate funds in its territory. However, it supported the resolution provided that further work would be undertaken in accordance with operative clause 6.

**Mr de Vries** (The Netherlands Red Cross) said that the Movement logo is an important symbol on unity and a vital element of fundraising initiatives in the digital era, and he proposed the addition of a Movement

slogan – 2gether 4humanity – and an updating of the 1991 Emblem Regulations. Further more strategic branding and standardization of branding across the Movement was needed, including the design of clothing and one worldwide layout of our websites and buildings.

**Mr Hori** (Japanese Red Cross Society) said that the Movement logo would become increasingly important, given the rapidly changing humanitarian environment. However, several areas for improvement remained regarding the conditions and rules, which should be reviewed periodically.

**Dr Said** (Kenya Red Cross Society) said that the branding initiative would widen the scope of fundraising, in particular by encouraging National Societies in developing countries to approach their governments for funding, allowing the diaspora to aid countries around the world by donating to their local National Society and prompting National Societies to use alternative means of donation, for example transfers via mobile telephones.

**Mr Zoghbi** (Lebanese Red Cross) said that, while the branding initiative would bring unity to the Movement, care must be taken to respect the individual characteristics of each National Society and its domestic setting. Campaigns to raise awareness among the general public were needed, and the right of each National Society to opt out of the branding initiative should be respected. He requested clarification of the veto mentioned in the resolution.

**Mr Baialinov** (Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan), speaking on behalf of both his National Society and the Kazakh Red Crescent, said that the branding initiative allowed the Movement to work together, which was particularly important in light of the need for humanitarian diplomacy. The logo symbolized the Movement’s work.

**Ms Kim** (The Republic of Korea National Red Cross) said that joint efforts using one Movement logo would help present a united front in the area of fundraising, which was a key challenge for many National Societies. However, those efforts should not undermine traditions and customs linked to fundraising in individual countries, where National Societies enjoyed high levels of brand recognition. Additionally, some concerns and misunderstandings regarding the proposed logo should be addressed.

**Ms Årehed Kågström** (Swedish Red Cross) said that we should recognize and trust the efforts put into this initiative. If the Movement logo is adopted, we will learn, adjust and make improvements to the processes.

**Ms Lindsey** (ICRC) said that neither the conditions and rules nor the resolution reference a veto for the use of the Movement logo. Rather, all participants in the approval committee must agree, by consensus, to any use of the Movement logo. In a spirit of collaboration and cooperation, it is important that we all agree to any use of the Movement logo. The resolution contains provisions for self-assessment, which would allow the lessons learned in the implementation of the logo to be examined, and a progress report would be presented at the 2017 Council of Delegates.

**Mr Maurer** (Chair, Council of Delegates) asked to adopt the resolution in the light of the debate and the text presented in the meeting, with the understanding that the concerns regarding the design, donor data, approval process, use of a joint slogan, and threshold for financing are part of a self-assessment of instances in which the Movement logo will have been displayed and reported back on the results achieved and lessons learned to the Council of Delegates in 2017.

*Resolution 2 (CD/15/R2) was adopted by acclamation.*

### **Item 7: Message of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the World Humanitarian Summit**

*(document CD/15/7DR)*

**Mr Vickery** (Standing Commission) said that the World Humanitarian Summit provided an opportunity to address the challenges that the humanitarian community would face in the future, make the Movement's voice heard and improve the work of the global humanitarian system. Preparation for the summit was under way and had included consultations with staff and volunteers. The message highlighted key aspects of the Movement's vision, including protection for the dignity of all human beings, the importance of investing in local humanitarian responses, predictable, flexible and long-term funding and cooperation between different humanitarian systems.

**Dr Kinik** (Turkish Red Crescent Society) said that the World Humanitarian Summit would allow humanitarian issues to be debated by a range of actors and help determine the post-2015 agenda road map. The current humanitarian response

system had been established 25 years previously and required reform, particularly given the worsening consequences of conflict and disasters and the rising costs of dealing with them.

**Mr Konoé** (International Federation) said that humanitarian needs were at an unprecedented level and continued to grow. The required resources outstripped government and donor funding by billions of dollars. The World Humanitarian Summit provided the opportunity to shape a system that would address present and future challenges, and it should aim to define how the sector could collectively meet the expectations of those in need and address difficult but important questions such as funding and cooperation between development partners. The Movement should make its voice heard at the summit and bring its tradition, experience, innovation and ambitions for the future to the global agenda. As emphasized in the message, humanitarian assistance must place the safety, dignity, empowerment and engagement of communities at its core, and increased recognition of and sustained investment in localized and contextualized humanitarian responses was needed. Meaningful, long-term investment was required to build sustainable societies and development partnerships at national and local levels. The message also outlined the need for the sector to adopt a resilience-based approach to humanitarian assistance and the importance of local capacities, given that local actors were best placed to address vulnerabilities before they became crises. The One Billion Coalition for Resilience would help to turn the commitments made at the summit into concrete actions.

**Mr Al Razwan** (Bangladesh Red Crescent Society) said that, in addition to encouraging the humanitarian sector to make commitments, the summit represented an opportunity for reflection and examination of how the Movement could respect human dignity, earn the trust of people in need and work closely with governments. Change was a vital part of progress, and the summit was a forum for encouraging the humanitarian sector to rethink its approach.

**Ms Khaleghi** (Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the Movement should use the summit to request that governments and States focus on humanitarian diplomacy, ensuring that decision makers acted in the interests of vulnerable people at all times. The participation of National Societies in humanitarian diplomacy would resolve many humanitarian challenges, and States should be asked to support them in that endeavour.

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**Mr Dewar** (British Red Cross) said that national humanitarian action would be a key theme of the summit. In that connection, National Societies should be supported in their role as key front line responders to crises around the world, including those crises not in the public eye. Therefore, at the summit, the Movement must set out a clear vision of what it was asking of governments, as well as a compelling case for investment.

**Dr Edwards** (Jamaica Red Cross) said that his region, the Caribbean, was relatively peaceful and free from armed conflict and social tensions. The World Humanitarian Summit should be encouraged to work to maintain peace in such regions, in addition to responding to crises elsewhere.

**Ms Li** (Australian Red Cross) said that her National Society had welcomed the opportunity to participate in the Movement's consultation process in preparation for the summit. That process had identified the work to be undertaken so as to improve future humanitarian responses. Given the Movement's unparalleled global reach, it was important that localizing humanitarian responses was prioritized at the summit. The focus on innovation was positive, and the Australian Red Cross had established an innovation fund aiming to support new approaches to humanitarian challenges in Asia and the Pacific. It was also supporting a project that promoted the use of technology in humanitarian responses. Lastly, the summit should reaffirm the importance of key humanitarian values.

**Mr Kachkynbekov** (Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan) said that National Society participation in activities such as preparation for the summit was important. All National Societies should include young people in decision-making processes. The summit was one of the best forums for working with other humanitarian organizations on violence prevention, migration, contagious diseases and responses to humanitarian emergencies and as such all Movement components should participate actively in it.

**Ms Benhabyles** (Algerian Red Crescent) said that the summit was an opportunity to encourage States to engage in humanitarian action by exerting moral pressure regarding the humanitarian consequences of their political decisions.

**Mr Kettaneh** (Lebanese Red Cross) said that care must be taken not to encourage competition between humanitarian actors; the aim of the summit was to promote coordination.

*Resolution 3 (CD/15/R3) was adopted by acclamation.*

### **Items 9: Promoting disability inclusion in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

#### **Item 10: Preserving the historical and cultural heritage of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

#### **Item 11: Empress Shôken Fund**

**Mr Maurer** (Chair, Council of Delegates) listed documents not requiring discussion: Adoption of the Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (*documents: CD/15/9 and CD/15/9DR*); Preserving the historical and cultural heritage of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (*documents: CD/15/10 and CD/15/10DR*); and the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund: Revision of the Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund (*documents: CD/15/11 and CD/15/11DR*).

*Resolutions 4 (CD/15/R4), 5 (CD/15/R5) and 6 (CD/15/R6) were adopted by acclamation.*

#### **Item 11 bis: Movement statement on migration: ensuring collective action to protect and respond to the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants**

**Ms Mohamed** (Swedish Red Cross), presenting the draft Movement statement on ensuring collective action to protect and respond to the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants, said that many National Societies felt that the Movement should publicly comment on, and commit to, the urgent humanitarian challenges posed by the issue of migration. The statement served to express solidarity with those who had been forced to flee their homes, recognize that the primary responsibility for assisting migrants lay with States, and express the Movement's continued commitment to helping at-risk migrants. Although it did not entail any new commitments, it was important for the Movement to demonstrate leadership by reaffirming those important humanitarian messages.

*Resolution 7 (CD/15/R7), adopting the Movement statement, was adopted by acclamation.*

**Mr Maurer** (Chair, Council of Delegates) suggested that the Council should not hold a debate on migration, but work with the draft's co-sponsors to find the best way to ensure recognition of the Movement

statement in one of the International Conference's resolution (Council of Delegates Resolution 7).

*It was so decided.*

### **Item 12: 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

*(documents: CD/15/12.1DR and CD/15/12.2DR)*

- Adoption of the agenda of the 32nd International Conference
- Proposal of officers for the 32nd International Conference

**Mr Maurer** (Chair, Council of Delegates) invited the Council to adopt both the agenda and proposed list of officers for the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

*Resolutions 8 (CD/15/R8) and 9 (CD/15/R9) were adopted by acclamation.*

### **Item 8: Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Agreement on Operational Arrangements (AOA), dated 28 November 2005, between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and Magen David Adom in Israel**

*(documents: CD/15/8rev1 and CD/15/8DR)*

**Min. Stenbäck** (Standing Commission) said that he and Dr Al-Hadid as the two appointed representatives of the Standing Commission responsible for the monitoring of the implementation of the MoU/AOA and authors of the report distributed on the MoU's implementation, had recently conducted talks in the region. The report had concluded that the 2005 MoU had not been implemented in full and there had been no new developments since 2013. Magen David Adom in Israel (MDA) and the Israeli Government had expressed their commitment and support to full implementation, which involved withdrawal by MDA from occupied territory in the West Bank, with the model for withdrawal having been devised several years before. MDA and the Israeli Government cited political reasons to be preventing full implementation, but they had not provided a time frame. Min. Stenbäck believed that neither party was ready nor willing to face the inevitable criticism from certain Israeli voices (e.g. the settler movement) that would accompany any withdrawal from the West Bank by MDA. In his opinion, the situation will be resolved only when MDA, with the Government's blessing, is ready to face that reaction.

**Dr Al-Hadid** (Standing Commission) added that two amendments had been made to the report: the word "municipalities" (page 4, para 1) had been replaced by "settlements", in order to comply with the terminology used in international law; and "regional councils" (page 4, para 6) had been replaced by "Israeli authorities".

**Prof Kamel** (Egyptian Red Crescent Society) read out the draft resolution.

*Resolution 10 (CD/15/R10) was adopted by acclamation.*

**Dr Yifrach** (Magen David Adom in Israel), expressing his sincere gratitude for everyone's efforts and support in achieving progress in the situation over the past 10 years, said that he wished to underline two occasions in which the Movement had required his intervention. First, he had provided an oral testimony to the Goldstone Committee, which led the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict established in 2009 to investigate reported violations during the war. In that testimony he had stated that the Palestine Red Crescent Society had never carried weapons or soldiers in their ambulances, or misused their emblem. He had also submitted a written report to the committee to that effect, and both his oral and written reports had been included in the Goldstone Report, which was publicly accessible online. Second, he reaffirmed his earlier letter that, following a terrorist attack in November 2015 on a family travelling in a vehicle, near Hebron, a Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulance had been the first to arrive on the scene and had not left until an Israeli military ambulance with a physician on board had arrived. He regretted any misunderstanding that might have arisen regarding whether or not the Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulance had remained at the scene.

**Dr Al-Khatib** (Palestine Red Crescent Society) said that, despite increased suffering in the region, he would like to assure Movement members that both his National Society and MDA would never hesitate to save lives. The humanitarian imperative came first, without question. The MoU was, in essence, a simple document dedicated to implementing the principle of unity. Reflecting on the Movement's Fundamental Principles, Dr Al-Khatib said the seven Principles are expected to be taken as a package and implemented, while asking, rhetorically, if the principle of unity is to be waived in the case of Palestine and Israel, leaving only six principles to be applied to that situation. This would create a very dangerous precedent and chaos in the Movement. He hoped that, together as a Movement, joint efforts

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could lead to implementation of the MoU and respect for the principle of unity. Having recently learned that he would soon become a grandfather, Dr Al-Khatib reflected on the difficulty of the situation for migrant and refugee families in the region. Would anyone wish to raise their children or grandchildren in such circumstances? All children in the Red Cross and Red Crescent family should be proud that their parents and grandparents have tried hard to create an environment for all of the children of Palestine and Israel to live in peace, harmony and love.

### 3.4.3 Follow-up and progress reports

**Mr Maurer** (Chair, Council of Delegates) listed the follow-up and progress reports submitted to the Council of Delegates: Progress report on working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: Four-year action plan (CD/15/13); Report on weapons and international humanitarian law (CD/15/14); Progress report on sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict and disaster (CD/15/15); Report on strengthening the statutory and legal base instruments of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (August 2013-July 2015) (CD/15/16); Progress report on Restoring Family Links (RFL); Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (2012-2015) (CD/15/17); Progress report on the work of the Standing Commission (CD/15/18).

**Mr Pinney** (Australian Red Cross) said that the Movement had a unique role in restoring family links thanks to cooperation between the ICRC, the International Federation and National Societies. That cooperation had improved in recent years, but continued support and increased effectiveness were needed. RFL services were required to build resilience and relieve the suffering of families who had lost contact with loved ones; the Movement was often the only hope families had of restoring family links. Significant progress had been made regarding the 2008 RFL strategy, including the unification of the RFL network across the Movement, guidance on the integration of RFL in National Societies and the development of RFL tools. The remaining work included mobilizing resources, engaging more National Societies and undertaking more work with governments. Lastly, an even more ambitious strategic agenda should be built for beyond 2018.

**Mr Giles** (The Canadian Red Cross Society) said that, while the Movement's focus on sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and armed conflicts

was encouraging, a partnership approach inside and outside the Movement and evidence-based interventions were required to address it effectively. However, there was considerable momentum to enhance the collective focus on the issue.

**Ms Igarashi** (Japanese Red Cross Society) said that, while recognition of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons had grown, little progress had been made towards their eradication. As demonstrated by the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the harm caused by nuclear weapons could linger for generations; such weapons should never be used again. Her National Society, along with 11 others, had written to the ICRC requesting it to exert influence on States.

**Mr Dewar** (British Red Cross) said that sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict and disasters is an important issue for the Movement and welcomed that it would be addressed in the International Conference.

**Mr Aslani** (Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his National Society had carried out various activities in relation to weapons and international humanitarian law, including training and operational projects. It had signed a memorandum of understanding with the ICRC concerning the provision of training on mines, and had held a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Hazards (CBRN) course for relief and rescue trainers, with the support of the ICRC and Iranian academic institutions.

**Mr Makwei** (South Sudan Red Cross) said that gender-based violence was on the increase in South Sudan. His National Society was focusing efforts on combating the problem, with the help of other National Societies.

*The reports were noted for the record.*

### Item 4: Vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

*(documents: CD/15/4 and CD/15/4DR) (continued)*

**Mr Mohrhauer** (Secretary, Council of Delegates) read out the revised draft resolution on the Movement's vision statement, which incorporated delegates' comments and suggestions for amendments made during the Council of Delegates plenary meetings and further discussions on the subject.

*Resolution 11 (CD/15/R11), as amended, was adopted by acclamation.*



### 3.4.4 Closing of the council

**Mr Maurer** (Chair, Council of Delegates) invited delegates to note that the next Council of Delegates would be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in November 2017.

*It was so noted.*

**The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.**

### 3.4.5 Henry Dunant medal award ceremony and celebration of the opening of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

*Monday 7 December 2015  
6.30 p.m.*

**Ms Iuliana Tudor** (Romanian TV host and producer and Romanian Red Cross ambassador), speaking as Master of Ceremonies of the Henry Dunant Medal award ceremony, recalled that the Henry Dunant Medal had been created as a way to recognize and reward outstanding services and acts of great devotion to the cause of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement by any of its members. Thanks to the generosity of the Australian Red Cross, the Henry Dunant Medal had been established by the 20th International Conference in 1965. The award was therefore celebrating its 50th anniversary – the very same anniversary of the Fundamental Principles, which would serve as the overarching theme of the 32nd International Conference.

#### **Performance of Paganini's Caprice No. 24 by renowned violinist Alexandra Conunova**

**Ms Tudor** said that the Standing Commission had decided to award the 2016 Henry Dunant Medal to four extraordinary individuals.

**Dr Ahmed Mohamed Hassan**

**Mr Carr** (Vice-Chair, Standing Commission) said that Dr Ahmed Mohamed Hassan was a cardiologist who had spent decades championing the work of the Somali Red Crescent. He had been elected president of the National Society in 1972. For more than two decades, Somalia had been one of the most challenging political and security environments in

the world, marred by political divisions and armed conflict. Despite this, Dr Hassan had managed to maintain the unity of the Somali Red Crescent, thanks to his wisdom, humility and unwavering commitment to the Fundamental Principles. His ability to find consensus had proved invaluable during the two terms he had served as a member of the International Federation's Governing Board, and when he sat on various commissions and advisory bodies. Dr Hassan was a principled leader; at every opportunity, he emphasized the importance of neutrality and independence and actively promoted unity within the Movement. For his personal commitment, his contribution to the development of humanitarian work and his efforts to promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles and ideals, the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent had unanimously agreed to award the Henry Dunant Medal, the Movement's highest distinction, to Dr Ahmed Mohamed Hassan.

*Amid applause, Dr Hassan received the Henry Dunant Medal and certificate from Mr Vickery, Chair of the Standing Commission.*

**Professor Mamdouh Kamal Gabr** (posthumous award)

**Mr Carr** said that Professor Mamdouh Kamal Gabr, a national of Egypt, had become Secretary General of the Egyptian Red Crescent in 1991 and had remained in that post till the end of his life. Under Professor Gabr's leadership, the Egyptian Red Crescent had weathered the social and political turbulences and continued to embody the Movement's humanitarian ideals in those rough times, while at the same time providing assistance and support to sister Societies in the region and beyond. Professor Gabr had embodied wisdom and vision, and had been active in the work of the Movement, contributing to the 29th International Conference, chairing the 27th International Conference, serving as Vice-President of the International Federation, a member of its Governing Board, and of the Standing Commission working group on the emblems. A man of insight and moral integrity, Professor Gabr had left behind him a rich legacy to the Movement. For his personal commitment and his important contribution to the development and promotion of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and ideals, the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent had unanimously agreed to award Professor Mamdouh Kamal Gabr the Henry Dunant Medal, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's highest distinction.

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*Amid applause, Professor Moamena Kamel, Secretary General of the Egyptian Red Crescent, received the Henry Dunant Medal and certificate from Mr Vickery, Chair of the Standing Commission, on behalf of Professor Gabr.*

### **Ms Monowara Sarkar**

**Mr Carr** said that Ms Monowara Sarkar had dedicated her life to alleviating the suffering of people who had lost contact with their loved ones owing to armed conflict or natural disaster. She had joined the ICRC in 1971 as a tracing officer during the armed conflict in Bangladesh. Despite the danger and death threats, she had remained passionately committed to helping people. In 1975, Ms Sarkar had been chosen to set up the tracing department of the Bangladesh Red Crescent. The project had been scheduled to last six months, but she had stayed, providing RFL services for the 40 years – that was dedication! Ms Sarkar had been awarded the Henry Dunant Medal not only for her long service to the Movement, but also because of her innovative methods. In 2001, after years of negotiations, she had finally obtained permission from the Government to begin offering restoring family links (RFL) services and aid to foreign detainees. For her 44 years of humanitarian work and her devotion to people who had lost contact with loved ones, the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent had unanimously agreed to award the Henry Dunant Medal, the Movement's highest distinction, to Ms Monowara Sarkar.

### **A short video was shown on her work over three decades with the Bangladesh Red Crescent**

*Amid applause, Ms Sarkar received the Henry Dunant Medal and certificate from Mr Vickery, Chair of the Standing Commission.*

### **Mr Stephen Davey**

**Mr Carr** said that Mr Stephen Davey had first joined the Movement in 1970 as a volunteer on a disaster response team after a devastating cyclone had hit Bhola Island, in what was now Bangladesh. Mr Davey had later come to Geneva to work for the League of Red Cross Societies, initially in the Relief Bureau. From 1973 to 1975, he had helped Dr Tansley to conduct the far-sighted study of the role of the Red Cross. Over the course of his career, Mr Davey had helped develop, or been in charge of developing, major policies, including the Strategy for the Eighties, the Strategic Work Plan for the Nineties and Strategy 2010. He had breathed new life into the International Federation's work on the Fundamental Principles, overseen the adoption of modern means

of communication, revitalized the Secretariat's media and communications and sharpened the focus on the work of National Societies. For his commitment and contribution to the development and promotion of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and ideals, the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent had unanimously agreed to award the Henry Dunant Medal, the Movement's highest distinction, to Mr Stephen Davey.

*Amid applause, Mr Davey received the Henry Dunant Medal and certificate from Mr Vickery, Chair of the Standing Commission.*

**Mr Davey**, speaking on behalf of his fellow medalists, said that the challenges faced in building the RFL network in Bangladesh, in leading their National Societies in difficult times and in contributing internationally had been enormous. Yet, they derived enormous satisfaction from that work, and it was a privilege to work for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Thus, in receiving an award, they were doubly rewarded and truly grateful. Many others might well have received the medal, and the recipients felt that they were representative of those people who had carried out fabulous work, rather than solo performers. The medal represented a recognition of individual contribution, but the Movement had made an extraordinary contribution over the years, providing a basis for its future work. It provided both a richness and legacy to face the ever-more difficult challenges of the future. Decisions could be more challenging and difficult, with complex structures, processes and consultations to go through, making it harder to act in a timely manner. A challenge would be to act with the combination of wisdom and speed that was so hard to achieve. However, it was encouraging that so many today were providing extraordinary services in difficult circumstances.

The International Conference was about to begin; conferences also required courage and determination of another kind. It could be daunting to speak your truth and argue your case with eloquence, conviction and success in such a formal environment, but doing so mattered; it could make a difference by creating a better framework, or a safer and more enabling environment for Red Cross staff and volunteers in the field. Whether making a substantial speech, lobbying quietly in the coffee bars, or grafting away at the coal face of the Drafting Committee, it was important to find, "the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference". He hoped that during the International Conference, and in its future actions, the Movement would have the combination

of wisdom, courage and fleetness of foot to continue to be truly effective. Thus, a new generation of Henry Dunant medalists would emerge, perhaps even more richly deserving of their awards.

**Ms Tudor**, thanking and congratulating the awardees once again, said that it was truly touching to see the dedication of Red Cross and Red Crescent staff members and volunteers to alleviating suffering and to making a difference in people's lives. Speaking on behalf of all Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers, she said that it had been a truly inspiring moment for everyone.

**Performance of Ysaÿe's Sonata No. 3  
by renowned violinist Alexandra Conunova**

**Mr Vickery** (Chair, Standing Commission), welcoming participants to the International Conference, said that there had been 20 nominations for the Henry Dunant Medal and it had been a difficult task for the Standing Commission to select just four recipients. He expressed appreciation to all the volunteers who had given so generously of their time and energy to ensure the smooth running of the statutory meetings. He thanked members of staff of the ICRC, International Federation, Standing Commission and National Societies for their work towards well-prepared and substantive meetings, thus ensuring that the material to be worked on would be of the highest possible quality. On behalf of the Movement, he also thanked two members of the Standing Commission who were retiring, Mr Steve Carr and Mr Pär Stenbäck, for their valuable contributions over the years.

**Ms Tudor** introduced Mr Charlie Winston, a writer, producer, singer and performer who had been entertaining people across the globe for the last 10 years. Working through both music and theatre, he had touched and inspired people all over the world. Having been born and raised in the English countryside had given him a firm attachment to the things that could be lost if action was not taken soon. His journey had led him naturally to the place where he would henceforth like to participate in getting the message across on the various causes that mattered to him. He hoped to encourage others to do likewise. In his words, "It's not enough to just think it, you must Say something!"

**Performance of three songs by singer/songwriter Charlie Winston, including his hit Say something! inspired by meeting refugees while travelling through Europe and visiting refugee camps, and leading to his desire to raise his voice as an artist to highlight the plight of refugees – ordinary individuals needing hope and our help**

**The award ceremony closed at 7.35 p.m.**

**A cocktail reception to celebrate the opening of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent followed.**

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## 3.5

# LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

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### Agenda

- Provisional agenda and programme of the 2015 Council of Delegates (CD/15/3)

### Items for decision

#### Item 4 – Vision for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

- Draft resolution adopting a vision for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and background report (CD/15/4)

#### Item 5 – Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation

- Draft resolution including the adoption of a Plan of Action 2016-2017 and progress report (CD/15/5)

#### Item 6 – International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Branding Initiative

- Draft resolution on the adoption of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement logo including the “Conditions and Rules for the Use of the Movement Logo” and progress report (CD/15/6)

#### Item 7 – Message of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the World Humanitarian Summit

- Draft resolution (CD/15/7)

#### Item 8 – 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

- Report on the implementation of the Resolution 5 of the 2013 Council of Delegates (Sydney, 17-18 November 2013) “Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom” (CD/13/5.1)

#### Item 9 – Promoting disability inclusion in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

- Draft resolution adopting the Movement-wide Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion and background report (CD/15/9)

#### Item 10 – Preserving the historical and cultural heritage of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

- Draft resolution and background report (CD/15/10)

#### Item 11 - Empress Shôken Fund

- Draft resolution on the revision of the Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund and report (CD/15/11)

#### Item 12 – 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

- Draft resolution on the adoption of the agenda of the 32nd International Conference (CD/15/12.1DR and 32IC/15/1)
- Draft resolution on the proposal of officers of the 32nd International Conference (CD15/12.2)

### **Follow up reports of previous Council of Delegates**

- Progress report on “Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: Four-year action plan” (implementation of Resolution 1 of the 2013 Council of Delegates) (CD/15/13)
- Report on “Weapons and international humanitarian law” (implementation of Resolution 7 of the 2013 Council of Delegates) (CD/15/14)
- Progress report on “Sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict and disaster” (Follow-up on recommendations of workshop 9 of the 2013 Council of Delegates) (CD/15/15)
- Report on “Strengthening the statutory and legal base instruments of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, August 2013 – July 2015” (Follow-up report on resolution 4 of the 2011 Council of Delegates and report from the Joint ICRC/International Federation Statutes Commission) (CD/15/16)
- Progress report on “Restoring Family Links (RFL) Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 2012-2015” (Follow-up report on resolution 4 of the 2007 Council of Delegates) (CD/15/17)
- Report on the work of the Standing Commission (CD/15/18)

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# 32ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

## 4.1 CONVOCAATION

To the members and observers  
of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent  
Geneva, Switzerland, 8 - 10 December 2015

**REGISTERED**  
Geneva, 5 June 2015

Sir/Madam,

As co-organizers of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are pleased to send you this notice of convocation.

The Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent has determined the place and date of the 32nd International Conference. It will be held from 8 to 10 December 2015 in Geneva. We look forward to welcoming you to an opening ceremony that will take place on the evening of 7 December, and to the official opening of the Conference:

**On Tuesday 8 December 2015**  
**at 9.00 a.m at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG)**  
Rue de Varembé, 15 – 1211 Geneva.

**“Power of humanity: The Fundamental Principles in action”** was selected as the slogan of this Conference in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality: these seven principles define the Movement – its identity and distinctiveness – and help safeguard our ability to carry out our humanitarian mission. “The Fundamental Principles in action” will serve as the overarching theme of the Conference.

Enclosed with this notice of convocation is the provisional agenda and programme of the Conference, prepared by the Standing Commission. Also enclosed are a reference sheet listing preparatory documents currently available on the Conference website at [www.rcrcconference.org](http://www.rcrcconference.org) and such useful information as instructions for registering to participate in the Conference.

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This convocation is addressed to all members of the Conference, who, pursuant to Article 9 of the Statutes of the Movement, are:

- the duly recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; and
- the States party to the Geneva Conventions.

In accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement, this convocation is also addressed to observers invited to participate in the Conference.

Rule 6.2 of the Rules of Procedure requires that all observations, amendments or additions to the provisional agenda be received by the Standing Commission no later than 60 days before the opening of the Conference (9 October 2015). We would appreciate, however, receiving **all comments by 30 August**.

Under Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure, any document submitted by a member of the Conference for inclusion as an official working document must be received by the Standing Commission no later than 90 days before the opening of the Conference (9 September 2015).

The official working documents for the various agenda items of the Conference, including draft resolutions, will be sent 45 days before the opening of the Conference (24 October 2015).

The co-organizers and the Standing Commission welcome Ambassador Nicolas Lang as Commissioner of the Conference and thank the Government of Switzerland for its support in the preparations for the Conference.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurance of our highest consideration.

Tadateru Konoé  
President  
International Federation of Red Cross  
and Red Crescent Societies

Peter Maurer  
President  
International Committee of the Red Cross

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## 4.2 AGENDA AND PROGRAMME

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### 4.2.1 Agenda and Programme

See 1.2.1 above  
(page 63)

### 4.2.2 Programme of side events

#### Tuesday 8 December 2015

- Award-winning innovations in DRR – the Australian Business Roundtable as a model for change
- Children and detention in situations of armed conflict
- Humanitarian action in situations other than armed conflict: lessons from the ICRC's pilot project in Rio de Janeiro
- Reconnecting families: building resilient communities through reconnecting and supporting separated families following conflict, disaster or migration
- New challenges for the protection of cultural property: from incidental damage to deliberate destruction
- Strengthening legal preparedness for disasters and disaster risk reduction
- The humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons: key findings on the consequences and risks of, and the response capabilities regarding, nuclear weapon explosions
- The Movement and the corporate sector: partnering for impact
- Youth engagement for a better world

#### Wednesday 9 December 2015

- How can the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation benefit from the experience of other regions in enhancing cooperation amongst the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies?
- MIKTA efforts on strengthening international disaster response laws
- Reaching the unreachable: maternal, newborn and child health in complex humanitarian contexts
- Reintegration for peace-building and reconciliation
- Taking Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values to action: reinforcing and uniting the Principles' perception by humanitarian education
- Ambulance and pre-hospital services operating in risk situations
- Casualty recording for recognition of victims and improved evaluation of harm in conflict
- Counterterrorism measures and humanitarian action
- Understanding migration: an emergency or commonplace phenomenon?
- Tech4Resilience: How does technology impact community resilience?
- Bridging international humanitarian and development financing
- Voluntary reporting on national compliance with international humanitarian law
- Preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence in disasters
- Responding to protection challenges in urban areas: lessons from conflict and displacement in towns and cities
- The use of explosive weapons in populated areas and the need to better protect civilians



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## Thursday 10 December 2015

- Delivering humanitarian assistance in a dignified manner
  - Improving the domestic prosecution of crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes through interstate cooperation
  - International humanitarian law and Islam
  - Localizing humanitarianism
  - The Arms Trade Treaty: implementation and universalization
  - Action to combat impunity and improve accountability for victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence: practical tools and experiences
- Addressing psychological effects of armed conflicts and violence
  - Community-based disaster risk reduction in view of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and IFRC Framework for Community Resilience: the case of the Nepal Red Cross
  - Bringing the Commentaries on the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols into the 21st century
  - Monitoring, reporting and fact-finding: methodology and confidence-building potential
  - Towards hunger resilience



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## 4.3 CONFERENCE OFFICIALS

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### 4.3.1 Chairman of the conference

*Chair of the Conference*

**Ms Fatima Gailani** (Afghan Red Crescent Society)

*Vice-Chairs of the Conference*

**Ms Annemarie Huber-Hotz** (Swiss Red Cross)

**Dr Tha Hla Shwe** (Myanmar Red Cross Society)

**H.E. Ms Yvette Stevens** (Sierra Leone)

**H.E. Ms Marta Maurás Pérez** (Chile)

**Ms Bolormaa Nordov** (Mongolian Red Cross Society)

*Rapporteur of the Conference*

**H.E. Ms Saja Majali** (Jordan)

*Secretary-General of the Conference*

**H.E. Mr Nicolas Lang** (Switzerland)

*Assistant Secretaries-General of the Conference*

**Ms Charlotta Relander** (ICRC)

**Mr Frank Mohrhauer** (IFRC)

### 4.3.2 Chairmanship of the conference's subsidiary bodies

#### Drafting Committee

**H.E. Mr Carsten Staur** (Denmark)

#### Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab

**Ms Ashanta Osborne-Moses** (Guyana Red Cross Society)

#### Commission A

**Dr Werner Kerschbaum** (Austrian Red Cross)

#### Commission B

**Mr Richard Rowe** (Australian Red Cross)

#### Commission C

**H.E. Ms Nazhat Shameem Khan** (Fiji)

#### Commission D

**H.E. Mr Nthuthang Khumoetsile Martin Seleka** (South Africa)

#### Commission E

**Dr Seyed Amir Mohsen Ziaee** (Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran)  
and

**Mr Fabrizio Curcio** (Italy)

### 4.3.3 Bureau of the conference

**Ms Fatima Gailani**,  
*Chair of the Conference*

**Ms Annemarie Huber-Hotz**  
*Vice-Chair of the Conference*

**Dr Tha Hla Shwe**  
*Vice-Chair of the Conference*

**H.E. Ms Yvette Stevens**  
*Vice-Chair of the Conference*

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**H.E. Ms Marta Maurás Pérez**

*Vice-Chair of the Conference*

**Ms Bolormaa Nordov**

*Vice-Chair of the Conference*

**H.E. Mr Carsten Staur**

*Chair of the Drafting Committee*

**Ms Ashanta Osborne-Moses**

*Chair of the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab*

**H.E. Ms Saja Majali**

*Rapporteur of the Conference*

**Dr Werner Kerschbaum**

*Chair of Commission A*

**Mr Richard Rowe**

*Chair of Commission B*

**H.E. Ms Nazhat Shameem Khan**

*Chair of Commission C*

**H.E. Mr Nthuthang Khumoetsile Martin Seleka**

*Chair of Commission D*

**Dr Seyed Amir Mohsen Ziaee**

*Chair of Commission E, session 1*

**Mr Fabrizio Curcio**

*Chair of Commission E, session 2*

**H.E. Mr Nicolas Lang**

*Secretary-General of the Conference*

**Mr Tadateru Konoé**

*President of the International Federation of Red Cross  
and Red Crescent Society*

**Mr Peter Maurer**

*President of the International Committee of the Red Cross*

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## 4.4 OPENING CEREMONY

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### Tuesday, 8 December 2015

(9.35 a.m.)

*Alphorn players*

*Screening of the video Our World, Your Move*

#### 4.4.1 Welcome address by Mr Matteo Pedrazzini, President of the Geneva branch of the Swiss Red Cross

*(Original French)*

Madam President of the Swiss Confederation, your Royal Highnesses, ministers Excellencies, my dear colleagues from the Red Cross and Red Crescent, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to this 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. I am Matteo Pedrazzini, President of the Geneva branch of the Swiss Red Cross, and I will be your master of ceremonies for the first part of the morning. It is a pleasure and an honour for me to be here today with you.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the seven Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: humanity, neutrality, impartiality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. The music that you may have heard earlier was composed by Mr Jean Pictet, who is also the father of the Fundamental Principles. Jean Pictet, a Genevan of many talents!

The Fundamental Principles lie at the core of the Movement; they give it its unique character and guide it in fulfilling its humanitarian mission. The

theme of this 32nd International Conference – the Power of Humanity: The Fundamental Principles in Action – highlights the continuing importance of these principles today.

Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Movement’s Statutes reads: “All participants in the International Conference shall respect the Fundamental Principles and all documents presented shall conform with these Principles”.

In keeping with tradition, there will now be a reading of the Principles in seven different languages: the six official languages and Romansh, one of Switzerland’s official languages. Students from the Geneva HEM School of Music will accompany the reading of the Principles with an intermezzo. Please welcome Échos Ensemble!

*A musical performance by Echos Ensemble followed.*

#### 4.4.2 Reading of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

##### HUMANITY

*(Original French)*

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding,

friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

## IMPARTIALITY

*(Original Arabic)*

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

## NEUTRALITY

*(Original Romansch)*

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

## VOLUNTARY SERVICE

*(Original English)*

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

## INDEPENDENCE

*(Original Spanish)*

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

## UNITY

*(Original Russian)*

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

## UNIVERSALITY

*(Original Chinese)*

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

### Mr Matteo Pedrazzini, President of the Geneva branch of the Swiss Red Cross

*(Original French)*

I would like to thank our readers and the young musicians of Échos Ensemble most warmly for their performance.

### 4.4.3 Special Humanitarian Award

#### Mr Matteo Pedrazzini, President of the Geneva branch of the Swiss Red Cross

*(Original French)*

We will continue now with the presentation of the Special Humanitarian Award. The Standing Commission has decided to bestow this award on three National Societies in recognition of their unwavering commitment and remarkable work during the Ebola crisis.

I invite Mr Greg Vickery, Chair of the Standing Commission, to now present the award.

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**Mr Greg Vickery, Chair of the Standing Commission**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, honoured members and all guests, this year we have seen one of the most frightening outbreaks of a disease in years: the Ebola epidemic in western Africa.

In recognition of the exemplary commitment and invaluable contribution to humanity in response to the Ebola virus disease, the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent has agreed to bestow a special humanitarian award on the volunteers of three National Societies operating in the countries most severely affected by the Ebola crisis, namely the Red Cross Society of Guinea, the Liberian Red Cross Society and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society. Special appreciation goes to the Safe and Dignified Burial teams for their tremendous courage and genuine devotion to protecting human lives, so typical of our wonderful Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers all over the world.

By giving this award, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is expressing its deep admiration for the bravery, the perseverance and the commitment of all the volunteers in all the countries affected by the disease. I know people from many other countries and National Societies and other organizations came to assist.

I now invite Mr Elhadj As Sy, the Secretary General of the International Federation, and Mr Balthasar Staehelin, the Deputy Director-General of the ICRC, who are members of the Standing Commission, to join me in presenting the award. And I now have the honour of presenting the three volunteers from the National Societies concerned – and they should come and join us – with a symbol of the respect of the Movement for the thousands of volunteers they represent here today. So please come forward, the three volunteer representatives, and let us give them a big hand.

*Amid applause, the volunteer representatives received the award from Mr Greg Vickery, Mr Elhadj As Sy and Mr Balthasar Staehelin.*

**Mr Greg Vickery, Chair of the Standing Commission**

*(Original English)*

Thank you very much, and please take our good wishes back to all your fellow volunteers in West Africa.

**Mr Matteo Pedrazzini, President of the Geneva branch of the Swiss Red Cross**

*(Original French)*

Thank you very much, Mr Vickery, Mr Sy and Mr Staehelin, and congratulations once again to the three volunteers who have demonstrated, through their courage, the values we hold dear.

To bring this opening ceremony to a close now, Jennifer Lynn is going to perform a song that she composed herself and which is dedicated to the volunteers of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The song is called “Carry Me”. Jennifer Lynn is an American singer with great stage presence, as you will see. She was born in Chicago and has performed in venues in the United States and Europe. She recently demonstrated her artistic prowess when she reached the final of the television show “The Voice of Holland”, with a repertoire ranging from wonderful ballads to upbeat pop songs. Jennifer Lynn!

*Jennifer Lynn gave a performance of her song, “Carry me”, dedicated to Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers.*

**Mr Matteo Pedrazzini, President of the Geneva branch of the Swiss Red Cross**

*(Original French)*

Thank you, Jennifer. Your song has moved us all. This performance brings to a close the opening ceremony of the 32nd International Conference and my role as master of ceremonies. I will ask Mr Vickery to now open the first plenary meeting.

All that remains is for me to say goodbye and remind you that the world is watching you. Thank you.

## 4.5 OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE: FIRST PLENARY MEETING

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**Tuesday, 8 December 2015**

(10 a.m.)

### **4.5.1 Opening of the meeting by Mr Greg Vickery, Chair of the Standing Commission**

*(Original English)*

Madam President of the Swiss Confederation, ministers, Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies, my dear colleagues from the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, ladies and gentlemen, and the media, on behalf of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, I welcome you all to this 32nd International Conference.

As called for by Rule 15.2 in the Rules of Procedure of the Movement, the Chair of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent opens the first plenary meeting. It is therefore my pleasure to warmly welcome all delegations from National Societies, from States parties to the Geneva Conventions and from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation, and I also welcome all observers from other organizations and guests.

I particularly want to extend a special welcome and thank you to our host country, to President Sommaruga and through her to the Swiss Government, with our deep appreciation for the support she in person and the Swiss authorities have rendered to the Movement in generously supporting the organization of this Conference. Many thanks.

This International Conference, the 32nd since 1864, a date in all our hearts, comes together in the year when we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of our Fundamental Principles, looking backwards by marking the actual day of their adoption in the

city where it took place, Vienna, but much more by looking forward and asking ourselves how we shall apply and understand the principles in our time and in the future.

That is why we have agreed on the overarching theme of this Conference, the “Power of Humanity: The Fundamental Principles in Action”. That power of humanity is needed more than ever in light of the challenges we face today in the form of war, violence, natural disaster and social crisis. Away from the actual situations, people and communities across the world are affected through increased numbers of refugees and migrants, distorted budgets following the need to spend more on security and armed forces, and a less secure environment for all. The world now has more than 60 million refugees and displaced people, a large proportion of them in relatively poor countries that have other needs to meet.

In Paris, at the moment, governments from every country in the world sit together to find ways out of the situation we find ourselves in with regard to the environment; a deepening emergency of climate change that threatens the very basis of human society.

With all these challenges, we in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have selected some that we believe we can do something about. We will discuss international humanitarian law (IHL), especially relating to detention and to the need for greater compliance. We will come back to the importance of protecting health care, which too often is under threat. We need better protection for our volunteers and other humanitarian workers. I should at this stage simply say that whilst we, happily, have lost no volunteers in the Ebola crisis, we have since the last Conference lost so many volunteers in the Middle East, particularly Syria, but in other countries as well: West Africa, Afghanistan and many other parts of the world. It is a very sad thing that people who go out as volunteers under our Red Cross and Red Crescent

banner can be killed, just standing up for what they believe in and doing what they think is right for the community. I wonder if we could all stand for a minute just to pay our respects to those we have lost since the last International Conference.

Many thanks. It highlights the importance of the Health Care in Danger topic, which will be discussed in the next few days.

The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent is unique in that it brings together National Societies and governments on an equal footing; you are sitting there side by side. This can happen only because political issues are left outside the room, and the focus is kept sharply on the humanitarian aspects of the topics we debate. It is also a matter of confidence in the ability of National Societies to apply their Fundamental Principles and assist any individual in need in an impartial, neutral manner and the trust National Societies have in their governments' willingness to allow them to operate independently, as auxiliaries in the humanitarian space and in accordance with their mandate.

Over the 150 years the Red Cross and Red Crescent has been in existence, much has been achieved. When we sit down to our work over the next three days, we should keep that in mind, but also look forward and concentrate our minds on what we can do better for those who need us now and in the future.

Before concluding, let me repeat what I said at the opening of the Council of Delegates yesterday morning. I would like the Conference to welcome again the inclusion of the 190th National Society of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Tuvalu Red Cross, the "new kid on the block". So welcome, Tuvalu.

I now have the great pleasure and honour to give the floor to Ms Simonetta Sommaruga, the President of the Swiss Confederation. I invite her to the lectern.

#### **4.5.2 Address by Ms Simonetta Sommaruga, President of the Swiss Confederation**

*(Original French)*

Ministers, Presidents, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The Battle of Solferino, the horrifying aftermath of which was so poignantly described by Henry Dunant, claimed the lives of thousands of soldiers.

Among the casualties, there were also civilian victims, including a woman killed by a stray bullet while standing at her window. Her name was Antonia Savio Cerini, and she is immortalized during her last moments in a mural in Solferino.

The fact that we know Antonia Savio Cerini's name is something of an exception. All too often, the names of the civilian victims of armed conflicts are promptly consigned to oblivion.

Since the foundation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, international humanitarian law has undergone an impressive evolution. The Movement has played a central role in this development. It contributed decisively to the adoption of the original Geneva Convention, the foundation on which humanitarian law has been built, thanks to the work of the Movement over the years. However, armed conflicts continue to claim too many civilian victims, including many women and children, and this is a painful reminder that international humanitarian law is often not observed.

Ladies and gentlemen, it was at the invitation of the Swiss Federal Council, 150 years ago, that the Diplomatic Conference took place. It resulted in the signing of the original Geneva Convention, marking the start of a special relationship between Switzerland and the Movement.

This special relationship is reflected in the central values that the Movement and Switzerland share: neutrality and humanitarian commitment. Switzerland is also the depositary State of the Geneva Conventions.

For this reason, Switzerland is proud to be hosting this important conference once again here in Geneva.

The conference is taking place under the banner of an anniversary of great significance. Fifty years ago, in Vienna, the Movement defined its seven Fundamental Principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

Jean Pictet, the spiritual father of the Geneva Conventions, once said that if the Movement could have only one principle, it would be the Principle of Humanity, because it is the principle from which the others flow.



It is humanity, more than any other principle, that inspires efforts to alleviate the suffering of people in need: people trapped between two fronts, people fleeing from danger and the victims of disasters and epidemics.

Humanity is the common language spoken by all the Movement's different organizations in their work: the ICRC in war-torn areas around the world and the Federation and National Societies in other crisis situations.

The Movement has also adopted an approach based on humanity in response to the current refugee situation.

The Movement makes an irreplaceable contribution to preserving the dignity and rights of people all along the migratory routes. Switzerland supports the Federation and the National Societies in their efforts to help vulnerable people on these routes and is pleased that special attention will be paid to this issue during the conference.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The law should not remain silent in war. It was this belief that led, over 150 years ago, to the creation of the Red Cross. While today this idea is familiar to us all, for many of Henry Dunant's contemporaries, it was a real breakthrough, because for too long the law had placed no constraints on belligerents. Nevertheless, however much of a visionary the founding father of the Red Cross was, the history of the Movement also bears witness to a remarkable sense of pragmatism.

In the work it has carried out in crisis situations that have shaken the world, the Movement has endeavoured to make no distinction between good and evil, between justified wars and prohibited wars, between victims and perpetrators. It has confined itself to seeking to deal with the disastrous consequences of armed conflicts.

From the outset, the Movement came under fire for this attitude. Concerns were even raised on several occasions within the Movement. However, it has remained steadfast in its approach. Just as well, because thanks to its independence and neutrality, the Movement has been able to improve the plight of millions of people.

Let us then continue along this path in the coming days, with the pragmatism and optimism that characterize the Movement and with the firm conviction that the Movement and the States here today can achieve so much more together than each one could on its own.

The Movement is older than most international organizations, and yet it is more important than ever. In collaboration with the ICRC and the International Federation, the 190 National Societies and their millions of volunteers provide assistance in bombarded cities and remote villages destroyed by earthquakes. The Movement can make a great difference worldwide, operating as a global network with a well-established local presence and guided by firm principles.

At the last conference, the ICRC and Switzerland were given a mandate to prepare proposals to improve protection for the victims of armed conflict, in consultation with the community of States. These consultations revealed wide agreement on the need for a platform to enable States to discuss the implementation of international humanitarian law on a regular basis.

It is therefore necessary to create a discussion forum. Its purpose would not be to put States in the dock, but to contribute to making international humanitarian law more effective.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The mural that I told you about in Solferino portrays a young woman standing at a window, opening one of the shutters, just before she was mortally wounded by a stray bullet.

We are all well aware that, today still, thousands of children, women and men open a door or a window in war zones every day. Our thoughts will focus on them in the coming days, as we reflect on the future of international humanitarian law.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and an honour for me to convey to you the greetings and best wishes of the Swiss Government. Thank you.

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### **Mr Greg Vickery, Chair of the Standing Commission**

*(Original English)*

Thank you, President Sommaruga, and thanks indeed for those inspiring words to open our Conference. I can now declare that the 32nd International Conference is open. I propose that we proceed with item 5 on the agenda, which is the election of the Officers of the Conference.

#### **4.5.3 Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary-General, Assistant Secretaries-General and other Officers of the Conference**

### **Mr Greg Vickery, Chair of the Standing Commission**

*(Original English)*

Under Rule 15, paragraph 3 of the Movement's Rules of Procedure, the first plenary starts with the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Conference, the Chair of the Drafting Committee, the Conference Secretary-General and Assistant Secretaries-General, and other officers proposed by the Council of Delegates. I have received from President Peter Maurer, the Chair of the Council of Delegates, a resolution which was distributed to you this morning. This resolution was adopted by the Council yesterday, and it proposes the list of persons to be elected to serve as Officers of the Conference. I am not sure if we are posting that on the screen, but I think you all have a hard copy of the list of officers on your desks; at least I hope you do.

With the exception of the Assistant Secretaries-General, these people form the Bureau of the Conference. The Conference also endorses the establishment of the Conference's subsidiary bodies which will be chaired by the officers mentioned in the papers in front of you. Can we elect these persons by acclamation?

The Officers of the Conference were duly elected by acclamation.

I understand that we consider these persons elected as the Officers of the 32nd International Conference and that the commissions and Drafting Committee are now established.

It is now my special pleasure to invite Ms Fatima Gailani, President of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, to take the role of Chair of this Conference. I also invite the Conference Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretaries-General to come and take their places here on the podium. I personally wish Ms Gailani and her team much success in leading the deliberations of this Conference. Thank you.

#### **4.5.4 Organization of work: plenary meetings, general debate, drafting committee, commissions, Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab; procedure for electing the members of the Standing Commission**

### **Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Madam President of the Swiss Confederation, ministers, Your Royal Highnesses, Your Excellencies, colleagues of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for electing me as the Chair of the 32nd International Conference. I am humbled by the confidence and the trust you have placed in me. I assure you that I shall carry out this task to the best of my ability and knowledge. I will always have in mind the Fundamental Principles, the Statutes of the Movement and the Rules of Procedure.

After 11 years as the President of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, I am reminded every day of the importance of our work and the crucial role we play in responding to armed conflicts, disasters and other emergencies. In my country, sadly, and in many parts of the world, such events occur far too frequently. Natural disasters and armed conflicts have stolen many lives from us and derailed too many destinies in remote villages and vulnerable places.

We are always present, providing what we can with what we have. It is small actions that really give purpose to my work and to the work of the Movement; being there in the midst of rubble, helping a mother or holding a child's hand and making them understand that they are not alone. Our volunteers really do the most important work, in the moments of life where such actions mean so much to those we seek to help. What our volunteers do has a greater

purpose: striving for more humanity in order to help those who need us most.

I still have flashbacks of the father of a volunteer who was shaking with grief. His son had died while working. He was broken and distraught by the loss of his son, but with all the energy he could gather, he whispered to me that he was so proud of the work of his son for the Red Crescent. There are truly some heroes within the Movement. They inspire me, and I hope they will inspire you to drive us to do more, to rededicate ourselves to doing good and to be more prepared for the next crisis.

For me, this Conference is not just a conference, it is the Conference. This is a very rare chance that we get every four years for the Movement, governments and other stakeholders to sit together and solve problems. In the next three days, we invite you to work together to adopt these crucial resolutions, not just for us, but for those who are in the field, whether they be victims or volunteers.

I will now tell you more about the structure of the Conference. It was the ambition of the Standing Commission to organize a more open and inclusive Conference, one that also underscored the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's claim to a central position in the international humanitarian system.

This Movement is grounded in its community-based volunteer network and based on an ethos composed of values common to humanity. The International Conference is an excellent platform to showcase this uniqueness and also the vitality of the Movement. The Conference has been the forum for humanitarian debate for more than a hundred years. This must remain so; it is critical to the Movement's ability to achieve its humanitarian mission. But for that, the Conference needs to be more inclusive and participatory, both for its members and other interested humanitarian stakeholders.

It was with this aim in mind that the co-organizers launched the global engagement initiative called "Voices to Action" earlier this year. The intention was to build momentum and to provide platforms for dialogues with a broader audience beyond the Conference members, including other humanitarian actors, volunteers, staff and even people who are affected by crises.

It was in the same spirit of inclusiveness that the Standing Commission also decided to make the preparatory process of the Conference a more inclusive and transparent one, and requested that

the ICRC and the International Federation see that the States parties to the Geneva Conventions and National Societies were regularly kept abreast of the preparatory process.

The concept of the Conference is based on a clearly structured agenda. It features an overarching theme, three Conference aspirations and six sub-themes which will be dealt with in the plenary commissions and in the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab. As for the overarching theme, it was easy to find: our Fundamental Principles, which celebrated their 50-year jubilee this year. They shall inspire and permeate the work throughout the three days.

The agenda of this 32nd International Conference is very ambitious. There are a number of important resolutions that are waiting to be finalized for adoption in the closing plenary. There is the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab, which will be tasked with drawing up an idea chart that can stimulate ideas for even more effective work at a local and global level, and there are the five thematic plenary commissions and the general debate. Such a rich programme is in itself a challenge, but it is an even bigger challenge with the Conference being shorter again this year, as you, the delegations, requested. Since most of the plenaries will run in parallel, there will be only two plenaries with formal seating: this opening of the Conference today and the final plenary on the afternoon of 10 December. In every other session, the seating is free, and you are asked to bring your name plates with you.

I am sure you have noticed by now that simultaneous interpretation into the working languages of Arabic, English, French and Spanish is available. The same will be the case in the general debate, in the commissions and in the Drafting Committee. All official working documents will be distributed in these languages. In addition, we also have Russian interpretation.

Let me first tell you how I intend to run the general debate, and then I will give the floor to the Secretary-General of the Conference, Ambassador Nicolas Lang, for further important information. The general debate is dedicated to delegations' statements. It will last, like the other sessions that run alongside it, until Thursday at 1 p.m. The general debate will be held in rooms 5 and 6 and will be shown live on TV screens in the conference centre. Each delegation wishing to speak should register. If you have not done so, register at the desk on the ground floor. The list of speakers will be posted online on the website of the Conference and at the registration desk every morning. Please kindly hand over a written version of your statement

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to a volunteer in the room of the general debate in order to facilitate the task of the interpreters.

As we expect a high number of speakers, I have shortened the interventions using the rights given to me as the Chair in Rule 18.2. Each speaker will speak for only three minutes. The exceptions are interventions on behalf of a group or State at ministerial level, which will be given five minutes. Please note that for the Conference report, the full text of interventions can be handed to the Conference Secretariat. As you know, all statements will be minuted exactly as they are.

I seize this opportunity to remind everyone at this juncture that all statements at this Conference must be in strict compliance with the Fundamental Principles and that, according to Article 11, paragraph 4, no delegate or delegation shall engage in political, racial, religious or ideological controversy. In the interest of a harmonious, non-political Conference, I will not hesitate to use the power vested in me as the Chair to withdraw the floor from delegations that do not conform to this fundamental provision and strike that part of the statement from the Conference minutes record.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that the Swiss authorities have generously invited all participants to a reception this evening at 7 p.m. here at the conference centre. Ambassador Lang, the floor is yours.

### **H.E. Mr Nicolas Lang, Secretary-General of the Conference**

*(Original French)*

Thank you Madam Chair. Ladies and gentlemen, allow me now to take you through the conference programme for the next three days.

Following my opening remarks, the President of the ICRC and the President of the International Federation will give their welcome addresses. After that, we will have a short break and then begin the debate on the conference's main theme "Power of Humanity: The Fundamental Principles in Action".

After lunch, there will be four different segments taking place at the same time. As the Chair of the conference has already mentioned, one of these segments is the general debate, which will start at 2:30 p.m., and not at 2 p.m. as indicated in the programme.

The Drafting Committee will start its work at 3 p.m. This committee is tasked with reviewing and drawing together all the official documents submitted to the conference for adoption and any proposed amendments. In particular, it will establish the final draft resolutions for adoption, by consensus we hope, during the plenary meeting to be held on Thursday afternoon.

This afternoon, Commission D will discuss Health Care in Danger, and Commission C sexual and gender-based violence. The Commission meetings are open to all conference participants.

Humanitarian Dialogue: a Vision Lab is the fourth segment, which will start today and continue until midday Thursday. This segment is a real innovation. Based on the contributions of vulnerable people, staff and volunteers and decision-makers in university and political circles through the initiative Voices to action, the Humanitarian Dialogue aims to encourage participants to discuss current and future challenges and work together to define solutions in an open and innovative format. This afternoon, the Humanitarian Dialogue sessions will be on disaster risk and climate change and risk in urban settings.

Tomorrow, the structure will be similar to this afternoon's. The general debate and the Drafting Committee will continue in the same way, with the addition, in the morning, of a special plenary meeting on migration, which will take place from 9 to 9:45 a.m. This session will put the spotlight on our common humanitarian concern for the situation of vulnerable migrants along migratory routes. It will provide an opportunity to reflect on the way States, the Movement and other stakeholders can deal with migration issues. I would just like to point out that while statements cannot be made during that session, you can of course discuss the subject of migration in the general debate.

The topics that will be addressed as part of the Humanitarian Dialogue are community-centred resilient health systems, insecure environments and migration. The Commissions will focus on sexual and gender-based violence (Commission C), the launch of the One Billion Coalition for Resilience (Commission E), strengthening legal frameworks for disasters and emergencies (Commission E), Health Care in Danger (Commission D), contemporary challenges in international humanitarian law (Commission B) and the Fundamental Principles in action (Commission A).

On Thursday morning, the general debate will continue until 1 p.m., and the Drafting Committee will finalize the resolutions for adoption and conclude its work. Two Commission meetings will take place on Thursday morning, one on contemporary challenges in international humanitarian law (Commission B) and the other on the Fundamental Principles in action (Commission A). The Humanitarian Dialogue will also finish its work before lunch.

The closing plenary meeting will take place on Thursday afternoon. It will begin with the election of five new members of the Standing Commission, followed by the report on the work of the conference and the adoption of resolutions.

For the election of the new members of the Standing Commission, we will take an electronic roll-call vote to determine the absolute majority required for the first round of voting. This is a first for us. Volunteers will hand the keypads out in the room for this purpose. For this roll-call, you will need a voting card. The voting card was issued to the heads of delegation when they registered or, in some cases, to another member of the delegation, upon presentation of the proxy form in your pigeonhole. The form must be completed by the head of delegation and presented to those in charge of registration. A roll-call is essential to determine that there is an absolute majority of delegates present and voting. I would therefore ask you to please arrive punctually at 2 p.m. on 10 December.

You will also find in your pigeonhole a booklet containing instructions on the procedure, your user name, your password for the electronic voting and the nomination forms of all the candidates. You will cast your vote using your smartphone, tablet or laptop. If you do not have access to any such device, tablets will be available at the election stand in the room.

You will also have a chance to meet the candidates tomorrow evening at 7 p.m. on the first floor of the Conference Centre. This presentation might be brought forward by 45 minutes, following tomorrow afternoon's programme. You will be kept informed of any changes. Please note that candidatures can be submitted up to 2.30 p.m. this afternoon.

I am going to say a few words now about the pledges. They are a very important instrument, as they enable National Societies, States party to the Geneva Conventions and observers to commit to specific actions connected with the conference's main themes. I would therefore encourage all the delegations to propose one or more pledges or to join

an open pledge. You can submit your pledges via the conference platform on the conference website or in writing at the pledging stand on the ground floor.

The Humanitarian Village on the second floor of the Conference Centre is devoted essentially to exhibitions on restoring family links, Health Care in Danger and shelter for the winter. I encourage you to go and take a look. Side events will take place at lunchtime and in the evening today, Wednesday and Thursday and in the morning on Wednesday and Thursday. A full list of side events is available in your online programme.

Before I finish, allow me to remind you that the general debate will be taking place on the third floor of this building. I would therefore ask you to make sure you know where it is, so that the debate can start on time, as the list of speakers is very long.

Madam Chair, the floor is yours.

#### **Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Thank you, Ambassador Lang. I inform the Conference that I have received amendments to the resolution on strengthening compliance with IHL, submitted in the form of an alternative draft resolution by the Russian Federation on its behalf and on behalf of eight other States. This document is currently being distributed to the participants of the Conference, as requested by the Russian Federation. These, and any other proposed amendments, will be discussed in the Drafting Committee.

Let me please also add a small remark on the Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee will strive to finalize the texts of the draft resolutions for adoption at the closing plenary meeting on Thursday afternoon. I am therefore requesting all members of the Conference to present to the Chair of the Drafting Committee any amendment they wish to introduce with regard to draft resolutions during the consideration of documents by the Drafting Committee.

Allow me also to remind you that the Conference must endeavour to approve its resolutions by consensus, in the spirit of universality and unity, and in keeping with the Statutes of the Movement and the Rules of Procedure. Voting should therefore be avoided; it must remain a last resort. On the other

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hand, if the Conference fails to reach a consensus, voting is inevitable.

It is my pleasure to give the floor to the President of the International Federation, Mr Tadateru Konoé.

#### **4.5.5 Keynote address by Mr Tadateru Konoé, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

*(Original English)*

Madam President of the Swiss Confederation, Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies, Red Cross Red Crescent friends, ladies and gentlemen. “The humanitarian imperative comes first.” This is the first line of the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and non-governmental organizations in Disaster Relief. In one line, the framers of the Code captured the history, purpose and common humanity of the Movement.

The humanitarian imperative comes first. Is not this, my friends, why we are here? To quote my dear friend, Peter Maurer: “The world is at a turning point”. There are more people in need of humanitarian assistance than ever before. The United Nations tells us that there are over 80 million people who need our help, a figure that has doubled in the past decade alone. In 2014, almost 102 million people were affected by disasters. The response of the Movement is, as ever, humanity, the incessant, relentless drive to reach out to the most vulnerable, the most isolated, and to protect their lives and to restore their dignity. Our actions are guided by need, and by need alone. This is an ideal, but it is also a practical approach that has been forged by more than 150 years of humanitarian action. Our Movement is neutral, impartial and independent, because being so allows us to reach the most vulnerable and most isolated.

The humanitarian imperative comes first. However, alone, it is not enough. This principled approach, and the laws that have been crafted in partnership with States, has guided our Movement for 150 years. It has helped shape the global humanitarian system, but the history of humanity is the history of our species. It is a history told by war, violence, deprivation and degradation, disasters, both natural and manmade, and despair.

Humanitarian organizations cannot be expected to carry these principles alone. Our Movement needs the support of States and, even more than that, their leadership, to keep these principles at the forefront and foster renewed respect for them and the laws that underpin them.

We have a joint responsibility and a collective accountability to reach all those in need. National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have a unique identity as independent auxiliaries to the public authorities. Governments do not have the answers to all the challenges their citizens face. Even the best resourced can struggle to reach the truly isolated and vulnerable. We can walk that last mile, bringing the needle to the arm of a poor child, so to speak. We also, together, need to adapt. Humanitarian needs have grown, but they have also changed. We are not responding to the same crises that we were even a decade ago. Conflicts are protracted and share little with the conflicts that shaped our modern world order.

Disasters are different, driven by accelerating catalysts such as climate change and unplanned urbanization. They are more severe, more frequent and less predictable. People are moving on a scale that has not been seen for 70 years, reminding us that all countries are united in their shared vulnerability.

Together, the Movement and States need to find new ways to tackle these challenges. We cannot continue to pump so much money, time and effort into relief that too often comes late and that too often leaves people facing the same risks and vulnerabilities. We need a shift in how we tackle humanitarian need. We need to prioritize efforts that support communities to become stronger and more resilient.

The Federation is committed to making this shift. Our Secretariat has framed its new five-year plan and budget around partnering for resilient communities. Tomorrow we will launch the One Billion Coalition for Resilience. Through this coalition, by working together, it is our belief that one billion people can be supported over the next decade to take steps towards reducing the risks and vulnerabilities they face and, by doing so, take steps to a future that is safer and more resilient. This is an opportunity, on a historic scale, to prevent suffering and protect dignity before it is challenged. The humanitarian imperative demands nothing less. It is our hope that States will join us in making this ambition a reality.

Our National Societies are essential components in this ambition to build resilience. Each day they work with communities, ensuring basic services for those

in chronic need and a helping hand to those facing exclusion or marginalization. They provide health services, set up early warning systems, offer first aid and bring to-scale response operations in times of crisis. They are present along the continuum of the community experience, supporting communities to recover and rebuild in a way that addresses the risks that triggered the crisis in the first place. Strong and well-functioning National Societies are a critical part of any society. As such, we, the Movement and States, share an interest in strong National Societies and a shared responsibility to do all we can to support them.

Ladies and gentlemen, this Conference is an opportunity for our Movement to join together with States to pursue our common objective of humanity. It is an opportunity to reaffirm our shared commitment to the up to 17 million Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers who are on the frontlines and who, present in vulnerable communities around the world, are agents for shaping a more resilient world.

We will be asking States to help us create and facilitate an enabling environment for volunteerism, including through the promotion of supportive legislation, policy and practice. Such laws and policies can ensure the safety and security of humanitarian volunteers, by mandating their right to adequate safety equipment and training and psychosocial support and by helping put in place the basic systems of social protection, including insurance or an equivalent safety net. This is not an option. Since the last International Conference, nearly 100 Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers have been killed in the line of duty. We are collectively accountable to make sure the same cannot be said in four years' time.

The disaster law resolution seeks to strengthen national legal response mechanisms to both facilitate and coordinate international response when required. It also promotes efforts to ensure that laws are in place to facilitate and mainstream disaster risk reduction and first aid and, by doing so, builds on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Our goal is resilient communities, but this will not be achieved without robust and risk-focused national frameworks.

The Movement will draw attention to one of the most prominent and yet poorly addressed drivers of vulnerability in our society: sexual and gender-based violence and, in particular, violence against those already suffering the consequences of disaster, armed conflict or displacement. The resolution on sexual and gender-based violence seeks to ensure that adequate legal and policy measures are taken

by governments and the Movement to anticipate, prevent and respond to these insidious, cruel and completely unacceptable acts.

In the spirit of true partnership, we will also ask you to do all you can to facilitate our work. The resolution on strengthening the Movement's response to growing humanitarian needs asks States to facilitate and protect National Societies' auxiliary status and to provide for a strong legal and policy base. It asks as well for the role and mandates of the international components to be facilitated, ensuring access and safety in line with international humanitarian law and the Statutes of the Movement. Finally, it asks States to recognize the considerable work that has been done to improve cooperation and coordination within our Movement, including the adoption of a Movement logo, the agreement of common rules and principles for resource mobilization and an updated pact on how we will work together in response to major humanitarian challenges.

And those humanitarian challenges are many. Today, tens of thousands of vulnerable people all over the world are on the move, seeking safety and dignity. This Conference will place a spotlight on the vulnerability of migrants and refugees and will remind us all of the commitments made when we last met, including a commitment to ensure that National Societies enjoy effective and safe access to all migrants, irrespective of their legal status.

Our goal is resilience, but never acquiescence, to the violations of rights and principles which are becoming more and more frequent. States have, over the coming days, a rare opportunity to strengthen the normative framework of international humanitarian law by adopting a compliance mechanism.

Distinguished delegations, this Conference is a critical part of a broader dialogue on the nature, focus and future of humanitarian assistance. The decisions in front of you build on the impressive work of the Sendai World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is my hope that, as we meet here in Geneva, our colleagues in Paris will find a new commitment to address climate change, one that is built in large part on resourcing and empowering communities to deal with the consequences.

Finally, the Movement welcomes the opportunity to build on this dialogue at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. The Summit's key messages of dignity, safety, resilience, partnership and finance are essential to all that we do. The Council of Delegates

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has adopted a message to the Summit that States have been invited to acknowledge. We hope that concrete recommendations and commitments will be made in Turkey that will progress and facilitate our collective resilience efforts.

Thank you again for joining us here this week. Engage with us, pledge with us, challenge us and help us preserve what is fundamental to all of us: our humanity in action. Thank you very much.

#### **4.5.6 Keynote address by Mr Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, Your Royal Highnesses, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues and friends, it is an honour to welcome you as well on behalf of the ICRC to this 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, a truly unique platform for our Movement and the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions to come together and shape the future of humanitarian action.

We have entered an era in which armed conflicts are greater in complexity and numbers of actors, longer in duration, wider in regional impact, broader in tactics and weapons used and, above all, more atrocious in the human suffering they cause. It is an era of protracted armed conflicts, which add up to a world at war.

Their impact is systemic and all-encompassing, from the implosion of essential public services like health, electricity, water and sanitation, to the eradication of what keeps a society growing: education for its children, jobs for its adults, security for its most vulnerable. The human suffering that today's conflicts create comes in many forms: people killed, people injured, people left hopeless, aimless, with physical and psychological trauma, who will not heal by themselves. Violence, practically always exacerbated by poverty, exclusion, discrimination and injustice, is affecting too many individuals and dominating too many societies. Chronic fragility on a global scale is the result, with individuals, communities and systems and entire regions affected.

In light of this, we must do two things: we must scale up our response to existing needs and we must make our response even more relevant. Stronger cooperation and coordination within the Movement, tailored to the realities of each context and mindful of each component's mandate, competences and skills, will allow us to do so.

Yesterday, the Council of Delegates adopted texts that will substantively influence the Movement's functioning, perception and reach in the near future. The resolution on strengthening Movement coordination and cooperation will improve how we work together to better serve people in need; the Movement branding initiative will increase visibility and understanding of our mission; and the message to next year's World Humanitarian Summit – and I see Stephen O'Brien amongst us today – will set the agenda of our peers in the wider humanitarian environment.

Beyond that, political agendas dominate the world, and we have a valuable contribution to make as humanitarians, notably on two critical issues of our times: migration and terrorism. Global migration has reached unprecedented dimensions, with around 60 million people currently displaced owing to violence and war, more than at any time since the Second World War. This number is staggering. We have to remember that nobody leaves their home, their family, their entire life behind, on a whim. People flee for a reason, and these reasons will not disappear anytime soon. This crisis is far from over.

Our 2011 Movement Migration Strategy remains as relevant as four years ago and needs further, comprehensive implementation. Two points again are crucial: vulnerability alongside status; and pragmatism over navel-gazing. The first driver of humanitarian assistance and protection for migrants must be their vulnerability, while their legal status determines their rights. Vulnerabilities and rights must not be pitted against each other, and States cannot focus on what happens inside their borders alone. Migration routes go across borders, and so must our humanitarian response.

States and Movement components must develop innovative partnerships not only to support, but also to empower, displaced people from their country of origin to their country of destination. Sticking people in camps is not a solution. We must give migrants the capacity and opportunity to lead normal lives. I therefore call on all States to make resources available in line with the existing, dramatic needs.



As a Movement, we will continue to provide health and other material assistance to vulnerable migrants, to reach out to their families where possible and to support those detained, particularly minors. The ICRC will continue to support communities in their countries of origin and neighbouring regions, close to the front lines of conflicts that are the sources of first displacements, so that fewer people will be forced to flee their homes. We will also scale up our support to Movement partners along the migration routes.

Dear colleagues, meanwhile, there is indiscriminate violence in the form of terrorist attacks around the world – the latest tragic events in Yola, Bamako, Paris, Beirut and many others come to mind. This situation has created a widespread feeling of insecurity and led to increasingly robust State responses. It is important to note in our perspective and in this context that all intentional attacks against non-combatants and all attacks aimed at spreading terror are prohibited under international humanitarian law.

The ICRC and the Movement will continue to loudly remind all parties of the need to preserve humanity and to apply international humanitarian law and other relevant frameworks, such as human rights law, as a means of preventing and dealing with such unacceptable acts of violence. We will have to redouble our efforts to ensure that the law is known, understood and respected. We will also have to demonstrate that the use of force must be within the boundaries of the law and that the treatment of detainees according to international standards has a clear role to play in the quest to reduce acts of terrorism and other forms of extreme violence.

Our engagement worldwide with those who carry the weapons and our experience in visiting hundreds of thousands of detainees every year place us in a good position to guide governments on how best to abide by the rules of war. I call on States to uphold the standards of humanity when making the difficult choices surrounding military and security action.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, this Conference is not a celebration of ourselves, and so I will not dwell on the extraordinary efforts that the 15,000 ICRC staff and up to 17 million National Society and International Federation volunteers and staff around the world make every day, with the aim of helping and protecting people affected by conflict, violence and disaster. Let me, though, take a moment to remember our friends and colleagues who have lost their lives while working to save others.

Dear colleagues, as you know all too well, after spending four years working towards today, this Conference is above all an opportunity to come together, to show our commitment to improve compliance with international humanitarian law, to strengthen the resolve to protect the medical mission, to prevent sexual violence, to defend humane treatment in detention and to push for greater responsibility in the use and transfer of weapons.

On a daily basis, we see a widespread failure to respect international humanitarian law, and we see a failure to ensure respect for international humanitarian law, as is the duty of all States and non-State actors according to the Geneva Conventions. These rules are too often ignored and violated, while they are the only thing that can protect people during war. We must be honest with ourselves: collectively, we are failing to protect the most vulnerable from the impact of armed conflict and violence.

A striking example of this failure is the frequency of attacks on health-care facilities and personnel globally, despite their specific protection in law. We need a renewed commitment to respect the law, the spirit of the law and its intent: maximum precaution in attack and zero tolerance for mistakes.

Another example is the widespread availability and misuse of weapons, which can only be thwarted if responsible arms transfers and their adequate use become standard practice. I have myself seen the impact of explosive weapons used in densely populated areas: in Yemen, in Syria, in Somalia, to name but a few. I renew here the calls of the ICRC and the Movement to all parties to avoid using explosive weapons in populated areas. We also urge all States to join and faithfully implement the Arms Trade Treaty.

Compliance with international humanitarian law is the single most important method to ensure better protection in times of armed conflict. But international humanitarian law is above all an achievement of States, which came together and decided to make history by creating these laws and which often go to great lengths to ensure respect for them. You have a unique opportunity at this Conference to bring forth a mechanism that could meaningfully contribute to this critical goal and to make history again.

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The consultation process on the resolution on compliance has been long and detailed. It now reflects the widest convergence of the range of views expressed over four years. The draft resolution that is before you recognizes that a regular and dedicated intergovernmental platform for exchanges on key international humanitarian law issues, including voluntary reporting and thematic debates, represents the best opportunity to further strengthen international humanitarian law today.

We should be clear that further diluting the text in front of us will erode the current support base for the resolution, while further strengthening the mechanism will alienate those who still remain to be convinced. We are not here to decide on hopes and fears or to decide on the future forever. We are not deciding on a perfect mechanism. But our text, in front of you, is the best compromise we will get. I therefore urge you all to make every effort to agree on this mechanism. We are here to take pragmatic, but necessary, steps in the continuous challenge of enhancing respect for international humanitarian law; now is the time to work together and to make a pragmatic step forward.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, the chronic dilemma of humanitarian action is, and will continue to be, dependence on political solutions. Again here today, I call on States to work for political solutions to today's armed conflicts. The one way to end the suffering of people in war is to end wars.

After all, we have seen that determined diplomacy can pave the way to peaceful agreements. I believe in the capacity of the international community to invest its efforts, and the necessary resources, in producing more success stories as proof that peaceful conclusions are preferable to embargoes, sanctions, violence and war.

Meanwhile, our ambition as humanitarians is to respond meaningfully to people's needs in both quantity and quality, through principled humanitarian action. Despite unprecedented generosity, especially from our long-standing donors, we are experiencing difficulties with financing a growing budget that combines both emergency relief in short-term crises and long-term stabilization efforts in protracted conflicts. The components of the Movement must continue to work together to demonstrate the added value of principled humanitarian action today.

The Fundamental Principles adopted in Vienna 50 years ago – humanity, neutrality, impartiality,

independence, unity, universality and voluntary service – are as relevant today as half a century ago.

And there is no better way to ensure our response is truly meaningful than to involve the people we aim to serve every step on our way. Our Voices to Action campaign is leading the way in promoting a new form of interactive beneficiary and community communication, with the real involvement of real people on the ground.

By no means do we want to isolate ourselves from the larger humanitarian environment. Next year's World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul will be an opportunity to highlight how complementarity, rather than uniformity, creates innovation and delivers results.

Closer cooperation between local and international actors, within and beyond the Movement, can add further experience, insight and knowledge to our operations. We often hear that aid must be local, yet, in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, we know for a fact that the complementarity of local and international is what allows us to work and ensure we respond to short-term emergencies and to protracted conflicts, to natural and man-made disasters, to chronic fragility and raging conflicts alike to the best of our ability.

Beyond our Movement, dynamic cooperation with the wider humanitarian community, with States and the private sector will enlarge and enrich the humanitarian response and make it more efficient and more meaningful for people in need. We must all come together to engage with our interlocutors, to encourage respect, to ultimately influence and change behaviour, because the current protection failure is a reality and a grave concern.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, international power competition, unilateral action and protracted paralysis have become the new normal in the international system, taking a heavy toll on millions of people who suffer the consequences. Let me therefore conclude by urging you to play your part in empowering humanity, by making pledges, by supporting resolutions, by making this International Conference your own Conference through your own commitments.

What will be most useful in the next two days is an ability to compromise: substance must win over suspicion, and progress must win over politicking. Let us decide on what is on the table, not on what some may fear is hiding beneath it.

As Heads of State and governments meet in Paris on another life-threatening crisis, climate change, we too have a unique opportunity to join forces with States, National Societies and others, to unite behind our shared humanity, behind respect for international humanitarian law and behind the millions of people who are suffering from armed conflict, disasters and violence. I thank you.

#### **4.5.7 Report of the 31st International Conference**

##### **Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

The overview report on the implementation of the resolutions and pledges of the 31st International Conference is part of the official documents of the 32nd International Conference that you received on 23 October, and it is also available online on the Conference website. The report follows up on Resolution 9, Our World. Your Move – for Humanity, of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which requests the ICRC and the

International Federation to report on the follow-up by Conference members to the resolutions that were adopted and pledges that were submitted.

The aim of this follow-up report is to document the actions and activities undertaken by the 31st International Conference members within the reporting period from 2011 to 2015. It is not intended as a detailed and exhaustive account or an accurate analysis of all activities carried out in the furtherance of the 31st Conference; it rather outlines general trends and provides examples of concrete projects, campaigns and activities performed at national and at international level. The report is the result of a survey that was carried out, including a detailed questionnaire that was sent to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions and National Societies.

We will now present to you a video which shows some of the highlights of this report. Thank you to all National Societies and governments for supporting the ICRC and International Federation in drafting the overview report on the implementation of resolutions and pledges.

*A video showing the highlights of the report on the 31st International Conference was shown.*

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## 4.6

# HIGH LEVEL PANEL DEBATE ON THE OVERARCHING THEME “POWER OF HUMANITY: THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES IN ACTION”

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## Tuesday, 8 December 2015

(12.05 p.m.)

### Ms Hala Gorani (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator

*(Original English throughout)*

Hello everyone. Apologies for my voice, I lost it completely two days ago. Thankfully about 50 per cent of it is back, which is allowing me to take part in this amazing gathering today. Welcome to all of you National Societies, volunteers, government ministers, esteemed guests. I am Hala Gorani, I am an anchor and correspondent at CNN, and it is an honour to be with you today for this 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

So we are about to start the next portion of this Conference. The theme for this gathering is “The Power of Humanity”. Humanity is of course what fuels us all, what makes us all the best we can be. It is the engine that drives the work that you all do across the world, from Lebanon to Bangladesh to Kazakhstan to, I see, Kenya, right here in front of me. Welcome to all of you.

Now those who have committed their lives to this kind of work know that, of course, there are the lofty goals and there are also the obstacles. There are the governments, there are the rules that are not always respected, there are the organizations that are harder than some to work with, but there are also those amazing individuals who make up the organizations around the world.

A little bit of the timetable for all of you – first of all, we will be airing some video messages from some of the participants who are not with us today: Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations Secretary-General; the Vice-President of China, Li Yuanchao; and Frans van

Houten, representing the corporate world, the CEO of Philips. We will also be hearing from volunteers around the world – I’m hearing that so many of those who make up the ranks of the Red Cross and Red Crescent are volunteers. Also be aware that we are live streaming this event to all of you who would like to be able to catch it online, and anyone who would like to tweet about this is welcome to do so, using the hashtag #powerofhumanity. If you would like a reminder of what the hashtag is, it is right there on that giant banner.

Let’s first now hear from our speakers. As I mentioned, the three distinguished guests Ban Ki-moon, Li Yuanchao and Frans van Houten, we have recorded messages from them. Let’s take a look at the first.

### I. PART 1: VIDEO ADDRESSES

#### Video address by Mr Li Yuanchao, Vice-President of China

*(Original Chinese with English subtitles)*

On the occasion of the opening of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva today, I wish to extend warm congratulations to the Conference.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is a symbol of the progress of human civilization. As an international organization with the broadest influence and highest acknowledgement in the world, the Red Cross has made an important contribution to the alleviation of human suffering, the respect of human dignity, the protection of life and health and the promotion of world peace and development. Its principles and purposes have played an important role in maintaining world peace and development, and have become the common value of mankind.

I wish to take this opportunity to pay high tribute to all the staff and volunteers of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

In the world today, peace and development remain the constant themes of the times. However, the world is far from tranquil and the global humanitarian situation is still grave. At the 70th anniversary of the United Nations and the 50th anniversary of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles, all governments and Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations should strengthen cooperation and commit themselves to the UN Charter, the Geneva Conventions and the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and make a joint endeavour to tackle the challenges in the humanitarian field.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has pointed out that the Red Cross is the embodiment of a spirit and also a banner that leads the humanitarian movement worldwide, transcending national boundaries, races and beliefs. While carrying forward the spirit of "Humanity, Fraternity and Dedication", the Red Cross Society of China has made enormous fruitful efforts in humanitarian relief operations both at home and abroad. The Chinese Government will continue to support the Red Cross humanitarian cause in China and encourage humanitarian cooperation between the Red Cross Society of China and other National Societies to assist the most in need in a joint effort to promote world peace, protect human health and achieve "a life of dignity for all".

I wish the Conference full success.

### **Video Address by Mr Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General**

*(Original English)*

Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies, representatives of governments, Red Cross and Red Crescent leaders, ladies and gentlemen.

I am pleased to convey my warmest greetings to this 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The United Nations is proud to be a part of this vital Conference.

Together, we have difficult work before us. The international community has put in place the strongest normative framework in history to protect and support people in armed conflict and disaster. Yet, we repeatedly see civilians deliberately or

indiscriminately injured or killed. ICRC President Peter Maurer and I recently issued a joint appeal for urgent action to address human suffering and insecurity, including by calling on States to comply with international law. Failure to act will not only undermine the law; it will continue to make our world far less secure. The work you do this week will enhance the protection of civilians, help ensure safer access for humanitarian and medical workers and win greater respect for international law. I look forward to your valuable contributions during the World Humanitarian Summit next May in Istanbul. We need your insight and engagement as we seek concrete solutions to humanitarian challenges and work to enhance preventive action and protect civilians who look to us for help and with hope. Thank you.

### **Video Address by Mr Frans van Houten, CEO and Chairman of Royal Philips**

*(Original English)*

Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies, representatives of governments, Red Cross and Red Crescent leaders, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my true pleasure to have the opportunity to address you on behalf of Royal Philips. As global citizens, we all have a responsibility to contribute towards a shared humanity by building a better world, especially in times of increased volatility. Improving people's lives is at the heart of the Philips mission and vision. We have set ourselves the target of improving three billion lives a year by 2025. Given this goal, and in a momentous year in which the next-generation global goals were launched, we believe that partnerships involving government, humanitarian actors, the private sector, civil society and academia will prove critical. It is inspiring that we have the opportunity to create a positive impact for people together. Our close relationship goes back over 100 years to 1914, when the Philips family worked with the Netherlands Red Cross to provide shelter and food for thousands of Belgian refugees during the First World War. Over the years, Philips has always supported the activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, with donations of goods and services. At the core of our contribution is actually the personal involvement of our employees, and of that I am most proud.

Today in our partnership through the Philips Foundation, we are working together to create long-term solutions that address the health-care needs of people, especially women and children, in emerging

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and fragile environments. Our motivated teams have been working closely with you in the field to meet your challenges. As examples, how best to collect and manage data in emergency situations and how to ensure that pregnant women receive prenatal care in rural areas. It is also exciting to see that our mutual focus has shifted to align our expertise with greater purpose and make everyday lives better.

It is our mission to improve people's lives through meaningful innovation. We make some of the most cutting-edge health-care technology in the world. But innovation is of course more than technology. It starts by putting individual needs at the centre, and whether that individual is an expectant mother in rural Kenya or the caregiver that will be treating her, we are focused on designing solutions that actually improve lives. We are working with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross, combining your community expertise with our human-centred design skills and consultancy to strengthen local health-care systems.

I would like to conclude by saying thank you. Thank you for the tremendous energy and pride that you take into your roles every day. We are inspired by your mission and your work in the Movement, and we are also encouraged by governments and the private sector working together to accelerate better services in the most vulnerable environments. Only together can we truly make a difference and build a lasting impact. Thank you.

## II. PART 2: PANEL DEBATE

### **Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

Thank you to the Chinese Vice-President Li Yuanchao, Philips CEO Frans van Houten and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Our next speaker will be making remarks on behalf of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. She has been serving as President of the Afghan Red Crescent since 2004. She was appointed in 2002 as constitutional commissioner for the drafting of the new constitution in Afghanistan, a country with its challenges of course. Ms Fatima Gailani will be making these remarks right now, after which we will hear from volunteers. But for now, Ms Gailani.

### **Ms Fatima Gailani, President, Afghan Red Crescent**

*(Original English throughout)*

Thank you very much Hala.

For 50 years we have had our seven principles. This is what opens doors for us to be accepted, to go forward and to be close to people who need us. Of course, humanity is the first of our principles. The whole thing is about humanity because if we have impartiality, independence, unity and universality, all this is under the umbrella of humanity.

When I was young and I was a volunteer, for me they sounded just like beautiful words that you would hear, something that was written. But only when I started working as the President of the Afghan Red Crescent Society in a country with different languages, different sects within Islam itself, a tribal system, war – every kind of war you can imagine – then I realized that each one of these principles has a meaning and a purpose; that it opens doors, it goes further, to help us to help others.

I have small stories to tell you. Abdul Rahman, who is the head of disaster management, is right here. I heard him saying something on television very recently after the Kunduz crisis. The person on television, the commentator, asked him, “Do you trust the fighters?” He said “No, I trust our Fundamental Principles. We stick to our Fundamental Principles and hope that others will also respect them.”

And about universality, when the earthquake in Japan happened, I had a group of our young volunteers, who came and said, “We are fundraising for Japan”. I said, “Japan, thank God, is a rich country, and we are fundraising?” And they said, “Yes, because we want to prove that even in Afghanistan we believe in our role in universality”. I thought, well they will raise something, and I said, “Whatever you raise, we will match it”. They raised a lot of money in three days.

Now, if we don't have neutrality or independence, how can we work in a country like Afghanistan or Syria, or anywhere else, and prove that we are neutral, prove that we are independent? But independence is a clap and a clap cannot be made with one hand. The Government has to respect this; the opposition to the Government will have to respect this. We in the Afghan Red Crescent Society made it very clear to our Government, and I thank my Government, which really allowed us to have our independence and neutrality, like the Swedish or the Norwegian

Red Cross. I am proud to say that it was accepted by everyone in Afghanistan and we did it. Now, the Afghan Red Crescent Society is perceived by all as a neutral and independent National Society. Thank you.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

We are going to start our panel discussion now. Ms Fatima Gailani, thank you very much for that address, thank you for the inspiring words. I would also like to welcome Dr Joanne Liu, who is the International President of Médecins Sans Frontières – you mentioned Kunduz there, that is going to be a topic of discussion as well – and Sir Richard Shirreff, who is the former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander for Europe.

The Power of Humanity – we were having this discussion a little bit earlier before joining you on stage – is a very wide-ranging concept. It can mean many things, but really at the heart of it is the word “humanity”. Since you [Ms Gailani] were just talking about your work in Afghanistan, I want to ask you – this principle of humanity, how does it integrate itself in the very complex work of a humanitarian organization with its own logistical issues, with its own organizational issues?

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President, Afghan Red Crescent**

I believe that everything is created for a purpose. One hundred and fifty years ago, the need was seen on the battlefield and the whole thing was created for it. If you really, really believe that you have to keep this humanity in your head and this [the body] follows, I think the rest will follow you and they will believe you. To be there for those who really need you.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

Because most of the people working for the Red Crescent in Afghanistan are volunteers, is that correct?

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President, Afghan Red Crescent**

Yes, in Afghanistan and everywhere.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

What fuels their passion for this humanitarian work, given the fact that they are volunteers?

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President, Afghan Red Crescent**

I was a volunteer myself when I was 12. My mother was a volunteer; my grandmother was a volunteer. So I come from a background of volunteers. Even during peace, because we have lots of natural disasters in Afghanistan, our National Society was really respected and loved and lots of people wanted to be either a volunteer or a member. Quite frankly – I am talking about 50 years ago – I did not know any women around me among my family or friends who were not either a member or a volunteer. Today it has changed a lot. Before it was the elite; today it is people. Because they are needed, people feel good. Take a volunteer in a remote area of Afghanistan, when this recent earthquake happened in Badakhshan – the main reason that they were the first to call and tell us where the help was needed, was that it made them respectable in their community. They like that, to be respected, to help.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

Dr Joanne Liu, the International President of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF): practically here, what we would like to get out of this discussion is how – and especially in your case in situations where conflict is a problem – how do you get all parties to apply the concept, the very notion, of international humanitarian law so that your medical and professional staff can operate in safety, especially after what happened in Kunduz?

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**Dr Joanne Liu, International President,  
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)**

*(Original English throughout)*

That is the question. Thank you very much for asking. I think for us, when we work in those different contexts, we have to negotiate our space, explain who we are and our principles of action, which are neutrality, impartiality and independence. Basically, our work and our humanity are anchored in medical ethics. We treat everybody regardless of where they come from, their political affiliation or their religion. Basically, wherever we work, war stops at the gate of our hospital. So we treat children, we treat parents and we treat wounded combatants. At times, a wounded combatant might be someone who you perceive as an enemy, but this is where we are dealing and discussing and negotiating will all parties, wherever we work.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent  
and anchor), moderator**

But how do you prevent something like Kunduz from happening again? Because war may stop at the gate of the hospital for you, but it does not stop for the combatants necessarily. You need assurances from the parties.

**Dr Joanne Liu, International President,  
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)**

Yes, this is exactly it. So we are negotiating assurances. With respect to exactly what happened in Kunduz, we are in a difficult situation right now because we are trying to understand what happened and what led to this air strike. There has been an investigation and we have been given a different explanation – a cascade of errors. And we do understand a cascade of errors. What we have more difficulty in understanding is how we are going to prevent occurrences again. And for us, what is at the core and what is at stake right now with what happened in Kunduz – and what happened in Syria with a dozen hospitals being bombed over the month of October, and what happened in Hraytan recently in Syria – is the fact that we have to ensure that hospitals are being protected in war zones. We have to ensure that access to health care is maintained. This is based on basic medical ethics. This is something we've been upholding but it's also inscribed in international humanitarian law, which we call "the rules of war".

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent  
and anchor), moderator**

General Shirreff, I know you haven't read the report – in fact it's classified – on Kunduz, and we don't want to necessarily focus on one case, but how do you make sure, in a situation like Afghanistan where there are air strikes, that you are not targeting the wrong facility? It appears as though in 2015 we are still having major issues in that sense, and humanitarian workers are concerned – and rightfully so – that they are not being protected.

**Sir Richard Shirreff, former NATO Deputy  
Supreme Allied Commander for Europe.**

*(Original English throughout)*

Well, clearly the dreadful incident in Kunduz is something that ... it has been the most ghastly mistake and it's absolutely incumbent I think on the military to understand and establish linkages, communications with all actors in what you might call the "problem space". I think therefore this means at times working as closely as you can with other players. But I think the military also recognises that organizations like MSF, like ICRC, for whom neutrality is a fundamental principle of protection, cannot be seen to be too close. And the military need to respect that. But at the same time, in order to create that humanitarian space, I think there need to be channels of communication. That doesn't necessarily mean that neutrality is compromised, but it does allow for understanding and awareness to prevent precisely this sort of incident. And of course it also requires very, very precise targeting from the military perspective; it requires assurances that what is being contemplated meets legal requirements and meets the strictest criterion of minimizing collateral damage. Now this is actually, in a sense, in the military's interest as well because the nature of conflict requires the military in the 21st century to subject everything they do to a key criterion, which is, "What impact is what we're about to do going to have on the minds of the people among whom we are operating?" Because if the military alienate the people among whom they are operating, they are gifting the advantage to their adversary.



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**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

We'll look at the potential role of the military in humanitarian relief operations, which of course is not the primary mission of the military, but can be utilized in that way. We'll look at that in a moment, but Ms Gailani, you want to add something to this?

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President, Afghan Red Crescent**

Earlier I said that accepting the neutrality of the Red Cross Red Crescent, or Médecins Sans Frontières, is a clap, as we say in our Afghan proverb. It has to be two hands. We cannot just shout that we are neutral, it has to be recognized; it has to be accepted by governments also. It is something that governments signed up to; it is not something that we invented yesterday. It is something that has been signed up to by all the States that are party to the Geneva Conventions. They have signed up to that and they have to be very mindful and careful of that.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

But of course there's a leap between a document you sign and one you respect. Dr Liu, you wanted to add something to this.

**Dr Joanne Liu, International President, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)**

I just want to make a clarification in that everywhere we work – in the 63 different countries where we are intervening, with 35,000 people across the world – we are working and we are talking with everybody and we have channels of communication, so we are not in an isolated island in our hospital, we are engaging with people. Just to be clear, Kunduz was opened after two years of negotiations explaining who we were and what our principle of operation was, so it was a really well-known centre that was caring for more than 20,000 people on a yearly basis in the emergency room, with more than a dozen physicians and surgeons. We were the trauma centre for the northeast of Afghanistan. We were the lifeline for people who were injured. That's what we were offering. And so people knew what we were doing and people were also discussing with us from other different parties and everybody thought that being treated in Kunduz was safe.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

I think many of you may have seen this image of emergency health-care workers and surgeons in Kunduz treating their own colleagues on makeshift operating tables – real heroism there from the MSF workers, which is something that struck a chord around the world.

Let's talk a little bit about what could come concretely out of this gathering, which happens every four years. It is a rare event, so it is one that can – and I believe should – be used to discuss practical and tangible objectives, one of which may be a step in the direction of establishing a resolution that would get States together on a yearly basis to discuss compliance with international humanitarian law. Some States are not necessarily on the same page. Do you think, General, that such a resolution, and that bringing States together to discuss compliance with this important aspect of international law, which is humanitarian law, would make a difference in our current environment?

**Sir Richard Shirreff, former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander for Europe.**

I think so; I think without question because I think that what we see in the current environment is increasing chaos, increasing anarchy, increasing conflict – and there's a paradox here, as a military man – but if the scourge of conflict is to be controlled, it has to be subjected to international humanitarian law.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

But who is going to respect this? You have non-State actors, you have terrorist groups – they are the ones sometimes establishing the agenda in conflict zones; they're not the ones who are going to sign any documents and respect rules, are they?

**Sir Richard Shirreff, former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander for Europe.**

No, absolutely not. But in that case I think you highlight the challenge, and in a sense the essence of what you are saying is how do you control war, how you do prevent war. I think my argument would be that you prevent war by being strong and by preventing, and in order to prevent conflict you need

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to be able to deter conflict, to make the consequences of conflict too terrible to contemplate and therefore to find resolution through political, diplomatic and other means. Now that is easier said than done in a world of non-State actors, of course, but sometimes you need to fight and that is something that in order to protect liberty, democracy, the rule of law, democracies need to be prepared to stand up to fight against dictatorships and anarchistic non-State groups in order to look for a way of finding peace because we live in an imperfect world.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

I mentioned non-State actors, but sometimes it is governments themselves that are just as deadly towards their own citizens – we see it in Syria for instance. Do you think that a resolution coming out of a conference such as this one, establishing some sort of yearly gathering, would make a difference? In terms of having State and non-State actors respect international humanitarian law?

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President, Afghan Red Crescent**

Well that is why this Conference is so important. That's why I say that, for me, it is the Conference. Because we are all here. Governments are here, the National Societies and parties like Médecins Sans Frontières and other people who are working in the humanitarian field are here. And that's why it is so important that these resolutions should be taken seriously. We must see it from a totally humanitarian point of view, not political, because if we look at the resolution from a political point of view, I don't think we will achieve anything. That's why it is very important that we look at it and take it seriously and not leave it for years and years to come, and that we pass this resolution and help.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

Now we've been discussing conflict a lot because, of course, it's in the news most, but one of the biggest news stories of the year – and I am of course a journalist – is what happened with the Ebola epidemic. MSF was very much involved; the Red Cross as well. Let me ask you a little bit about what the biggest challenge is for an organization like MSF in responding to Ebola, as an example.

**Dr Joanne Liu, International President, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)**

I will answer this question, but I just want to bridge something because with regard to the outcome of this meeting and compliance with IHL and the rules of war and international humanitarian law, is that good enough? You know, being MSF, of course it's not good enough. I think that we have our own shared humanity, which means that we believe that there are rules of war – this is something that we have been upholding for the last 150 years and it's anchored in medical ethics – so what I would like from you is much more than self-reporting on compliance with IHL; it's reaffirmation of IHL. This is what I am looking for because it is what allows me, my organization, to work in war zones. That's really important. That's what brings humanity into the chaos of war. So when we talk about our shared humanity, what will create the Power of Humanity is to uphold and reaffirm that there are rules of war. So I guess it's in your hands.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

So a reaffirmation of the rules of war, of international humanitarian law as a founding principle of humanitarian work. That message I think has been heard loud and clear. But let me ask you a little bit about – just so we get to other needs around the world in terms of humanitarian response – your wonderful organization MSF is dealing with epidemics, with disease, for instance with Ebola. Talk to us about the biggest challenge in terms of your organization's response.

**Dr Joanne Liu, International President, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)**

I think the biggest challenge we faced with Ebola was to get the world to pay attention, to get you to pay attention. And it took us more than six months to mount an international response. So we went through what I call "global indifference" for the first six months, to global fear, when we finally got cases repatriated to the West or the North, and then finally to a global response. So the challenge is not to find out that an Ebola epidemic is happening, and then that it is different, because we have the alert system and surveillance and are probably going to reinforce it with the international health regulations over the next few years. But our challenge is to find, in all the States around the world, the political will to respond to this kind of epidemic. It took us several lethal

months to convince the world that this was different, and it was only when the whole world was paying attention that we could put a term to that epidemic.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

This is one of the biggest issues I think you all face as well, which is: how do you decide how to prioritize? There is always a need everywhere. How do you prioritize funds, how do you prioritize attention? Do you respond to the crisis that gets the most news attention? Why did you cover this and not that? Why do you pay attention to this and not that? We wanted you to do this, but you did the other thing: I am sure that there are always, in terms of humanitarian response, the same type of questions.

Let me ask you [Ms Gailani], with regard to the non-conflict issues that Afghanistan faces. You mentioned earthquakes; of course there is disease as well. What kind of a challenge do you face there? You don't just have the Government, you have the non-State actors, you have the Taliban and now you have ISIS vying for control of certain parts of your country, like it wasn't enough that you had the other issues. What's your biggest concern there?

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President, Afghan Red Crescent**

Well, I always envy those countries that have priorities. If you ask me what is a priority for me in our work, I will not be able to tell you because there are too many. We have to carry on. We have to stick to our principles. And let's hope for the best, that others need us and that they will also respect our way of working. But it is not guaranteed at all. So far we have been very lucky. But in Syria, the Syrian volunteers haven't been lucky, they were targeted. We were not targeted. If any of our volunteers lost their lives it was because of crossfire or a mine or something. But my fear will always be, "how can I protect my young volunteers?" Tens of thousands of them. That's why this Conference is important. That's why it is important that at least governments and National Societies put their acts together. Don't forget, even the opposition have to make sure people are not angry with them, if not happy. We are needed, food is needed, shelter is needed. When there is an earthquake, the earthquake doesn't recognize what political orientation is in your head – it will strike you. So they need us and we will be there to serve.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

Let me ask you, General – of course, as we mentioned, the primary mission of the military is not to assist humanitarian aid deliveries or make it easier for doctors to reach field hospitals, etc., but what can the role of the military be in humanitarian responses?

**Sir Richard Shirreff, former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander for Europe.**

I think the military has a lot to offer. It can respond very quickly with units that are of the right sort of readiness.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

Can you give us examples?

**Sir Richard Shirreff, former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander for Europe.**

Well, in the event of an earthquake, for example, what the military can do is provide an immediate response with transport, helicopters, to reach communities that are cut off. They can bring medical teams in, they can set up field hospitals, they can bring in other logistic supplies – food, blankets, etc., shelter. And of course, as well as all that, the military have the means of communication with the military communication frameworks that are established. So I think the military can do a great deal. But, bearing in mind of course that it's not their specialist task, there are many organizations that do this professionally, so I would see this very much as being in support.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

So in conflict situations it's tricky, because aid organizations are not going to want to be seen as working with one side versus another, but in natural disasters or medical emergencies it's easier, is it not?

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**Sir Richard Shirreff, former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander for Europe.**

I think so, yes. But nevertheless, I think the military will still need to respect and understand the roles and that humanitarian space. But it comes back to – and picking up a point that Joanne made earlier – the onus lies with the military to understand, to communicate. And I think you touched on the point earlier about the extent to which you had communicated the location of Kunduz. Everybody knew what was there. That strikes me as being a failure within – and I don't want to prejudge any inquiries or anything – but I sense that that is probably a dysfunction within a military headquarters.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

If I can just add – maybe our audience is not aware – that not only was the location communicated after the first strike, there was a call put out and then a further four strikes hit the facility. So, it was not just pre-communicated, it was communicated during the bombing. So, at that point, it's just really – we have not seen the report because it's classified – but this one's a hard one to understand.

But back to the military, have you ever [Dr Liu], at MSF, functioned with the help of or alongside or using some sort of logistical support from the military?

**Dr Joanne Liu, International President, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)**

For me, I think the interesting question is to find out where the complementarity lies in different crises. Ebola is a very good example because we've called upon many people. And I would like now to just mention the immense contribution of the International Federation in terms of, day in day out, being there to offer dignified funerals in West Africa – more than 20,000 funerals. That has been unrecognized to a certain extent. And that contributed as well to what I call our shared humanity, so that's one thing that really needs to be commended. I think that, in terms of the military – because we are asked that over and over again. Just to remind people that when we addressed the UN General Assembly on 2 September 2014, we were the ones who asked for the deployment of civilian and military assets of biohazard competencies. I've often been misquoted because people say I asked for military intervention – no, we asked for military assets to be deployed

because our bet back then was that we needed a huge workforce that could be deployed readily with a good chain of command, which somehow knew and understood how to handle infectious diseases. So that was our calculation. It didn't work out completely how we wanted, but the reality is that we know that the military can offer air bridge; we know that they could have offered to evacuate our staff in a safe way. So, there is some complementarity. And yet, of course, in natural disasters complementarity might be a bit easier.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

So, we've talked about conflict, we've talked about epidemics, let's talk a little bit about natural disasters. I remember being extremely impressed, by the way, I was telling you, Dr Joanne Liu, about how much of a fan of MSF I was, and still am – it was their work during the Haiti earthquake and other natural disasters as well. So let's talk a little bit about that. At what point do the authorities, do those people who should be helping, actually become a hindrance, and why? And what needs to be done to fix that problem?

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President, Afghan Red Crescent**

Well, it is very important that the auxiliary role of the National Society be taken seriously. In those countries where it is taken seriously, we can really do wonders. Our new ambassador sitting there, she used to be the Minister of Public Health. Together we really went after, for example, polio. We tried so hard and we succeeded. The same thing goes for natural disasters. The Government wouldn't hesitate to say that these are places that we cannot go because of conflict; here is the National Society, go according to your rules and regulations. So much so that at the recent meeting we had regarding the earthquake – every day we have some sort of natural disaster in Afghanistan – we had a meeting regarding the earthquake in Badakhshan and one of the governors said, "I ordered the Afghan Red Crescent Society to do that". The President of the country said, "Mr Governor, we don't order National Societies, we request them". For me, that was huge, it was wonderful, because then the message went out to everyone that we are there, we are auxiliary. And the role of the auxiliary should not be misunderstood. We are not slaves, we just complement.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

I'm looking down at my notes here because we have some questions suggested by all of you [the audience]. I'm going to read some of them out rather than going to the audience. Interestingly, we heard from the head of Philips and – we were discussing earlier – an interesting development in the United States is that labour law, parental leave, all these very important social developments, are in fact being pioneered within corporations rather than from the top down from the federal Government. Can corporations, even though they are the private sector – they're for profit, obviously that's what they do – can corporations, and Dr Liu I'm going to ask you this, take part in a humanitarian response in an efficient way that you think can be used in the non-profit sphere, and if so, how?

**Dr Joanne Liu, International President, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)**

We're always afraid to be asked certain questions, and I guess this is one of them. With regard to the private sector, I think that where I stand with respect to that – and this is something that I said over and over again with respect to Ebola – is that you cannot leave the Ebola response to the private sector. And this is what we saw with Ebola, initially there were entities like the Federation, ministries of health, but there were private entities as well. And it cannot be only international non-governmental organizations like MSF that take the lead in the response to Ebola; that just doesn't make sense. My take on this is that health, as far as I am concerned, is a public good and so if it is a public good, it is a public responsibility. Therefore, the private sector, MSF, philanthropists, any socially responsible foundation of a company cannot be responsible per se for health. It is government that is responsible for the health of citizens. And so they can contribute, but States cannot be let off the hook. That's their responsibility. Health is a public responsibility.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

And you [General Shirreff] had something to add to this?

**Sir Richard Shirreff, former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander for Europe.**

I think this is a really important topic actually, the role of the private sector not only in humanitarian situations but also more widely in contributing to stability. And I think the answer is absolutely that the private sector has a role to play – perhaps not in the lead, but it certainly has a role to play. I think the CEO of Philips said it very clearly, that it is about a partnership – and of course this highlights the importance of the wider aspect of partnerships, not only between government organizations, humanitarian organizations, but private organizations as well and the need to find ways to build unity of purpose, in order to ensure that there is a common effort. And I think that the wider aspect here is the contribution to stability in fragile parts of the world as well. So I think very definitely, the private sector has a role to play. And it's in the private sector's role, it's in its interest, because through the resolution and amelioration of humanitarian disasters, humanitarian relief bringing stability, prosperity can follow and flourish, through the application of the private sector. So, I think that one can create a virtuous circle as a result.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

General Shirreff, one for you as well – this is coming to us from Facebook – the use of sexual violence as a tool of war. Let me ask you how you as a military man believe that this can be confronted. What needs to happen there? Because it's becoming more and more of a problem.

**Sir Richard Shirreff, former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander for Europe.**

Well it absolutely must be confronted. It is a war crime; it must be broadcast as a war crime and the perpetrators must be brought to book and punished ruthlessly, frankly. Because it is utterly abhorrent. And I say this for two reasons really. One is because morally, self-evidently, it is an absolute abomination, but secondly, it's also in the interests of the military to pursue this because it goes back to the point about support for the people among whom we're operating. And I know, for example, that NATO takes this very, very seriously under UN Security Council resolution – I think it's resolution 1325. Through the deployment of gender advisers and ensuring that the whole business of countering sexual and gender-based

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violence is incorporated into operational plans and that troops operating are made aware of the issues concerned.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

This is certainly becoming more and more of a problem, brought to our attention more and more often it seems. By the way, I wanted to recognize that the Austrian Red Cross was the one with question on the private corporation's role. So it is of interest to all of our delegations here.

Let's see, I'm going to select another one here... from Kyrgyzstan. Yes, this is from your delegation. Question to you Ms Gailani. Do you think that humanity is challenged more than ever in today's conflicts compared to 20th century ones? And the good thing is, you have this historical kind of approach to your country in particular, but also to others in the region. Would you say that, or is that too grand a statement?

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President, Afghan Red Crescent**

Well it is a big statement, but definitely, look at our world. From only a few years ago to today, there is a huge difference. Every day you see a conflict or a problem in a new country. I mean, some of these countries I visited only 10 years ago and you didn't even see a sign of the problems we see now. It has become very difficult. That's why it is important that in meetings like today's, we have to put our acts together to prepare ourselves and to be ready and understand the different roles – the roles of the humanitarian workers, the role of the army, the role of the governments. And we should not step on each other's toes; it is very important.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

I'm going to ask each one of you – I'll end with you, Sir [General Shirreff], but I'm going to start with Dr Liu, because this is something of interest to me – what would you say to someone in their 20s, starting out, thinking, "I would like to make a difference as a humanitarian". Knowing what you know today, if you could speak to your 20-something self, what would your primary piece of advice be? Keeping in mind the theme of the Conference, the Power of Humanity.

**Dr Joanne Liu, International President, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)**

I think if I were to talk to a young fellow who wants to do humanitarian work, or wants to be involved in a humanitarian endeavour, I think that the first thing I would say is, "make sure that you know what you are doing it for" because humanitarian aid work, or being involved in humanitarian aid, is not about you; it is about caring and assisting people in need. It's not about self-promotion, it's not about your self-defining goal; it's about selfless and dis-interested action towards people who need it the most. So, if you can think about that and never become cynical and never get used to death – because what I find a pity right now in the humanitarian aid landscape is the fact that because tragic events repeat themselves we normalize what is abnormal. We normalize the fact that a hospital gets bombed, we normalize the fact that a woman gets raped, we normalize the fact that a child cannot go and celebrate his fifth birthday because he doesn't have access to a normal vaccine. This is abnormal. This is what we need to fight. So you should fight what is abnormal if you want to become a humanitarian.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

Right, and if I could ask you [Ms Gailani] the same as well.

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President, Afghan Red Crescent**

It's very similar really. I talk to young people every day, because we have to attract young people to come and be our volunteers. Not just for them, but for myself, there are a lot of times that I'm scared I'll get used to misery.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

And do you?

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President,  
Afghan Red Crescent**

No, thank God, but – as you said, Doctor – I have to remind myself that this is not normal. Being hungry is not normal, not having a doctor is not normal, not having clean water to drink is absolutely not normal. Those people who live in privileged countries and have all this – schools, walking in the street without fear of mines – this is normal. I want normal for my people too.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent  
and anchor), moderator**

But what would you say to some of the volunteers listening?

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President,  
Afghan Red Crescent**

This is what I am saying to all young volunteers in here and in my own country: that this Power of Humanity is not just a slogan; it is powerful and it is important and the difference they make in this world is huge. We ordinary people should not take it for granted.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent  
and anchor), moderator**

Okay, and General, as we mentioned several times, it is not the military's primary mission or purpose to deliver humanitarian aid or assistance. However, if you had to address some of the volunteers, some of the delegations here as a military – or an ex-military as I should say now – commander, what would you say?

**Sir Richard Shirreff, former NATO Deputy  
Supreme Allied Commander for Europe.**

I think I would say that, paradoxically there are parallels. I would ask – going back to your question – I think that I would ask two questions. Number one is, “do you really have a vocation for this work?” Because if you don't have a vocation, you're in the wrong business. And only you can know that, and that will come from deep inside you. In my world, it means that you want to serve – and let's be clear about it, you want to serve your country, you want to serve your soldiers, and you want to do that for the

benefit of your people and your country. So I think that's the first thing. Do you really have a vocation for this? I think the second question I would ask, or the second thing I would point out, is that, in a way, the more you give – and you are going to be asked to give everything, potentially, and there are sadly too many humanitarians who have given their lives for what they do, as well as soldiers of course – but the more you give, the more you're going to get back in terms of, just so much satisfaction from the people alongside whom you serve; they will you give you much, much more than you could ever hope to give back in return.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent  
and anchor), moderator**

Dr Joanne Liu, you made it quite clear what you would like to see emerge from this Conference. But Ms Gailani, I'm going to ask you the same question. If, at the conclusion of all this, one thing could emerge – and you can address the National Societies here – what would that one thing be?

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President,  
Afghan Red Crescent**

Because this is a conference where governments and humanitarian workers are sitting together, I want to tell governments what a huge difference they can make, if they make life easier for us, let us really stick to our principles – and they should respect our principles – that we will be a part of them, a proper auxiliary to them. Without them we could not exist. So, it is very important that governments should take us seriously and take our rules, Fundamental Principles and our way of working seriously.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent  
and anchor), moderator**

For this particular gathering, is there anything that you were hopeful for?

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President,  
Afghan Red Crescent**

The resolutions, of course. We are desperate for these resolutions to be finalized and to be adopted, because it is not just for us, it is really for those young people that are in the field and are doing a fantastic job. And we should not put them in danger.

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**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

So you're talking about a resolution that would truly establish a framework to get States together to comply with international humanitarian law?

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President, Afghan Red Crescent**

These resolutions have to be adopted by both governments and National Societies. It is very important.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

I believe we have just a few minutes left so I'll give an opportunity to anyone in the audience who would like to ask a question – not make a statement, but to ask a question. Is there anyone who would like to put a question to one of our panellists? Don't be shy. I can sense that someone is hesitating, thinking, "I don't know, should I get up?" Anyone at all?

Okay, we're going to end this then, and I want each one of you to tell us, essentially, the message that you would like to bring to this Conference today. And then we'll wrap it up. By the way, we do have a video as well, so hopefully you'll stay for that. Dr Liu, go ahead.

**Dr Joanne Liu, International President, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)**

Well I think that my plea to you now is really that you reaffirm that we have a shared humanity together, which means that health-care access in war zones is protected, and that hospitals ambulances, staff, caregivers and patients are protected in war zones. It is vital that we reaffirm that. It's what makes a difference between life and death at the front line, for MSF, for the Red Cross, for all humanitarian aid workers. So, I trust that you will have a strong resolution. My belief is because we saw it with international humanitarian law, self-reporting doesn't work. So, you need to reaffirm it and uphold it. Thank you very much.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

Okay, thank you Dr Liu.

**Ms Fatima Gailani, President, Afghan Red Crescent**

I think I made my last comments when I spoke earlier, but one thing I could add is that today we should not just see ourselves as a Red Cross/Red Crescent person or a government person, we should see ourselves as human beings. As humanity, as human beings, our responsibility towards the world that we want to leave behind for our children – let's make it bigger and better and open, with all of us in one good world, with the Power of Humanity.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

All right, Ms Gailani, thank you very much. General Shirreff?

**Sir Richard Shirreff, former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander for Europe.**

Well I think, in a sense, reaffirming the Power of Humanity, I think that my message would be the importance of partnership. Whatever we do alone is not as important as what we can do together. And clearly here there is an entirely humanitarian focus, a humanitarian conference, but there are other organizations that are there to support and focus on the importance of humanity as well.

**Ms Hala Gorani, (CNN correspondent and anchor), moderator**

All right. Ms Fatima Gailani, thank you very much, Dr Joanne Liu, General Richard Shirreff, thank you very much to all three of you for taking part in this panel. I'm Hala Gorani. Once again thanks to all of you for being here and for listening.



## 4.7 SECOND PLENARY MEETING: GENERAL DEBATE

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### Tuesday, 8 December 2015

(3.00 p.m.)

#### Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference

(Original English)

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, good afternoon. Before we start the general debate, I would like to remind you that the Drafting Committee, the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab, as well as two commissions on health care in danger and sexual and gender-based violence are working in parallel with this session. If you want to go to those panels, please do go now, slowly, so that we can start our work. I also remind you that no delegations will be allowed to engage in political, racial, religious or ideological controversy, as stated in Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Statutes of the Movement.

I will give the floor in the order delegations have registered. I currently have 89 delegations on the list. As I mentioned this morning, statements are limited to three minutes, unless you speak on behalf of a group or on behalf of a State. If that is the case, then kindly say so before speaking, so the time can be assigned accordingly. I will make sure that the time is assigned exactly as promised.

#### H.R.H. Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, Honorary President, The Netherlands Red Cross

(Original English)

We have three days, we have three themes, and we have three minutes to address them all. We only have one occasion to come together as the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with our governments, every four years, under the main theme the Power

of Humanity, based on the Fundamental Principles that guide us. Humanity figures there first, in the seven principles. Far too many numbers with ever so many zeros describe the masses of victims, refugees and other vulnerable people who are dependent on our willingness and readiness to reach out to them.

The global environment facing us, with natural disasters, armed conflicts and other crises, sometimes simultaneously, is becoming more and more multifaceted and complex. We are confronted every day with increased dangers for our volunteers and staff, less safety and less access to the victims of these complex crises. Often we find ourselves lost as to how to cope with them. We cannot always avoid or prevent these hazards by risk reduction, by building resilience and by other preventive means, such as those we are discussing here at this Conference. We owe it to all these people in acute need to look for solutions and to do better and reach further. We have to work on humanitarian innovations, not least to provide the most basic safety net we can to vulnerable people.

The overriding issue we need to address here is humanitarian law in action and the Fundamental Principles in action; indeed, they can be a fierce antidote to violence. It is not about paper, it is about people, it is about practice, and we share this responsibility together: our Movement and our governments. We are the guardians of the Geneva Conventions, of humanity itself, when it is in its most fragile state. One hundred and ninety-six States have signed and ratified the Conventions. Respect for and compliance with these rules can save lives.

The ICRC, the International Federation, National Societies – that makes three of us. As auxiliaries to our governments, that makes four of us. “4 2gether” we can make things happen to make this troubled world a better place, to create a future for a more humane world. Let us work for that in this short

time frame, not only for ourselves, but also for future generations. It is our joint responsibility: “together” we care. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Carlos Castaneda, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador**

*(Original Spanish)*

Distinguished government and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society delegates,

On behalf of the Government of El Salvador, I would like to express our satisfaction at taking part in this 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which will give us a chance to reflect on the “power of humanity” and the “Fundamental Principles in action”. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the conference organizers for the warm hospitality and friendship shown to my delegation during our stay in this beautiful city of Geneva.

Here at this meeting today, the Government of El Salvador wishes to underline the high priority it gives to matters of international humanitarian law, as evidenced by the fact that it became party to the four Geneva Conventions in 1952 and to their Additional Protocols in 1978, affirming the nation’s commitment to protecting the victims of armed conflict and regulating the conduct of hostilities.

Subsequently, on 4 February 1997, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs met with various ministerial departments and the Salvadorean Red Cross Society, with a view to improving coordination in this sphere and creating a national body for the implementation of international humanitarian law.

As a result of these efforts, the Interinstitutional Committee on International Humanitarian Law of El Salvador was set up in that same year. The main purpose of the committee is to advise the Government of El Salvador on the measures required to implement and disseminate international humanitarian law conventions and protocols and on the national and international rules in force, with a view to fulfilling its obligations acquired under international humanitarian law, particularly in relation to the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols of 1977.

By ratifying the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954 and its Protocols, El Salvador undertook to

safeguard cultural property during armed conflict and to take measures in peacetime to prepare for its protection, which involves identifying and marking cultural property with the protective emblem, a “blue shield”. In 2002, the National Culture and Art Council (CONCULTURA) – now the Department of Culture of the President’s Office – submitted its proposal to UNESCO for the first phase of the marking of cultural property with the “blue shield”, which was subsequently implemented in six of the country’s municipalities.

In 2009, work started on phase two, for which funding was also provided by UNESCO. The project was managed and implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The methodology used in phase one to mark cultural property was updated for phase two. It involved establishing networks of local contacts, providing training and implementing activities to raise awareness about cultural property.

Given El Salvador’s firm commitment to strengthening international humanitarian law, my delegation hopes that the outcomes of this 32nd International Conference serve to improve compliance with this body of law. At the end of the conference, we hope to see the adoption of a number of resolutions on subjects of vital importance, such as combating sexual and gender-based violence, protecting the delivery of health care, strengthening legal frameworks to manage and reduce the risks posed by natural disasters and supporting the safety of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers. El Salvador devotes special attention to all these questions at this and other high-level events, such as those held within the United States system and other international organizations. Thank you very much for your attention.

**H.E. Ms Pamela Hamamoto, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the United States of America in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Today there are millions of victims of conflict and natural disaster across the globe who urgently need assistance and who are receiving that assistance from workers and volunteers who wear the Movement’s emblems. The United States of America has profound respect for every component of the Movement, and we are so grateful for the tireless work of its National Societies, volunteer staff and the leadership that oversees their work. For people on the ground, they are often the difference between life and death. The

role of the ICRC as an independent and impartial intermediary and humanitarian partner remains unparalleled. The organization's capacity to address complex and unpredictable situations is routinely tested, even stretched, but always proven crucial.

The world has not become a better, safer, more equitable place since we last met. Four years ago, nobody envisaged the magnitude of the humanitarian tragedy in Syria. Four years ago, nobody predicted that the conflict in Iraq would stretch our conception of how we deliver humanitarian assistance as the needs continue to grow. The barbarism that the terrorist group ISIL so willingly imposes on the civilian population in these areas only makes it harder to respond to humanitarian needs with any true impact, but conflict and strife are not unique to the Middle East. The suffering from the treachery in South Sudan, the plight of the Afghans to be free from the Taliban and millions of people streaming to Europe in an effort to flee conflict all reinforce the fact that the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement remains more necessary and more relevant than ever before. That is why we are all here today, to celebrate and explore the Power of Humanity: the Fundamental Principles in Action, the theme of this year's Conference and the guiding precept of our collective action. We celebrate these principles as the ideals that set us apart from those who seek to destroy and tear down all that is decent and good.

Humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality, these are all the tenets by which the Movement operates; they are the pillars of what it means to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need. But celebrating these principles is not enough. We need to reaffirm and renew our shared commitment to their universality and to fight for their implementation.

The United States of America reiterates its commitment to the principles of international humanitarian law. We look forward to negotiating a set of resolutions that prioritize the State-led nature of its development in every area. As we noted at the 31st International Conference, because customary law derives not from aspirational pronouncements, but rather from State practice, it remains important that the development of international humanitarian law should continue to be led by States.

In closing, Madam Chair, the United States Government is pleased to participate in this 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. We value the work of the Conference and the partnership that is demonstrated by those States

and National Societies that engage in it so robustly. There is no greater need for clarity and unity of purpose than right now, when we are truly living in the most trying of times. Thank you very much.

**H.R.H. Maria Teresa, Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, President of the Luxembourg Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

I wish to say how grateful I am to participate in this Conference at a crucial moment in the life of our Movement, of which the Luxembourg Red Cross, over which I have the honour of presiding, is a motivated and active member.

As time is short, I would really like to speak about one theme that is particularly important to me. I read with great interest the engagements and pledges our Movement is making to further the protection of victims and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in all circumstances, especially in armed conflicts. I do want to emphasize that while women are the first victims, they are also the first not to be considered when the process of reconstruction begins. Clearly, women still lack direct influence when it comes to the identification of reconstruction priorities that are part of standard peace agreements. We need to involve them more actively in all our efforts, as it is they who are the essential actors in rebuilding post-conflict and post-disaster societies, from the family unit all the way up to the reconstruction of a safe and economically prosperous environment at country level.

I would like us to go beyond conventional images of women as victims of war and consider the important input a woman can contribute to translating individual grievances into legitimate social concerns. Moreover, many of them play significant roles in building a new culture of peace at the local level by reorganizing families and communities, relaunching economic activity and promoting peace and education in community-based reconciliation. We can no longer afford to bypass women in the peace-making process, in the making of peace treaties and in policymaking on the prevention and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence.

The National Society that I represent has a major impact in our national territory, yet it is important to me that we contribute as efficiently as possible to the global efforts of the Movement. As a small National Society, Luxembourg believes that by focusing on

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one very specific task of the relief efforts in crisis situations, as we are currently facing at the borders of Europe through the migrant crisis, we are able to share the burden and help provide an important asset.

When entering this wonderful venue, you probably noticed the Red Cross shelter mounted at the entrance. This shelter, conceived specifically for low temperatures, is the result of thorough studies by the IFRC Shelter Research Unit, a collaboration among the Netherlands Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent Society and Luxembourg Red Cross. I would like to invite you all to have a look and share your thoughts and comments with the research team, and I would like to thank our partners of the Shelter Research Unit for this successful cooperation.

We have enormous capabilities within our Movement, but it is essential to develop our networking capacity in order to take advantage of everyone's skills. We therefore support initiatives and resolutions that strengthen our joint ability to meet the enormous humanitarian challenges we face. It is, I believe, important to draw the maximum attention to these initiatives, whether they operate at the level of resource mobilization or concrete actions on the ground. Thank you very much for your attention.

**H.E. Ms Dato' Sri Rohani Abdul Karim,  
Ambassador, Minister of Women, Family  
and Community Development of Malaysia**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, Your Royal Highnesses, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as we convene at the 32nd International Conference, we do so against the backdrop of a global, political and natural environment that is increasingly challenging, hostile and dangerous. Whether due to natural or human-made causes, the suffering is all too real, affecting larger and larger numbers of people and in wider geographical locations around the world. What will appear over the horizon is yet unclear, but the prognosis is not bright, both in terms of human conflicts and natural disasters. Thus, there is an urgent need for us to be prepared. Humanity is being tested but, as stated in the overarching theme of this Conference, the Power of Humanity: the Fundamental Principles in Action, we will show that humanity is still rational and reasonable, and this will result in our resilience. That humanity will continue to underline our work, whether as States parties, National Societies, the International Federation or

the ICRC. We will ensure that humanity as a whole prevails. The Movement's Fundamental Principles – humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality – remain as relevant as ever. We must affirm our commitment to these principles. We must translate our discourse into effective and meaningful action on the ground. We must not disappoint those in need. We must learn from the mistakes of current and recent events, so as not to repeat them in the future.

Malaysia continues to do its part to assist the international community. We have extended humanitarian assistance in terms of financial assistance, material support, search and rescue and the deployment of medical teams to various countries. We are also one of the six locations hosting a United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot. Easing suffering and supporting humanity cannot be done by the governments alone. Collective will and collective action are needed. Malaysia takes a pragmatic approach, recognizing various forms of partnerships, whether government-to-government or people-to-people, as well as working with civil society and non-governmental actors. These include working with the participation of non-governmental organizations such as Mercy Malaysia, the Global Peace Mission of Malaysia, Aman Malaysia and the Malaysian Red Crescent Society. Like other countries, we too have faced natural disasters. Earlier this year, the east coast of peninsular Malaysia experienced one of the worst episodes of flooding for the past 20 years. We were able to alleviate and overcome this calamity through these partnerships. We take this opportunity to thank the IFRC for their support and assistance and all the National Societies that have offered their support and have contributed to the ongoing rebuilding process.

With the scale of suffering continuing and expanding, particularly in the context of the situations and scope of armed conflict, the strengthening of international humanitarian law has become essential. A rational and systematic approach is required – guided by non-politicization and non-contextualization and combating inertia – which is universal, impartial and non-selective. This Conference will be discussing this important matter, and we look forward to a favourable consensus outcome. No doubt there will be essential and fundamental, yet difficult, questions, which need to be addressed and resolved, so we urge all delegations to exert their political will and effort to make this a reality. While further work is needed to prepare for the proposed meeting of States parties, we urge all delegations to look positively at this proposal, not as an end in itself, but as a means to

further strengthen our commitment to international humanitarian law.

There is much important work ahead of this Conference, and I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as Chair. I assure you of Malaysia's full support. We look forward to engaging constructively with all delegations in this Conference. Let us continue to work together and prepare for a better future. Thank you very much.

**H.E. Dr Helmut Tichy, Ambassador, Legal Advisor of the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, Austria welcomes the intention of the 32nd International Conference to reaffirm the seven Fundamental Principles as the foundation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's values and practices. The Fundamental Principles, proclaimed at the International Conference in Vienna in 1965, continue to guide the work and decisions of all components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In today's world, international humanitarian law is confronted by many serious challenges: its brutal disregard by certain non-State actors, the destruction of cultural heritage, attacks against protected persons and institutions and also a persisting vagueness concerning the relationship between the rules of IHL and of international human rights law. For many years, Austria has been strongly supporting efforts towards a better implementation of IHL and the creation of a special mechanism for that purpose. We were actively engaged in the process following the adoption of Resolution 1 at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and welcome the significant progress made during the last four years. We must now seize the opportunity to close the institutional gap and pave the way for the establishment of a regular meeting of States on IHL. We support the draft resolution on strengthening compliance with IHL, which constitutes a well-balanced text, although we would have liked to see additional substantive elements included in it. We also strongly support the draft resolution concerning the protection of persons deprived of their liberty in non-international armed conflicts, which, after long discussions, proposes a more outcome-oriented process.

On two issues, which are of special interest to Austria, we are co-hosting side events, together with other States and National Societies. The first concerns the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Generally, when such weapons are used in cities and urban areas, about 90 per cent of all victims are civilians. This is unacceptable. Austria recently hosted an international expert meeting in Vienna and is ready to continue to work with other interested actors towards a political commitment to reduce the negative humanitarian impact of explosive weapons on the civilian population. The second side event concerns the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, on which the international community is refocusing its attention, in view of the humanitarian consequences and the risks associated with this type of weapon.

To conclude, let me mention that, as we speak, Austria is facing tremendous challenges as a result of the influx of refugees and migrants from Syria, Afghanistan and other countries. More than 700,000 persons have arrived in Austria since the beginning of 2015, and we expect about 95,000 persons to file applications for asylum with the Austrian authorities by the end of this year. We are striving to provide all those arriving in Austria with dignified and human treatment and would like to use this opportunity to warmly thank civil society organizations and the thousands of volunteers who are playing a key role in Austria's humanitarian response to this challenge. In this context, the Austrian Government is particularly grateful for the exceptional contribution of the Austrian Red Cross to this common effort. I thank you.

**Mr Zhu Chen, President, Red Cross Society of China**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair. Dear colleagues, first of all, please allow me, on behalf of the 25 million members, 2.1 million volunteers and 13,000 staff of the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), to extend our congratulations for the opening of the Conference. On the 50th anniversary of the Fundamental Principles, it is of great significance for all of us to be together here in Geneva.

In the world today, global financial crises, conflicts, natural disasters, climate change, terrorism and the refugee crisis are intertwined and create unprecedented challenges for the humanitarian system. Inspired by its Fundamental Principles, the Movement components earn worldwide

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appreciation and recognition for their contributions to the protection of human life and dignity and the promotion of world peace and development.

As a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the RCSC has continued its capacity-building in response to crises and has actively taken part in international humanitarian work to serve the most vulnerable. We joined international operations for major disasters, such as Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines and the earthquake in Nepal, and supported National Societies in Ethiopia, Uganda, Myanmar, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Kazakhstan in carrying out community programmes. We provided assistance to people in need of humanitarian relief in countries such as Afghanistan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Since 2011, the RCSC has provided 21 training courses to National Societies in Africa and the Asia Pacific region to help improve their emergency response capacities, with over 500 trainees involved. We realize that the root causes of poverty and conflict can only be eliminated through development and that global humanitarian demand can be met by the consolidation of all-round cooperation.

The Chinese Government proposed the "One Belt, One Road" initiative to promote global sustainable development and security. The RCSC actively joined the initiative by mobilizing resources from the government, corporates and other social channels and exploring a model for win-win cooperation. In recent years, the RCSC has carried out many community-based programmes in underdeveloped areas and formed a project model called the "integrated community resilience programme". We are willing to share our experience with other National Societies and humanitarian actors. Finally, the RCSC will support agreements achieved by the Conference, fulfil its pledges to the Conference and commit its full efforts in serving the most vulnerable and achieving our common humanitarian vision. Thank you.

**Mr Aleksander Stepkowski, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, I have the great honour of conveying, on behalf of the Government of Poland, our profound appreciation to the Swiss Government and to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the entire Red Cross

and Red Crescent Movement for their commendable identification of humanitarian problems and search for the best means to address existing and emerging challenges. Poland is proud to contribute to humanitarian actions taken by the ICRC and the IFRC. In the times of crisis we face, a focus on existing fundamental humanitarian principles is required, rather than an attempt to invent new rules. We should therefore confirm and strengthen the applicability of the Fundamental Principles guiding humanitarian action. The time has come to advance our reflections and to adopt practical measures.

Poland will focus its comments on the question of strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law. According to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, we all must not only respect IHL, but also ensure respect. In order to ensure respect, we should create a framework and environment conducive to the regular application of IHL. Poland believes that reporting functions should be an essential element of a new IHL compliance system. In this context, Poland, together with Romania and the International Committee of the Red Cross, has organized a side event to present and discuss best practices and examples of national reports on the implementation of IHL prepared by some countries on a voluntary basis, Poland included. I warmly invite you to join in the discussion to be held tomorrow at 6.00 p.m. Poland advocates arrangements within a possible voluntary compliance system, whereby States could share information with other States parties on how they implement IHL, what sort of obstacles they face and what success they achieve. It would be necessary to assess, in the course of further dialogue, whether the specific implementing legislation is comprehensive and whether there are any gaps in it. This procedural sequence is known as the "Four As" strategy: adoption, application, assessment and adjustment. Poland hopes that the draft resolution on compliance discussed over the last few years will be adopted by consensus, and we urge all delegations to make every effort to achieve this objective.

The delegation of Poland is of the opinion that, in addition to building the IHL compliance system, we need to develop, at the same time, a new culture of humanitarian law, a culture of human, not barbarian, conduct, a culture acceptable to all and on all continents. We should refer back to the very fundamental and universal values based on respect for human dignity.

This is why Poland lends its unequivocal support to the draft resolutions submitted to this Conference. Thank you for your attention.

**H.E. Mr Mohamed Auajjar, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Morocco in Geneva**

*(Original French)*

Madam Chair, allow me first of all to congratulate you, on behalf of the Moroccan delegation, for chairing the work of the 32nd International Conference and to commend the efforts undertaken by the Swiss Government, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to organize the conference.

Respect for international humanitarian law should continue to command our closest attention. Our efforts need to be channelled in a coordinated and collaborative way towards achieving full respect for this body of law, particularly when it is a question of protecting people from the tragic consequences of armed conflicts. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to express its support of the conference's objectives and its firm belief that it is only through concerted action, based on partnerships between States, the components of the Movement and other humanitarian actors, that we will be able to meet the common challenges ahead. My delegation would also like to reaffirm its unswerving and unequivocal commitment to the Fundamental Principles.

Compliance mechanisms to ensure respect for international humanitarian law do exist, but there is a huge gap between the tragic realities of armed conflicts on the one hand and the provisions of international humanitarian law and the action taken by the States party to the Geneva Conventions on the other. States have the power to implement international humanitarian law in the case of internal conflict. This discretionary power does not, however, obviate the need for closer international coordination in order to ensure compliance. Another sticking point is the application of humanitarian law. Each armed conflict involves a new scenario and new negotiations to guarantee the application of this body of law, the provisions of which are often invoked by belligerents to serve their own interests. The ICRC's supervisory role in the application of international humanitarian law must conform to the imperatives of neutrality, impartiality and confidentiality that constitute the

raison d'être of the ICRC's humanitarian mission to assist the victims of armed conflicts.

The current state of international humanitarian law gives little reason for optimism. The double standard adopted in the management of armed conflicts speaks volumes about the serious difficulties that hamper the effective implementation of international humanitarian law. It often faces major obstacles arising from divergent interpretations of its provisions by the parties to the conflict, acting in their own interest. My delegation believes that a preventive approach would encourage States to adopt measures in peacetime, ensuring that they were better prepared to provide protection and assistance to people in times of conflict. My delegation fully agrees with the idea of creating a compliance mechanism for international humanitarian law, taking the form of a meeting of States, within the framework of a transparent, consensus-based, non-politicized process open to suggestions from member States.

Morocco is keen to work with all humanitarian actors to improve respect for international humanitarian law and help them to fulfil their noble mission of assisting people in need. The Kingdom of Morocco would like once again to thank the ICRC, the Swiss Government and the International Federation for organizing this conference and wishes it every success in its work. Thank you.

**Mr Dionisio da Costa Babo Soares, Minister of State Administration of Timor-Leste**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, distinguished guests, ministers, distinguished delegates, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honour to represent my Government in this 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Timor-Leste became an independent State in 2002 after a prolonged conflict. Yet, soon after independence, we signed almost all of the main international conventions, including the Geneva Conventions, as could be expected. The fundamental reason underlining this gesture is the fact that we had experienced those wars; we were therefore ready to comply with the principal resolutions adopted by this body and have strived hard to comply with them ever since. We have enacted internal laws on the establishment of our Red Cross Society and also to protect the emblems and names of this institution.

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Allow me to emphasize that Timor-Leste continues to abide by its obligations as a State party and would endorse any resolutions that are in line with the principles of international law. So far, the Government has been actively supporting the national Red Cross in doing its work, as I mentioned before, through the legal mechanisms that exist in our country. In addition, Timor-Leste is in the process of drafting a law to deal with natural disasters. The Government of Timor-Leste has also paid specific attention to combating the issues of domestic violence, the prevention of human rights violations and the protection of victims of such violations and sexual abuse and gender-based violence, including enacting laws to address those issues. The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society is working closely with the Government of Timor-Leste and is now also in the process of establishing the means to address humanitarian disasters resulting from climate change.

We believe these are the issues that are also being addressed at this Conference, but we should not regard ourselves as the only country in the world; we need to look beyond our borders. We pledge, therefore, to support the discussions in the coming year on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law and, to that end, we will seek to ratify the remaining international humanitarian law treaties that we have not yet ratified. We will engage actively in discussions on the Geneva Conventions and the new mechanism on international humanitarian law and compliance and participate in the proposed open-ended working group of States. We will continue to observe the discussions that are developing in areas such as the adoption of methods and means of warfare and will decide on how to contribute to the debate on this topic in the future.

Allow me to state that Timor-Leste stands between Australia and Indonesia, in a part of the world that is distant from Europe. Looking from afar, we would also like to contribute our ideas on how to make the world a better place. We therefore encourage this Conference to urge our governments to take more pragmatic actions to address situations in the world today, in line with the principles of humanity and international humanitarian law. We need to urge governments to present more concrete programmes to encourage countries to do more to protect civilians in war zones and conflict areas. We need to urge wealthy countries to spend more resources on addressing humanitarian issues around the world, and we also need to urge governments to use persuasive and diplomatic means and dialogue to prevent and resolve conflicts, as opposed to repressive means. Thank you.

**Ms Gordana Jerger, Director,  
World Food Programme Geneva Office**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, it is a great pleasure for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to address the 32nd International Conference. The WFP and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have a long history of collaboration, especially at the local community level, tirelessly striving so that no one, especially the most vulnerable, is left behind. This is a natural consequence of our complementary mandates and shared efforts to save lives and restore livelihoods.

Over the last ten years or so, our joint efforts to address hunger and malnutrition have deepened, including through collaboration on achieving the United Nations Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge, as well as through joint messaging and advocacy. The soon-to-be launched One Billion Coalition for Resilience initiative is an important effort that builds on, and links with, other initiatives, including the Zero Hunger Challenge, and serves to deepen our partnership.

The challenges of today – climate change and cyclic natural disasters, increasing violence and conflicts, augmented insecurity and risks for humanitarian workers and health-care staff, access constraints and the growing number of protracted crises – require us all to be responsive, adaptable and innovative in strengthening local capacities and promoting local action for disaster risk reduction. Just last week, at COP21 (21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), the WFP and the IFRC, as well as the German Red Cross, all joined forces to unveil a new initiative aimed at bringing important innovation to the humanitarian system. The new forecast-based approach, called Food Security Climate Resilience Facility, or Food SECuRe for short, will help release funds for community-centred action before a crisis hits to reinforce and build climate resilience. This type of shift in the humanitarian model from a reactive system to one that can respond pre-emptively will save more lives, time and money.

With protracted crises and humanitarian needs both unprecedented in number and scale, the operating environment in which we work is increasingly complex and dangerous. More than ever, the current context necessitates adherence to humanitarian principles, international humanitarian law and international human rights law. This, we believe,



will resonate strongly at the forthcoming World Humanitarian Summit. While recognizing that humanitarian assistance is not a substitute for political solutions, responses should be conflict-sensitive and contribute to peace building and self-reliance. The Summit will also be a critical opportunity to accelerate transformation in the humanitarian system towards humanitarian and development actions that are mutually reinforcing and based on integrated approaches to resilience-building and emergency preparedness, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected States. The Summit also represents an opportunity to further leverage the call for system-wide coherence by promoting a business model that can deliver flexible, multi-year financing of resilience strategies at the national level.

We cannot stress enough the importance of adopting a people-centred approach to humanitarian action, especially considering the most vulnerable: women, girls and children.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, no single organization can bring about the changes in the humanitarian architecture on its own. In many of the 80-odd countries where the WFP operates, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are our main partners. It is by working collaboratively and creatively together, united behind our shared humanity, that we are most equipped to serve people in need. Thank you very much for your attention.

**H.E. Ms Beatriz Londoño, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of Colombia in Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Chair, some years ago, Jean Pictet said: “In the past, there was a tendency to accept misery – especially that of other people – with resignation. There was an acceptance of the excessively facile explanation of inevitable destiny. Nowadays, it is true, the total sum of suffering which afflicts the world has certainly not diminished and in some regions it is on the increase. The sense of human solidarity has developed however and people are more aware of the duty of combating distress [that ancient and intimate enemy of man] wherever it manifests itself”.

This conference is a unique opportunity to rethink our vision of the global humanitarian system and formulate the changes required for more effective, efficient and sustainable solutions.

We would like to thank in particular the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation for the work they carry out in our country. We also appreciate the tireless efforts undertaken by the ICRC over the past three years to conduct the consultation process that has resulted in the resolutions that we hope to see firmly adopted here.

As a country affected by both natural disasters and armed conflict, Colombia is keen to contribute to this dialogue with the benefit of its experience.

Colombia is affected by natural hazards, with 86% of the population exposed to the threat of earthquakes, 28% to floods and 31% to landslides.

In order to deal with these threats, the Colombian Government established the National Disaster Risk Management System in 2012.

Integrated risk management encompasses disaster response and assistance operations and mitigation, prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, replacing the traditional reactive approach based purely on the delivery of assistance.

Since 2014, Colombia has been using the manual “Humanitarian aid standards in Colombia” in all emergencies. It sets forth existing international standards, guarantees minimum quality standards, takes into account differences of culture, gender and climate and contributes to building the resilience of affected communities.

As part of its response to the fifty-year armed conflict, the government took an important step in 2011, with the adoption of the Law on Victims’ Rights and Land Restitution.

For the first time in the country’s history, the State defines and recognizes as victims those who have suffered loss, damage or injury as a result of violations of the rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law committed during the armed conflict.

The Integrated Victim Assistance and Reparation Unit was set up to implement this law and coordinates more than twenty-five national and local entities.

One of the first achievements of the Colombian State in this regard was the establishment of the unified national register, an information system containing entries for a total of 7.7 million victims, including 6.6 million who have been internally displaced.

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This register has helped to restore the victims' trust in government institutions. It provides the information required to identify their needs and adapt prevention, protection, assistance and reparation measures accordingly.

The register establishes eleven causes for which people can be granted victim status and classifies victims by region, sex, age and ethnic group. Humanitarian aid delivered by the government must be adapted to meet the specific needs of the victims, based on what has happened to them and on the dynamics of the armed conflict in the area in question.

As displacement is the main reason for people becoming victims, the government has established criteria and procedures for the delivery of humanitarian assistance based on an assessment of the components required to ensure a decent standard of living and identified technical criteria for determining the point at which the vulnerability threshold is crossed.

These initiatives all form part of Colombia's determined efforts to continue along the path of reconciliation through a negotiated settlement to the conflict, with the aim of ensuring that the victims who receive assistance and compensation now are the last, a worthy reminder of something that we cannot and must not allow to happen again. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Negash Kebret Batora, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Federal Democratic Republic  
of Ethiopia in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, the 32nd International Conference has been convened at a time, firstly, when the number of people forcibly displaced as a result of conflicts and humanitarian emergency situations has reached a record high – 60 million – much greater in terms of the scope of suffering and experience than those displaced following World War II. Africa and my own country, Ethiopia, among other parts of the world and nations, are experiencing an unprecedented increase in the number of refugees and displaced persons. Today, Ethiopia is the largest refugee host country in Africa, with more than 750,000 refugees, and there are strong indications that the number will rise with the passage of time.

Secondly, as has been witnessed over the years, natural and man-made calamities, in particular climate change-induced disasters, will aggravate the vulnerability of millions, exposing them to more hardship and difficulties, especially in the least-developed and small island countries. Furthermore, growing inequalities, poverty and unemployment have compounded this situation further, by pushing people to migrate across international borders in search of better lives.

Thirdly, in most cases, we are bearing witness to the deaths of hundreds of innocent individuals and their dangerous journeys by sea and by land. The growing demand for humanitarian assistance and protection and the funding gap in responding to multilateral humanitarian crises in many parts of the world, in particular in Africa, is putting to the test the capacity of government and humanitarian actors. In fact, this is a significant change that has already stretched humanitarian response mechanisms to their limits. Humanitarian access, protection of civilians, compliance with international humanitarian law by both States and non-State actors, safety of humanitarian personnel and coordination of humanitarian response also remain a huge challenge in addressing emergency situations.

Ethiopia strongly believes that the 32nd International Conference provides States, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its components with a unique opportunity to collectively address these pressing humanitarian needs and concerns as a matter of serious urgency. Ethiopia also welcomes the five themes for the dialogue within the framework of the Vision Lab and looks forward to the ideas that will come out of the discussions, in particular in relation to climate change and migration. Ethiopia also welcomes the deliberations on migration during the Conference and the holding of commissions on building resilience and health care in danger. The draft resolutions regarding health care in danger, disaster response, risk reduction and first aid, as well as sexual and gender-based violence, will also reinforce the Fundamental Principles of the Movement. We support the initiative to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law and strengthen IHL for the protection of persons deprived of their liberty in armed conflict, as it will significantly enhance the protection of civilians in an armed conflict situation.

The full implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the One Billion Coalition for Resilience, expected to be launched soon, we believe will further strengthen the capacity

of National Societies to respond to various natural and man-made disasters. We wish to encourage all stakeholders to highlight the need to better coordinate and build the response capacities of governments and agencies and other local actors before, during and after the World Humanitarian Summit next year in Istanbul. I thank you.

**Mr George Weber, Canadian Red Cross Society**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, the Canadian Red Cross Society welcomes the relevance of the agenda for the 32nd International Conference. It is well aligned with our own priorities and where we see the greatest humanitarian needs. These include: preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence, promoting the protection of those most affected by armed conflict, increasing implementation of international humanitarian law and strengthening local response. We take particular note of the importance of protecting the delivery of health care and doing more to ensure the safety of patients and of humanitarian staff and volunteers.

We also appreciate the addition of migration as a plenary discussion at the Conference. Forced migration is a humanitarian crisis that must remain front and centre of our attention and action. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is uniquely placed to respond to the continuum of risks and hazards that more forced migrants face along their journey from displacement, transit, arrival and longer-term resettlement. For many years we have contributed to refugee responses across the world and have a new perspective on the issues, as we support the Government of Canada's efforts right now to help receive and resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees over the course of the coming months. We are proud of our long-standing relationship with the Government of Canada and of our close collaboration in response to emergencies both at home and abroad.

As we reaffirm our commitment to the Fundamental Principles that shape our distinctive humanitarian mandate, 50 years after their adoption, we would like to take a moment to commend the work of our sister National Societies that have responded to silent and large-scale emergencies in the period since the 31st International Conference. We offer our solidarity to Movement partners working in situations of prolonged conflict and other complex emergencies, and we also offer our deepest condolences to Movement partners

who have lost volunteers and staff over the course of the last four years. We must always remember that it is the local actors that are the first responders and the key to sustained humanitarian work. In the coming days, it is our hope that we will look at all the Conference themes in light of how we can commit more deeply to ensuring the conditions that protect and promote the space for humanitarian action in a world that desperately needs it. Thank you very much.

**H.E. Dr Zsuzsanna Horváth, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Hungary in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, let me express our sincere appreciation to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for their efforts aimed at protecting the fundamental values inherent in all human beings. Hungary is committed to lending its full support to the activities carried out by the different components of the Movement. We also feel privileged to host several international humanitarian organizations and their service centres, among them the IFRC Regional Office for Europe. Hungary attaches great importance to the observance and effective implementation of international humanitarian law and has ratified all major conventions in the field, as well as recognizing the competence of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission. We also wish to highlight the role the ICC and ad hoc international criminal tribunals are playing in contributing to the effective implementation and development of IHL.

Madam Chair, the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent provides us with a unique opportunity for addressing recent humanitarian challenges and determining the tasks related to it. In this context, Hungary strongly supports the establishment of a compliance mechanism to enable discussions and the exchange of experiences and best practices of States parties to the Geneva Conventions through a regular meeting of States and periodic reporting. We have actively participated in the negotiations and would like to express our appreciation to the Swiss Government and the ICRC for leading the discussions.

I would like to highlight one of the items on the International Conference agenda, namely joint action on the prevention of and response to sexual

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and gender-based violence. We fully share the view that the international community must not tolerate sexual violence, whatever its expression and wherever it takes place. Crimes of such ferocity must be prevented and prosecuted. This responsibility lies with all of us, without exception. In this spirit, Hungary expressed its commitment, joining the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict and endorsing the community on the call for action to end violence against women and girls in emergencies. In addition, one of our national pledges, made together with the Hungarian Red Cross at the 32nd International Conference, is to contribute to international initiatives to combat sexual violence in conflicts, particularly against women and girls.

The Government of Hungary and the Hungarian Red Cross, in order to fulfil their international and national obligations in the protection of humanitarian values and the principles of the Movement, also pledge at the International Conference to effectively promote the dissemination of international humanitarian law among the population, with special focus on the young generation.

Concerning the implementation of pledges made at the 31st International Conference, Hungary gave its contribution to the implementation report of the European Union and its Member States. Hungary aligns itself with the pledges made by the European Union at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Let me wish all of you a successful Conference. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Alberto D'Alotto, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of Argentina in Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Chair, the Argentine Republic wishes to stress the far-reaching importance of strengthening the implementation of and compliance with international humanitarian law in these times of humanitarian crises of unprecedented proportions and increasingly complex armed conflict situations.

Argentina would therefore like to highlight the significance of the crucial questions to be addressed at this International Conference, the outcomes of which could contribute to alleviating the suffering of the victims of armed conflict.

First, ensuring the strict compliance of all the parties to a conflict with their obligations under international law.

Second, ensuring that humanitarian personnel and aid are allowed access to conflict zones.

Third, ensuring the investigation, prosecution and punishment of violations of the rules of international law to hold those responsible to account.

In this regard, Argentina observes that the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission is an impartial body that collaborates with States in the application and observance of international humanitarian law in armed conflict situations.

It is becoming increasingly important to respect and promote the seven Fundamental Principles, the Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols, other international humanitarian law treaties and the rules of customary law. This set of rule forms a solid legal basis for alleviating the suffering of the victims of armed conflict. It calls for a proactive approach to prevent and mitigate human suffering. The obligations established pursuant to international humanitarian law undoubtedly provide the appropriate tools for carrying out specific actions in this regard.

Argentina has a national policy for the implementation and promotion of international humanitarian law and reaffirms here today its support for efforts to strengthen the mechanisms that help to ensure the effective application of this body of law.

The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent provides an excellent opportunity to examine the main challenges ahead in the humanitarian sphere and to take part in constructive, transparent and inclusive discussions. We trust that all the interested parties will make the most of this opportunity for the benefit of all. Thank you.

**Ms Christine Beerli, Vice-President,  
International Committee of the Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we are all well aware that our joint challenge at the end of these few days of debates and discussions is to make a real difference, where it counts, to the lives of people affected by armed conflict and emergencies. This is a tall order, but it can be done.

To this end, let us be bold, decisive and united in mobilizing the Power of Humanity and making good on our pledges and commitments. Let us resolve at the outset to turn words and good intentions

into substantive, concrete outcomes that will have tangible results where they matter, on the ground. And, in the 50th year of the Fundamental Principles, let us realize our vision of the Movement as a champion of humanity, a universal beacon of hope in a divided world, united in the strength of its principles and the relevance of its action.

It is a fact; our world is effectively one at war. Multiple protracted armed conflicts, many with regional repercussions and with complex causes and consequences, and a lack of political solutions to end them are causing suffering on a massive scale. At the heart of this suffering, which we are witnessing first hand every day in the course of our work around the world, lies a persistent problem. It is the alarming lack of respect for even the most fundamental rules of international humanitarian law by parties to armed conflict, amid a prevailing climate of impunity.

In view of this, strengthening compliance with IHL is an institutional priority, not only for the ICRC, but for many States and National Societies too. It is the ICRC's firm conviction that the resolution now on the table would provide the necessary basis for us to move forward, to enable us to work together next year to build the foundations of a new compliance system for IHL. To this end, we would implore you, let us not waste this unique opportunity; let us adopt a strong resolution that will bring us a step closer to our goal of strengthening the system of IHL implementation.

Staying in the domain of IHL, the detention resolution is a critical milestone in the ICRC's initiative on strengthening legal protection for persons deprived of their liberty in relation to armed conflict. Last year, the ICRC visited over 850,000 detainees around the world. We are therefore acutely aware of the humanitarian problems they face and of the areas where IHL provides relatively little guidance, particularly in non-international armed conflicts. Again, the ICRC sees the adoption of the resolution as imperative to being able to move forward towards strengthening IHL in this critical domain.

Other key resolutions, which time does not permit me to elaborate on, include of course those relating to health care in danger and sexual and gender-based violence, which reflect some of the most pressing humanitarian concerns of our time.

In conclusion, let this International Conference be remembered as a turning point – when the Movement in all its diversity stood united with States to turn words into concrete actions towards strengthening

IHL compliance and towards enhancing protection for persons deprived of their liberty in armed conflicts, health-care personnel and facilities and the victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Let us all rise to the challenge. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Nebojsa Kaluderovic, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Montenegro in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, at the outset, let me congratulate the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement on the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the seven Fundamental Principles that lie at the core of its humanitarian commitments and mission. Let me also share with you our joy in celebrating, at the same time, the 140th anniversary of the creation of the Red Cross of Montenegro. While these jubilees are an opportunity to share pride in the results achieved, they also remind us of the need to advance both international and national responses to human suffering around the world today. It is unfortunate that global challenges, such as climate change, environmental devastation and international conflicts, are all reshaping the world we know. Thousands of people are forced to flee their homes and expose themselves to a high level of risk of death, smuggling and trafficking, just to seek a better future for themselves and their families. These challenges make us all responsible for developing an effective comprehensive approach to helping those in need of humanitarian assistance.

Being a country that belongs to an area prone to earthquakes and to natural disasters, such as floods, landslides, forest fires and extreme winter conditions, Montenegro is pleased that the topic of disaster risk reduction appears high on the Conference agenda, including a resolution we ought to adopt. We welcome the adoption of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, aimed at reducing disaster triggers and loss of life and livelihoods. We are pleased that building resilience to disaster is also a key feature of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In accordance with international obligations stemming from the Hyogo Framework for Action, the Montenegrin Government has adopted a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. This document, along with the National Strategy for Emergency Situations and Law on Protection and Rescue, has helped us join the efforts of different institutions, with a view to assessing disaster risk, as well as establishing the best possible quality response to the

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threats and risks caused by disasters. We have also signed several memoranda of understanding with neighbouring countries related to cooperation and protection in natural and man-made disasters.

However, the catastrophic floods that have recently affected us and our closest neighbours have shown that, regardless of how prepared States are, we all need regional and international solidarity. Within our overall commitment to regional cooperation, our Red Cross Society has shown a responsible approach to helping people in our neighbourhood, by immediately distributing humanitarian assistance and through daily communication with its respective colleagues from the affected countries. This good example of regional cooperation has made us additionally aware that we need to step up our efforts to adapt international rules and guidelines to the local context, with a view to better addressing international disaster solutions.

Finally we welcome the role of the ICRC and the IFRC and their tireless efforts in mobilizing and coordinating coherent and principled humanitarian action. Let me assure you that the Government of Montenegro and the Red Cross of Montenegro will continue to be a responsible partner in this regard. I thank you.

**H.E. Mr Kyonglim Choi, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Korea in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, we are confronted with unprecedented humanitarian crises, with so many displaced persons and with so much instability and suffering. Contemporary armed conflict is in no way immune to violations of the basic rules of international humanitarian law. As such, violations occur often and most frequently with total impunity. No country and no context remain untouched.

The 32nd International Conference could not take place at a more critical moment. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement. It is, indeed, an opportune moment to reaffirm these principles and put them at the heart of our collective efforts to ease the plight of civilians. This Conference is one of the most important humanitarian fora in the world. I believe that we, as States parties to the Geneva Conventions, should take this opportunity to once again fully commit ourselves to work with

the Movement to fulfil its distinctive mandate, while respecting its independent humanitarian action.

Of course, we should not allow ourselves to evade the responsibility of preventing the occurrence of humanitarian suffering in the first place. To this end, this Conference should be an opportunity for governments to commit themselves to putting more political efforts, more concerted and more multilateral efforts, into preventing conflict, containing conflict, limiting conflict and ending conflict. In particular, we as States must uphold our firm commitments under international humanitarian law. Specifically, we should remain vigilant and provide all means to ensure that parties to armed conflict respect international humanitarian law, effective investigations are carried out into breaches of international humanitarian law and human rights law, perpetrators are held accountable, so that we can put an end to impunity, and concrete mechanisms are developed to improve compliance.

In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Korea supports the efforts to improve compliance with international humanitarian law, as is written in the relevant draft resolution, and will play a constructive role in the work ahead. We also stand by the efforts to prevent and protect victims of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and emergency situations.

The Korean Government continues to commit itself to actively participating in regional and international efforts to enhance its disaster preparedness, response and coordination under the relevant international disaster response laws.

This Conference is taking place in the midst of various post-2015 discussions. Building upon the Sustainable Development Goals, which centre on the idea of leaving no one behind, I trust that this Conference will focus on the urgency of taking concrete measures to protect civilians in conflict and send a strong message to the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016. Thank you very much.

**Dr Ivan Usichenko, President, Ukrainian Red  
Cross Society**

*(Original Russian)*

Madam Chair, dear delegates, the humanitarian crisis that has broken out as a result of the armed conflict in the eastern regions of Ukraine, events in Crimea, the scale of human suffering, the many civilian victims,

the 1.5 million internally displaced persons, economic collapse and violations of international humanitarian law show us that it is not enough to care about the consequences of the armed conflicts. The Geneva Conventions and other rules of IHL are frequently being ignored by the parties to the armed conflicts, and among those who suffer the most are civilians, including children, the elderly and women. Providing medical assistance to those who have been affected, delivering humanitarian aid to those in need and supplying the population with basic necessities are dangerous tasks for Red Cross volunteers. Provision of humanitarian aid is frequently politicized. Although most of the countries participating in the armed conflicts have ratified the Geneva Conventions and despite our efforts to implement IHL, the scale of violations is growing in sync with the severity of the armed conflicts. This hinders the efforts undertaken by our Movement to carry out humanitarian operations in the eastern regions of Ukraine. We are managing to cope with these challenges, thanks to the support we receive from the International Committee of the Red Cross, the IFRC, the National Societies of the European Union, the USA, Canada, China, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Qatar, Iran and Azerbaijan, international organizations belonging to the UN system, the governments of the USA, Japan, the Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia and Slovakia. I avail myself of this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to all the partners who have helped us and continue to support us in overcoming the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. How can we enhance the effectiveness of our efforts? Maybe the leadership of the ICRC and the IFRC should submit a proposal to reform the UN, so that its efforts could be focused on the prevention of armed conflicts, and we could devise effective international mechanisms that would guarantee the punishment of violations of the rules of IHL. Maybe in our Movement we should create a body that would initiate the peaceful settlement of international problems. What I am referring to here is a Commission for Peace. We support the resolution ensuring stricter compliance with the rules of IHL, involving the creation of a meeting of States on IHL issues. Global consultations held here in this building one-and-a-half months ago as part of the preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit showed that the humanitarian community was concerned about the current situation as regards the protection of human dignity and the security of civilians. We should make full use of the power of humanity to reduce the scale of human suffering. Thank you very much.

**Ms Alejandra Costa, Director of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Chair, our greetings to you and all the delegates here today and, on behalf of Uruguay, I would like to thank the organizers of this 32nd International Conference. We also wish to express our appreciation of the hard work of those who have been coordinating the consultations undertaken for the various draft resolutions. Thanks to these efforts, we gather at this conference with a significant part of the work already completed.

Anniversaries give rise to reflection on the continued validity of the values and principles we share. This reflection gains in significance in the face of the changes that the world has undergone in the last half-century, which have shaken the foundations of contemporary international relations.

Contemplation of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of their proclamation only confirms that they remain as sound and as relevant as ever in the face of the unprecedented challenges associated with the implementation of international humanitarian law today.

Let us reaffirm, then, the continued relevance of this common foundation, which allows us to move forward in a more solid legal framework, with means of implementation and compliance to put the humanitarian ideal into practice. Uruguay therefore undertakes to make every effort to successfully implement the pledges we make during this conference. Some of these pledges are directly related to the objectives of this conference, for example, updated, systematic training for the Uruguayan armed forces taking part in United Nations peace operations on subjects such as the prevention of genocide, mass atrocities and sexual violence in armed conflict.

Madam Chair, in January, Uruguay will be joining the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member. This is a particularly important event, as it gives my country the opportunity to reaffirm the traditional principles that have inspired its foreign policy, which include fundamental principles such as adherence to international law as the supreme law regulating relations among States, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the protection of and respect

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for human rights in peacetime and the application of international humanitarian law in wartime, to mention but a few. They form the framework within which our countries can meet the enormous challenges we face in today's world. Strengthening the means to implement them will pave the way to eliminating the cruelty and brutality witnessed in today's conflicts which are, along with the adverse effects of climate change, clearly and undoubtedly the biggest threats to the humanitarian ideal, constructed on the basis of the thinking and action of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Thank you very much.

**Mr Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, UNOCHA**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour and a privilege for me to be here today, and I do congratulate the organizers of this Conference. The recent unprecedented joint appeal made here in Geneva a few weeks ago by the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, and the President of the ICRC, Peter Maurer, shows that our two organizations stand as one in appealing for greater protection for civilians caught up in conflict and an end to impunity for those who target them.

We continue to be extremely concerned about the violations to international humanitarian law that continue on a daily basis, particularly in the Middle East, devastating civilian areas and gravely affecting human lives and dignity. Millions of civilians are on the move, forced from their homes by violent and protracted conflicts, in which the parties target health facilities, schools and vital infrastructure. Sieges that endanger the lives of civilians by depriving them of food and medical care essential for their survival are prohibited under international humanitarian law, but such violations are taking place with devastating impact in Syria, Yemen and Iraq.

We have stronger laws than ever to protect civilians and facilitate the provision of aid. The issue is that the parties continue to disregard them. We welcome all moves to improve compliance, including the resolution under consideration by this Conference. I would also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the whole humanitarian family, to pay tribute to those of the ICRC and the wider National Societies

who have given the ultimate sacrifice or become injured as a result of their selfless service to others in the cause of humanity. The United Nations, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in particular, will continue to insist that members of the United Nations Security Council and influential member States put pressure on parties to conflicts to end violations, hold perpetrators accountable and seek new ways of improving compliance.

Focusing on some of the most pressing concerns arising in armed conflict, we will also urge States to use their influence to end the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, ensure that people have access to humanitarian aid and work to find solutions for the record 60 million people displaced by conflict. Protection of civilians will be one of the priority areas for the World Humanitarian Summit that will take place in Istanbul on 23 and 24 May next year. The consultation process in the run-up to the Summit highlighted several areas that you will cover at this Conference. First, people affected by crisis told us their main priority is to live in safety, protected from violence. Second, there were repeated calls for humanitarian action to be based locally and for direct funding to community organizations. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement offers an interesting model in this regard. Third, there was a call for better legal frameworks for disaster response and risk management. Your resolution on these frameworks will be one basis for our own discussions, and all the themes of this Conference are highly relevant to the preparations for the Summit.

We will support and build on your work, together with you and all the stakeholders present here. We therefore count on your full support and engagement for the World Humanitarian Summit; it will be a once-in-a-generation opportunity to re-inspire and reinvigorate our shared commitment to humanity and the universality of the humanitarian principles in the overall broadest global context that Peter Maurer referred to in his outstanding speech earlier today. This means putting effective people at the centre of humanitarian action and political decision-making. The Summit will also allow us to set out actions and commitments to enable all of us to deliver better humanitarian assistance and protection. I look forward to seeing many of you in Istanbul. Thank you, Madam Chair.



**Dr Michael Koch, Legal Adviser of the Federal Government, Director General of the Legal Department of the Foreign Office of Germany**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, Germany is firmly committed to the rule of law and, in particular, to respect for international humanitarian law. We also continue to be a close and reliable partner to the ICRC. IHL is a central part of present-day international law. The paramount aim of all norms of international humanitarian law is the balancing in armed conflicts of the fundamental principles of military necessity on the one hand, and humanity on the other. Its purpose, limiting the suffering that war causes by affording victims the maximum possible protection and assistance, is just as important today as it was when humanitarian law was first created. In this respect, international humanitarian law in its current state has proven to be an appropriate legal framework for the protection of the civilian population. The regulatory framework drawn up by the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005 remain fundamentally adequate. However, this does not mean that there is nothing to do.

The ICRC has identified some pertinent issues concerning the topic of detention, and I should like to commend the ICRC for this work in particular. We encourage States, as the primary actors, to work with the ICRC in order to bring about the clarification required in this area. This could be achieved, for instance, by formally developing non-binding instruments, setting out relevant principles of international humanitarian law. We also share the concerns of the ICRC as to the non-implementation of international humanitarian law. We believe that efforts should be made to facilitate a process, led by States working in cooperation with the ICRC, in which they explore and identify specific and practical ways of strengthening the application of international humanitarian law, and we salute the ICRC for the progress achieved in this debate. We are also strong supporters of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission and hope that it will soon be able to demonstrate its potential. We are looking forward to the deliberations at this Conference and are convinced that, if we work together, we will be able to make significant progress.

Let me assure you that my delegation is committed to making this International Conference a success for the benefit of international humanitarian law. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr John Quinn, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Australia in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, Australia welcomes the opportunity to join governments, policymakers and the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to recommit to enhanced humanitarian action. Our Conference theme, the Power of Humanity: the Fundamental Principles in Action, is both pertinent and timely.

As we gather in Geneva, as many have said, the world faces the largest number of simultaneous armed conflicts and humanitarian crises since the Second World War. The scale of suffering around our world, caused by ongoing conflict and large-scale global displacement of people, the prominence of terrorism, the surge in natural disasters and the challenges of climate change, demands an effective international response. This response must be underpinned by the Fundamental Principles of the Movement. These principles were first adopted in 1965; fifty years later, as the world's crises become more protracted, more violent and more complex, it is essential that they continue to guide our humanitarian mission.

Similarly, our common commitment to international humanitarian law reflects the recognition that, even in armed conflict, there are limits that must not be exceeded. Yet devastating human suffering as a result of lack of compliance with international humanitarian law remains a feature of conflict the world over and must be addressed. The existing mechanisms for ensuring compliance are clearly failing. The world is looking to us to find better ways to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law. Australia thus very much welcomes the prospect of establishing a new compliance mechanism, a meeting of States on international humanitarian law.

Australia has also been actively engaged in the initiative to strengthen protections for those deprived of their liberty in armed conflict. Detention of persons is a lawful, legitimate and necessary aspect of military operations, but the practice must be underpinned by humane treatment. Thus, we recognize the need for greater guidance on protection for detainees and welcome the opportunity to continue to work with States beyond this Conference.

Armed conflict and armed violence in peace time, and the widespread humanitarian suffering in both contexts, are fuelled by poorly regulated trade in

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weapons. We are hosting, with New Zealand, a side event on Thursday on the universalization and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, a vital response to this phenomenon.

Sexual and gender-based violence is unacceptable anywhere, any time and in whatever form it takes, but levels of sexual and gender-based violence are particularly disturbing in armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies. Preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence must become a core focus of all humanitarian action globally. Australia welcomes the opportunity provided by this Conference to drive progress towards a more effective holistic Movement approach to addressing the abhorrent reality of sexual and gender-based violence for victims and survivors. Australia is proud to be hosting a side event with the IFRC on this subject tomorrow evening.

The 32nd International Conference takes place at a significant historic moment in the evolution of the humanitarian system, as the international community works together to deliver concrete, transformative reforms to the system in the lead-up to the World Humanitarian Summit. Australia looks forward to the vital contributions that will come from the Movement this week to feed into the Summit process.

As co-hosts of the July 2015 Pacific Regional Consultations in Auckland, Australia has a strong interest in ensuring that issues of priority to the Pacific are not lost in the strong focus on finding solutions to the politically generated mega crises of the world at both our Conference this week and in Istanbul next year.

We must ensure that the Movement, like the broader international humanitarian system, is committed and ready to meet the challenges associated with natural disasters, remoteness and climate change. Increased localization, including defining coordination and response structures that draw on local and regional capacities first, must be part of the answer to these challenges. The Movement, with its network of 190 National Societies is ideally placed to be central to this move. With this in mind, Australia, with our MIKTA partners, Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Turkey, are co-hosting a side event tomorrow morning on strengthening international disaster response laws.

In closing, over the coming four years, the Australian Government has pledged to take a number of significant actions. Among other things, we will

continue our close and productive relationship with the Australian Red Cross and commit, with others in the Commonwealth, to respect and protect health care in armed conflict and other emergencies.

We look forward to continuing our close working relationships with all the component parts of the Movement. I thank you for your attention.

*Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference,  
handed over the Chair to the Vice-Chair.*

### **Ms Fotini Papadopoulou, President, Cyprus Red Cross Society**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, today is the first time we have taken the floor at an International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. We truly appreciate this opportunity to address all components of the Movement and all States parties to the Geneva Conventions, as well as the many partners that are here as observers or guests.

Cyprus is a small country on the outskirts of Europe and close to a highly troubled region of the world. This has exposed us to the challenges associated with the sudden arrival of large numbers of human beings seeking safety, refuge or a better life for themselves and their children. We much appreciate that migration has been given as much space as it has during this Conference.

The Cyprus Red Cross Society, for its operational capacity, relies on volunteers. For that reason, we highly value the work done on the draft resolution on the safety and security of humanitarian volunteers. We fully support this proposal and especially appreciate the invitation to States to partner with us in developing our ability to protect those who serve others.

As an island State, we know how remoteness may reinforce vulnerabilities. Cyprus is not free from an earthquake hazard. In the event of a major seismic event with significant destruction, we would probably need external support. Being an island, there would be obvious sources of delay in obtaining that. This is precisely why we need a well-functioning Movement to support us, and we strongly support the resolution on strengthening the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement response to growing humanitarian needs. We also note the continuing interest in legal frameworks for international disaster

response and, in one of the commissions here, for building resilience.

I would like to give our thanks and appreciation to the ICRC, the International Federation and sister National Societies for the warm welcome they have given us since we became recognized and were admitted into the International Federation. With this Conference, we commit ourselves to doing our utmost to contribute to the Movement in the future. Thank you for your attention.

**H.E. Dr Ibrahim Khraishi, Ambassador, Permanent Observer, Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine in Geneva**

*(Original Arabic)*

Madam Vice-Chair, I am honoured today to represent the State of Palestine at the 32nd International Conference, where we are participating for the first time as a State Party to the Geneva Conventions. We pledge to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to us pursuant to these treaties. The State of Palestine confirms as well that it will cooperate with all Movement components to secure the unity of the Movement and the fulfilment of its mandate, including by supporting and endorsing all the initiatives put forward on the agenda of the Conference, on top of which initiatives seeking to ensure respect for and promote the development of international humanitarian law (IHL).

The test to the power of humanity has failed so far to provide protection to our people. This is because of the persistence of occupation, the main source of violence and tension, an occupation that has extended in duration beyond anything imagined by the authors of humanitarian law, thus running counter to IHL and undermining its foundations. The second reason is the heinous crimes and serious IHL violations committed and being committed against civilians under occupation, under the shield of impunity. Thirdly, the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions are unable to fulfil their obligations to ensure respect for the Conventions in the occupied territory of the State of Palestine, which also calls into question the earnestness of the possible implementation of the Geneva Conventions and the States Parties' commitment thereto. However, we reconfirm today our steadfast belief in the power of humanity and strongly emphasize that we will earnestly proceed with our endeavour and cooperate at all levels to enable the power of humanity to successfully operationalize the power of

IHL. To achieve this goal, we call upon all Movement components to act according to the principle of collective responsibility in order to put forward serious and immediate steps to prevent further loss of innocent lives and avoid slipping into the abyss of the current cycle of violence imposed by the unruly and brutal occupation policies. We invite through this conference once again the High Contracting Parties to fulfill all their obligations, particularly with regard to respecting and ensuring respect for international humanitarian law applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, under all circumstances and through accountability, in addition to enacting concrete practical and urgent action to put an end to these serious violations of international law, and putting pressure to bear on the occupation government to comply with IHL, pursuant to declarations released by the conferences of States Party in 1999, 2001 and 2014 respectively, and confirmed by international resolutions, including Security Council resolutions and the advisory legal opinion of the International Court of Justice.

Palestine constitutes at present a serious test to the power of humanity and, if we want the power of humanity to prevail, we must all strive to ensure that it does not fail this test.

**H.E. Mr Reinout Vos, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the Netherlands warmly congratulates you and the other officers on your appointment at this 32nd International Conference. Given the unique character of the International Conference, high hopes are placed in its outcomes. This Conference is no exception, as we witness today a world faced with flagrant violations of IHL and enormous human suffering.

The number of people affected by conflict-related crises is increasing; as a result, high numbers of people are forcibly displaced from their homes. We support the response of the Movement along the migration routes and thank the Movement for addressing the issues of migration during this Conference.

With armed conflicts and protracted crises becoming the norm, human security has become an issue. We have seen an increased number of aid workers

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being targeted and becoming victims of conflict themselves. This is unacceptable. Protection of all persons, including the security of aid workers, should remain at the centre of our action. The Fundamental Principles have to be upheld, as they are essential to the ability to respond to crises and to building trust and ensuring access.

For the Netherlands, it is crucial that this Conference adopt a strong resolution on strengthening compliance with IHL. Indeed, it is high time that a forum for the regular exchange of views and practices on IHL among States were established. After four years of extensive and transparent deliberations, very ably facilitated by Switzerland and the ICRC, there is broad agreement on the basics of such a compliance mechanism. Now, it is time to act upon the momentum that has been created. We call on all delegations to actively support the establishment of this compliance mechanism and thus concretely contribute to better respect for IHL.

We thank the ICRC for facilitating the consultations on strengthening the protection of persons deprived of their liberty in non-international armed conflict, which have been very thorough. The Netherlands has actively participated in this initiative and looks forward to a further push from this Conference to continue and finalize the initiative.

We note that this Conference will specifically address sexual and gender-based violence during armed conflict and disaster. We consider attention to sexual and gender-based violence of great importance in this day and age. It is crucial to ensure that all victims of gender-based violence, regardless of social status and gender, are protected by the law. In this respect, we call on the Conference to adopt a focused and forward-looking resolution that will contribute to strengthening protection and prevention on a non-discriminatory basis.

The International Conference has been organized in a sequence of humanitarian events this year and early next year, giving us a unique opportunity to improve the delivery of aid to people in need in current and future crises. We call on all humanitarian actors to take this opportunity together and to respond to, and eventually reduce, urgent humanitarian needs across the world. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Hailong Wu, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the People's Republic of China in  
Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, during the past 50 years, the seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have demonstrated their strong vitality by guiding the Movement to evolve into the biggest international humanitarian network. This Conference offers us a good opportunity to reaffirm our faith in the principles and to redouble our efforts to promote the international humanitarian cause.

In view of the major humanitarian challenges around the globe, I would just like to highlight the following four key points. First, all countries and relevant stakeholders should step up efforts to mobilize more resources for humanitarian aid. Second, international humanitarian aid should respect the sovereignty of the recipient country, abide by its national laws and avoid politicization or militarization. In the meantime, international humanitarian aid should be aligned to the national development strategy of the recipient country, so that emergency aid can serve as the starting point for the sustainable development of the recipient country. Third, more actions should be taken to stop and prevent violence against civilians and civil facilities and to guarantee the safety of humanitarian workers. Delegates to this Conference should engage with each other constructively to build the broadest consensus on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law. Fourth, all countries should adhere to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and resolve conflict in a peaceful way.

China actively supports and participates in international humanitarian work. We have been fulfilling our international humanitarian responsibilities in good faith. Since the last Conference, China has provided humanitarian aid to more than 60 countries in various forms. Soon after the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa, China took the lead in providing 750 million RMB of emergency aid and deployed more than 1,200 medical experts and staff. When earthquakes hit Nepal this year, China immediately dispatched rescue and health-care teams to help in the rescue and relief work. Recently, China announced additional aid of US\$ 100 million to relevant countries and international organizations in response to the increasingly severe refugee problem.

The Chinese Government has made new pledges at this Conference. We will take concrete measures to implement our pledges in the four years to come. Thank you.

**Ms Natasa Pirc Musar, President, Slovenian Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, I am representing a small European Union Red Cross National Society: Slovenia. According to our universal mandate, the Slovenian Red Cross is providing typical Red Cross services and has an auxiliary role to the public authorities in the field of first aid, disaster management, blood donation and tracing services. Slovenia, with a population of only 2 million, was heavily affected by the 2008 economic crisis, resulting in 290,000 people living below the poverty line. Consequently, the Slovenian Red Cross reinforced its social welfare programmes, serving the most vulnerable in the community.

However, this year in the autumn, specifically in mid-September, the Slovenian Red Cross was faced with an additional challenge: people on the move. Together with the State authorities, we have been following the developments in Europe in regard to migration and are preparing joint national response plans. However, October's large influx of migrants quite frankly stunned us. To date, nearly 300,000 migrants have entered Slovenia at a rate of between 6,000 and 9,000 people per day, reaching a peak on 21 October, when more than 13,800 people entered in a single day. Practically everybody who entered Slovenia wants to continue their journey towards northern Europe, which is their promised land. This is also reflected in the fact that only 105 asylum applications have been submitted.

In all the reception and accommodation centres across the country, the Slovenian Red Cross is ensuring humanitarian assistance, including food and non-food items, providing first aid through our 91 first aid teams and carrying out restoring family links activities. There are more than 200 Red Cross volunteers at the centres every day, supported by Slovenian Red Cross staff, providing the abovementioned services. In Dobova, the main entry point to Slovenia, Red Cross services are provided 24/7. Maybe, dear colleagues, for some of you, these numbers of migrants, approximately 7,000 a day, might not seem high. However, for a country of 2 million, it is like 2 million people entering the United States of America or half a million people crossing the

borders into Germany in one day. Consequently, the authorities and, moreover, the Slovenian Red Cross, are faced with many challenges, such as ensuring sufficient human and financial resources and, last but not least, finding a fine balance between services to the most vulnerable in Slovenia and the migrants.

I want to remind you that small countries and National Societies like mine need a collective response and support from stronger National Societies, the Federation and the ICRC and from all of you who possess more know-how on migration, disaster management and some other fields of our work. On top of all these tasks and preparing for winter conditions, we also have to deal with rather unfavourable public opinion and a great deal of hate speech.

Dear colleagues, dear Red Cross friends, this is the message and my repetitive mantra. Only humans have the ability to do good and, unfortunately, only humans spread terror and horror. That does enormous harm to global society as a whole. People do this, not religions. We, the Red Cross family, condemn all words of hate and violence and at all times remain dedicated to humanity. Let us be the role models for all the rest, in reaching out to others and seeing fellow human beings beyond appearances, beyond headscarves and beards, thus promoting humanity and tolerance at all times. Only in this way can our society overcome all the challenges of the current times. If the contrary prevails, not only will we be faced with more human victims and suffering, but we will terminate the basic norms of civilization and kill humanity. As a human rights lawyer and President of the Slovenian Red Cross, I want to spread such a message, rooted in our Fundamental Principles, like a virus across my country and maybe even across the borders. Thank you very much.

**H.E. Ms Patricia O'Brien, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ireland in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, we are, like others, alarmed at the truly shocking scale of death, injury and displacement caused by the many armed conflicts that have begun, or that have intensified since this Conference last convened four years ago. Civilians continue to bear the overwhelming effects of these conflicts. While we cannot overstate the importance of conflict prevention and resolution, it goes without saying that, if the existing rules of IHL were followed, much

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of the human suffering caused by contemporary armed conflicts would not occur. Indeed, the frequent failure by both the armed forces of States and non-State armed groups to respect these rules is, in our view, the greatest current obstacle to the protection of victims of armed conflict. It is for this reason that we join with so many other States here in wishing to see the creation of a strong mechanism to ensure greater compliance with IHL. We look forward to working with all delegations at this Conference to achieve this important objective.

Ireland's approach in providing assistance to victims of armed conflicts and other emergencies is to stress the importance of coherent, complementary and coordinated actions. In this respect, we wish to emphasize the importance of systematically integrating protection and gender-based violence initiatives into policy and practice to protect the most vulnerable, especially women and girls. In our assistance programmes, we also recognize the importance of enhancing resilience by strengthening the capacity of countries, communities, institutions and individuals to anticipate and to adapt to shocks and stresses. In addition, we believe it essential, when mitigating the impact of conflict, to enhance the security of humanitarian staff. We look forward to exploring these important issues in the commissions and other forums of discussion this week.

Finally, we wish to commend the ICRC for its very thorough and cogent Concluding Report on strengthening IHL to protect persons deprived of their liberty. We agree with the ICRC's analysis that the absence of clear standards relating to the detention of persons in non-international armed conflict exposes detainees to serious risks. We agree also that there is a clear need to strengthen IHL in this area and that the immediate priority is to begin work as soon as possible on an outcome instrument that addresses the four areas of humanitarian concern identified by Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. We look forward to working with all delegations on this essential task. Thank you.

**Dr Jennifer McMahon, President, New Zealand Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the New Zealand Red Cross is delighted to report that we celebrated 100 years of activity in New Zealand in 2015, as a "Century of Care". It has been proven to be an opportunity to

take stock of our history and to remember, so that we can look forward with confidence and clarity. It also provided an opportunity to reflect on the role of the New Zealand Red Cross as an independent auxiliary to the authorities in the humanitarian field, and this resulted in a parliamentary motion recognizing the centenary and our auxiliary status.

At the New Zealand Red Cross, we see value in a Movement logo for communication and promotion, to speak with one voice and advocate on humanitarian issues and topics. However, as a small National Society, reliant on independent funding for sustainability, we are heartened by the Movement's willingness over the next two years to review the operative modalities of this, to find a win-win solution for us all.

The New Zealand Red Cross strongly supports the initiatives of the International Conference regarding disaster law. Strengthening disaster management and mitigation of risk is a key issue for the Pacific nations, and we are proud to report significant progress already made by some of our neighbouring Pacific island National Societies in addressing this issue jointly with their governments. With the New Zealand Government, we jointly pledge to work together to ensure effective development and implementation of domestic laws and policies on disaster risk management, and together we will continue to share the relevant lessons we have learned from the 2011 urban earthquakes in New Zealand.

One important learning area for us relates to gender-based violence, post-disaster. Part of our Christchurch earthquake recovery programme involved support for recovery for agencies dealing with victims of gender-based violence. We found it important to partner with existing organizations, which have the skills, but were overwhelmed and lacked the resources to meet the surge in demand for their services. Not only have they been able to prevent and respond to domestic violence but, with our partnership, they can provide continuity of support for the very long recovery period.

The New Zealand Red Cross has pledged to show leadership in upholding humanitarian principles and commitments to refugee support and refugee resettlement. As part of this, the New Zealand Red Cross is working to ensure that all refugees and asylum-seekers have access to essential services, regardless of their method of arrival into New Zealand. Our approach serves to strengthen the Movement commitment to working with migrants, regardless of legal status, as outlined in Resolution 3 of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross

and Red Crescent and the International Federation's Migration Policy.

We also want to flag the concern about the increasing displacement of vulnerable people in the Pacific, resulting from the effects of climate change. This raises serious migration questions for humanitarian actors; States and the Movement will need to address the matter to provide assistance and protection to those forced to relocate and resettle in another country.

New Zealand has a long history of being proudly nuclear-free and is promoting respect for IHL rules related to weapons. It is important to the New Zealand Red Cross to continue to raise awareness, particularly among young people, of the devastating humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. The New Zealand Red Cross, alongside the New Zealand Government, also continues to promote ratification and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. In particular, the New Zealand Red Cross remains concerned about the humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts occurring around the world in urban settings and joins the ICRC in calling on all parties to armed conflict to avoid using explosive weapons with a wide impact area in populated areas, due to the significant likelihood of indiscriminate effects. Thank you to all here for listening.

**Pr Dr Michael Bothe, Member of the National Committee on IHL, German Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues and friends. It is my honour to replace Dr Seiters, the President of our National Society, who has been the victim of an accident and is therefore unable to attend this Conference. This is a welcome opportunity to thank all sister National Societies that, in the best spirit of the Movement, have helped us to face the challenge of the current influx of refugees and migrants into our country. But let me turn to our task for the coming days.

The German Red Cross thanks and congratulates Switzerland and the ICRC for their patient and effective work in conducting the consultation process pursuant to the relevant provisions of Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. During this process, an impressive number of States explicitly expressed the desire to establish an additional compliance

mechanism: a new, effective and non-politicized institutional meeting of States, on a regular basis, in order to examine issues related to compliance with international humanitarian law. It has been stated that this new mechanism does not focus on the development of international humanitarian law. Thus, this new institutional meeting of States must not, and will not, duplicate or devalue the International Conference, which contributes to respect for and the development of international humanitarian law. We trust that the new mechanism and the International Conference will find a way to explore and achieve synergies.

It is a fact that the majority of ongoing conflicts are, as we all know, non-international in character, fought by non-State actors of different types. These actors are not taken into account in the new mechanism. However, new approaches and incentives are most urgently needed to enhance compliance with international humanitarian law by non-State armed actors. I appeal to all of us, States and components of the Movement, to continue working on approaches and incentives in order to enhance compliance by non-State armed actors.

The participation of National Societies in this new compliance mechanism is of great concern to the German Red Cross. The National Societies are not only mandated by the International Conference to disseminate, and assist their governments in disseminating, international humanitarian law; additionally, National Societies are mandated to cooperate with their governments to ensure respect for international humanitarian law. This cooperation can only be successful if an effective participation of National Societies in the new mechanism is guaranteed. National Societies have great expertise to offer in the field of IHL, and we invite States to draw on this expertise and to make use of it.

The German Red Cross wholeheartedly joins the members of the International Conference in endorsing the draft resolution on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law, proposed as a result of the consultation process. Let us open the door, in the interest of the victims of armed conflicts, to the establishment of the new mechanism, designed to improve compliance with international humanitarian law. Thank you very much for your attention.

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**Ms Margit Tveiten, Director General, Legal Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair. We live in a period of multiple crises. Many of them are a result of armed conflicts and their consequences; some conflicts last for years or decades. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is addressing the needs of vulnerable people in a more long-term perspective than in the past. Huge numbers of civilians are caught in the midst of hostilities. They are being killed or maimed for life, families get separated, hospitals and schools are attacked and homes and livelihoods are destroyed. As a result, an unprecedented number of people are on the move. We highly value the tireless efforts of the ICRC, as well as staff and volunteers from National Societies, to help and respond to the overwhelming needs along migratory routes, in armed conflicts and in vulnerable communities.

We are celebrating 50 years since the endorsement of the seven Fundamental Principles. When applied, they ensure human dignity in the face of conflict, disaster or crisis. We need to constantly protect and safeguard these crucial principles. International humanitarian law has developed into a comprehensive and solid legal framework for the protection of civilians in armed conflicts that is binding for all. IHL needs to be continually reviewed and, at times, strengthened in order to keep up with new developments in warfare and new emerging humanitarian concerns. That being said, more often than not, what causes the most harm to civilians is not the lack of law, but lack of respect for and proper implementation of the law.

Norway has worked to address the humanitarian impact of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Additionally, the Nordic countries have worked towards this Conference to identify ways to enhance protection of the environment in armed conflict. Sometimes, you also need to take measures that go beyond the law. Norway has made efforts to protect schools and education facilities from military use during armed conflict through the adoption of the Safe Schools Declaration.

Sexual and gender-based violence is disturbingly prevalent, both in armed conflict and in the aftermath of disasters. It is totally unacceptable and has to be dealt with. This predictable and preventable problem must be addressed when applying IHL and beyond the context of IHL. We commend the Movement and

the ICRC for identifying clear measures to reduce and eliminate it.

This 32nd International Conference aims to adopt a mechanism to increase compliance with our obligations under international humanitarian law. If we adopt it, we will be demonstrating our understanding of the imperative to ensure application of these obligations in times such as ours. We need it more than ever. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Giampaolo Rizzo, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Honduras in Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Vice-Chair, Honduras reaffirms its support for the work carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross to promote the dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law and would like to express its appreciation of the untiring efforts of all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society volunteers and, in particular, those of the Honduran Red Cross. We would also like to remember its former President, Virginia de Mencia. We commend the unswerving commitment of this Henry Dunant medal recipient, who dedicated most of her life to voluntary service. She will be very sorely missed at this conference.

Madam Vice-Chair, Honduras believes that humanitarian assistance achieves positive results through strict compliance with international humanitarian law and a firm commitment to protecting human life and dignity. Nationally, we are working to incorporate crimes established in international law into our penal code, including attacks on protected property and installations and the obstruction of humanitarian aid, as well as genocide and war crimes.

In 2016, pursuant to the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, we will apply for enhanced protection for the Maya Site of Copán. In keeping with our traditional commitment to pacifism and respect for international law, we ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2012, we signed the Arms Trade Treaty and we are currently at the publication stage for the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices and the Amendment of 2001 to Article 1 of the Convention on Prohibitions or



Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons. We are co-sponsors of the resolution on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations submitted by Mexico to the United Nations, which sought to take advantage of the momentum generated by the humanitarian initiative in recent years.

The issues that bring us together here at this 32nd International Conference are an indication of achievements in the international sphere and the challenges still to be met. These issues range from the strengthening of the legal frameworks for disaster response, risk reduction and first aid to the progress achieved in matters of migration. The report presented here highlights the need to continue exploring courses of action and means for strengthening international cooperation, with a view to addressing the humanitarian concerns arising in connection with migration internationally.

Over the last four years, Honduras has stepped up efforts to protect the human rights and dignity of migrants and ensure their safety and access to the services they need. In this task, we are grateful for the support of the Honduran Red Cross, with which we signed an agreement a few days ago to outsource the management of one of the returning migrant centres, with a view to providing comprehensive assistance to Honduran nationals returning by land.

Lastly, as we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Fundamental Principles, which guarantee the “Power of Humanity” to save lives and alleviate suffering, we invite all the States to support the draft resolution on this matter. Thank you.

**Ms Pornprapai Ganjanarintr, Director-General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, today we are confronted with multiple, complex and interrelated risks and challenges, ranging from violent conflicts to natural disasters, from environmental problems to health and pandemics, as well as irregular migration, which threaten and adversely affect the lives and well-being of people in various countries and regions. States need to be ready on all fronts to undertake humanitarian action to ensure the safety and well-being of their people and to assist those affected by, and those vulnerable to, emergencies and crises. We

appreciate efforts made by the Movement in working to provide humanitarian assistance in many ways, as well as technical cooperation to reduce the suffering of people in need. We hope that this Conference will help shape the future course of the Movement, as well as our continued partnership and cooperation.

Thailand remains committed to upholding humanitarian principles and continues to engage in the areas where we can join efforts in working towards promoting humanitarianism. Prevention and preparedness are key areas that contribute to the achievement of effective humanitarian response. Training and preparation can always save more lives in emergencies.

To contribute to strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law, Thailand, with the support of the ICRC in Bangkok, provides training on IHL and human rights law to our military and police personnel. A lecture series has also been organized regularly since 2003 to raise public awareness. In June this year, Thailand was honoured to receive the ICRC President, Peter Maurer, to give a special lecture on contemporary challenges to humanitarian action.

Thailand attaches importance to providing access to health services for all people, in particular women and children, both in times of peace and in emergency situations. Under universal health coverage, Thai nationals are entitled to free basic medical services. Efforts have also been made to expand the scheme to cover migrant workers through affordable health insurance. In times of emergencies, health-care services and personnel are at risk. It is important to ensure their safety and equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge. With this in mind, Thailand is planning to organize in March 2016 the International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangkok.

As Thailand is located in a natural disaster-prone region, it is vital to put in place frameworks for disaster management to ensure that our people are prepared to respond to disasters. In terms of legislation, Thailand’s Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan 2015 is also in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. We believe that the key to effective and concrete action is local participation. The Thai Government has therefore worked with various partners on preparedness and building resilience at the local and community levels. Regular training and exercises are also organized to ensure rapid and effective delivery of assistance during times of crises.

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Lastly, disarmament is another area of humanitarian work. The recent Humanitarian Initiative has unlocked the humanitarian dimension of disarmament for the international community. This has enabled the international community to begin a discussion on addressing the humanitarian dimension of nuclear weapons in more meaningful terms. For Thailand, the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons is a fact that we must avoid at all costs, and this means that we have a lot of work to do in the area of prevention. Thailand joined the humanitarian pledge on this issue, to commit ourselves to push forward this effort. Thank you.

*Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference,  
resumed the Chair.*

**Mr Gennady Kuzmin, Deputy Director,  
Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs, Russian Federation**

*(Original Russian)*

Madam Chair, it is a great honour for me to deliver this address here today. This Conference is undoubtedly a unique platform which gives us the opportunity to discuss topical issues on the international humanitarian agenda, with the participation of States, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Conference has always been held in an atmosphere of constructive dialogue and adherence to the common goal of promoting the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement), and I hope that this will continue in the future.

The Russian Federation speaks out consistently in support of civilians affected by armed conflicts and calls for rigorous compliance with international humanitarian law – one of the most important and, regrettably, one of the oldest branches of international law. I say regrettably, because it reminds us how long mankind has been suffering as a result of war. With ever increasing frequency, we see that the rules of IHL are not observed by the parties to armed conflicts, and some of these rules are considered to have become obsolete. This has prompted the view that the existing IHL system should be reformed and updated. I do not know to what extent such a viewpoint is valid. However, if this really is to be done, it should be done carefully and not just for the sake of reform. It is much more important for us to maintain responsibility for ensuring compliance with the legal

and regulatory provisions in force. The matter of IHL implementation is a very relevant one. Appropriate measures should be taken at the national level. National mechanisms should be created to monitor observance of IHL. The postulates of IHL should be actively promoted. We are, however, convinced that the establishment of these new structures will not allow the expected results to be achieved, Madam Chair. In fact, just the opposite may occur. It may lead to the unnecessary politicization of international humanitarian law, which would undermine our authority. In our opinion, the necessary mechanisms already exist and, if properly used, would greatly help the States in fulfilling their obligations. Our efforts should be concentrated on enhancing effectiveness. There is a successful practice of convening regional forums to discuss more effective implementation of IHL. Such a forum has been held in Minsk (Republic of Belarus), bringing together the CIS member States.

I would like to highlight the enormous role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the IFRC. The staff of these organizations are well known for their professionalism and dedication. Unfortunately, sometimes the work of humanitarian staff involves risks to their lives, and it is not surprising that our Conference is devoting so much time to this problem. The topicality of this problem can be explained by the fact that, in recent times, we have been seeing more and more cases in which the personnel of international humanitarian organizations are killed, despite the international and legal protection provided by the corresponding humanitarian emblems. We vigorously condemn such actions.

To conclude, Madam Chair – I see that the red light is already on for me and I will now wrap up my speech – I would like to touch upon the problem of migration. When the participants of the 31st International Conference passed the resolution on migration in 2011, they could not have known how acute this problem would become for the international community in 2015. We know about the huge amount of humanitarian aid provided by the Movement to migrants all over the world, and we are grateful for that. As you know, the problem of migration has also affected the Russian Federation, and now the country is taking all necessary measures to resolve the problems that have arisen in this respect in accordance with legislation and international law. And to conclude, I would like to wish you all success in your work here. We are convinced that the results of the Conference will fully live up to our slogan – the Power of Humanity. The delegation of the Russian

Federation confirms its dedication to this goal of promoting humanity. Thank you very much.

**Ms Natalia Short, Youth Volunteer, Cook Islands Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, I am the Cook Islands' youth representative and I am speaking on behalf of the Pacific region. Across the Pacific and Australasia, Red Cross National Societies today call on the Movement to step up efforts to address the humanitarian consequences of climate change. We are deeply concerned. If this issue is not urgently addressed, then in our part of the world those consequences could overwhelm our collective ability to respond.

We recognize that the Movement has developed a clear position on climate change over the last decade. We acknowledge its resolutions, plans of action and other statements. Across the Pacific and Australasia, we hear these messages clearly. In the Pacific Islands, our young people are the generation that could live to see their communities, islands and whole nations disappear forever. We fear for our future, but today we tell the Movement that we fear what is happening right now in our part of the world. We see that human-created climate change is already inflicting a growing social and economic toll on communities and countries across the Pacific and Australasia. These impacts, both slow-onset and linked with extreme events, are not happening in isolation. They are merging with other challenges that our region faces. Especially in smaller, poorer parts of the region, we are becoming more vulnerable rather than less. The risk is of greater poverty in the future than in the past.

So, we raise an urgent, passionate cry for others to see this issue through our eyes, the people of the Pacific, young people especially. We live our lives on the front line of this battle. We have daily experience of climate change. We know how it threatens lives, livelihoods and entire communities. We speak now, knowing that it may be too late to speak. In the words of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, we are the first generation that can put an end to poverty, and we are the last that can end climate change. Although our region will suffer disproportionately if this battle is lost, our hope must be for the rest of the world to take action. A truly global effort is required. We call on the Movement to use all the tools at its disposal to force the pace towards a low-carbon, more climate-

resilient future. The humanitarian dividends from a future of that sort will be huge.

The Movement must, we believe, work harder to put a human face on the contrasting futures between which the world must choose. We seek a commitment to new resources for the tools to address this. We call for increased advocacy, increased humanitarian diplomacy in support of mitigation and adaptation, intensified public education and initiatives to show solidarity with other leaders and humanitarians. And we urgently need to reduce exposure to climate risk and associated disasters if we are to minimize worst-case scenarios. Those include loss of life, unprecedented levels of displacement and setbacks to the gains from poverty reduction, health and economic development. These humanitarian costs will affect not just the Pacific, but also eventually the whole planet.

In 2015, the Movement welcomed Tuvalu as its 190th National Society. All of us celebrate this milestone for the Movement. However, few nations on Earth are as vulnerable to climate change as this beautiful, low-lying country. We ask you to reflect deeply on the humanitarian loss and suffering that could be Tuvalu's future if humanity loses its battle with climate change. We ask the Movement as a whole to work with us to ensure that this unthinkable future does not become the inevitable face of human suffering across our region in decades to come. Thank you very much.

**H.E. Mr Peter Christian Matt, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, amid a worrying number of conflicts and humanitarian emergencies, we are meeting here in order to discuss the most pressing challenges and needs that governments, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and partner organizations are confronted with today. We therefore welcome the focus of the Conference on humanitarian principles.

Liechtenstein strongly believes that it is essential to strengthen compliance with IHL, as outlined in Resolution 1 at the 31st International Conference in 2011. The imperative of strengthening compliance with IHL is all too obvious. We see it on a daily basis in various conflicts around the world, very often, not to say regularly, to the detriment of the civilian

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population. We commend Switzerland and the ICRC for facilitating this complex process in an efficient and inclusive manner. It is now up to the participants of this Conference to ensure that these efforts have not been in vain. The lack of a compliance mechanism for IHL is largely due to the customs of treaty making at the time. But the international community has learned from this experience and, since then, established numerous important treaty regimes with strong mechanisms aimed at ensuring their good-faith implementation.

We all pride ourselves on the universal acceptance of the Geneva Conventions, but, truth be told, what is there to be proud of when scores of civilians, and also combatants, continue to suffer in situations of armed conflict in ways that IHL set out to end once and for all? We must seize every opportunity to strengthen compliance with IHL. We strongly hope that this Conference will adopt the draft resolution on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law, thereby living up to the commitment made by the International Conference four years ago. We particularly welcome the proposed meeting of States, as well as the proposed periodic reporting on national compliance with IHL.

We are also very concerned that sexual and gender-based crimes are increasingly being used as weapons of war. We hope that the draft resolution condemning such crimes will help to send an unambiguous message to all potential perpetrators that such acts will not be tolerated.

Finally, we would like to briefly address one of the greatest threats humanity as a whole is facing today, namely the threat of nuclear weapons. There is a growing consensus that the use of nuclear weapons, due to its devastating and indiscriminate consequences, is in and of itself incompatible with IHL. Further steps towards the prohibition of their use, and for disarmament, are urgently called for by, and enjoy the full support of, Liechtenstein. I thank you for your attention.

**Ms Päivi Kaukoranta, Director General,  
Legal Service, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of  
Finland**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, it is an honour to speak at this very important and timely Conference. I would like to start by commending the vital role that the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement continues to

play in challenging and complex humanitarian situations. The Movement remains as relevant today as it ever was, providing life-saving and life-changing assistance and services to millions of people in communities across the world. The international humanitarian system is currently under enormous strain, and humanitarian needs continue to increase dramatically. In this context, Finland remains committed to the promotion of and adherence to humanitarian law, humanitarian space and the protection of civilians.

We pay particular attention to the situation of women and girls and the most vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities. We also underline that women must play an active role in humanitarian action and decision-making. Violations of international humanitarian law continue to take place in different parts of the world on an alarming scale. We must redouble our efforts to ensure compliance with IHL. Madam Chair, all issues on the agenda of the coming days are of great importance. As regards strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law, it is of the utmost importance to take the process forward. We strongly support the process and think that the draft resolution reflects well the rich consultation process and the various views expressed during it. We are very grateful to the ICRC and Switzerland for their hard work in leading this process.

Sexual and gender-based violence remains a tragic reality in situations of armed conflict and disasters. Preventing violence, protecting the victims and providing a comprehensive response requires scaled-up action. Integrating these issues must be a standard element of humanitarian planning. Moreover, there can be no impunity for these grave crimes.

Protection of persons deprived of their liberty during armed conflict, health care in danger and safety and security of humanitarian personnel are also themes that require urgent attention. Let us do our part and adopt strong commitments in relation to these and all the other themes of the Conference.

Madam Chair, this year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles. They are highly relevant also in today's Finland. The Finnish Red Cross has done tremendous work in the efforts to provide protection and shelter to all those arriving in Finland seeking asylum from war and grave violations of human rights. The Government of Finland is highly appreciative of the excellent auxiliary contribution by the Finnish Red Cross. Finland remains deeply

committed to these principles and to providing humanitarian assistance solely on the basis of need. Independence, impartiality and neutrality continue to be crucial preconditions for reaching people in need of assistance, for maintaining access to the affected communities and for the safety of aid workers.

The plight of tens of millions of refugees and protracted crises require us to work together in a more efficient manner. The effectiveness of humanitarian assistance has never been more important. It is at the heart of the agenda of the World Humanitarian Summit, which Finland considers as a critical opportunity to reshape humanitarian work and forge stronger partnerships. Effective links should also be made between the Istanbul Summit, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

Finally, let me pay tribute to the humanitarian workers, health-care providers and volunteers for the tremendous work that they do, often at great risk to their own lives. I thank you.

**H.E. Mr Martin Smolek, Deputy Minister,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech  
Republic**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, the Government of the Czech Republic fully endorses the statement on behalf of the EU, which will be delivered tomorrow, and wishes to add a few remarks in its national capacity. The Czech Republic thanks the organizers and welcomes this excellent opportunity to meet here in Geneva in order to discuss the most pressing international humanitarian law issues of mutual concern. The discussions and exchange of views have to build on the achievements of the past conferences and follow up on the previously adopted resolutions. In this regard, the Czech Republic continues to support effective action taken by the international community against the suffering of vulnerable people worldwide.

Still in 2015 we are facing crises and emergencies in all corners of the world which are particularly challenging for civilians as well as for humanitarian and relief workers. We are deeply concerned about the situation in Syria and Iraq, where we are witnessing serious violations of international humanitarian law and the unprecedented human suffering of the affected civilian population. One of the greatest humanitarian challenges in current armed conflicts

is to improve respect for IHL. For that reason, the Czech Republic strongly supports the resolution on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law and thanks Switzerland and the ICRC for facilitating the consultations. We are committed to the idea of the compliance system represented by regular State meetings, including reporting and fact-finding mechanisms.

However, following the ICRC study on strengthening legal protection for victims of armed conflicts, a second topic was also identified, namely the protection of persons deprived of their liberty. The Czech Republic followed the consultation process on strengthening IHL protecting persons deprived of their liberty. We are aware of the obvious disparity between the detailed legal framework related to the deprivation of liberty in international armed conflict and the very basic framework that has been codified for similar situations in non-international armed conflicts. Therefore, the efforts of States should focus on a concrete and technical assessment of how to strengthen IHL protecting detainees in non-international armed conflict, including particularly vulnerable groups, such as women and children.

Finally, let me briefly inform you about the pledges that the Czech Republic presents at this Conference. First, building on our previous promises, the Czech Republic, together with the Czech Red Cross, will further disseminate knowledge about IHL. Second, we will also continue to support the auxiliary role of the Czech Red Cross to the public authorities, in particular in the case of medical services for the armed forces. Third, bearing in mind the urgent need to increase resilience and preparedness for emergencies, the Czech Republic, in cooperation with the Czech Red Cross, will increase the education of its population in this matter. Fourth and fifth, we have two other pledges that were presented in writing for that reason. Many thanks for your attention.

**H.E. Mr Andreas Ignatiou, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Cyprus in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, Cyprus has been, and continues to be, firmly committed to the rule of and respect for international humanitarian law and strives to remain a close and reliable partner to the ICRC. The paramount aim of all norms of international humanitarian law is to safeguard the Fundamental Principles and humanity in armed conflicts. Its

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purpose is just as important today as it was at the time of its creation. Cyprus wishes to pay tribute to the ICRC for its efforts to promote and enhance compliance with international humanitarian law. We reaffirm our unreserved support for actions taken by the ICRC in situations of armed conflict and reiterate our readiness to cooperate on projects that promote our shared vision for a more humane world. The Humanitarian Pledge regarding the impact of nuclear weapons issued at the Vienna Conference a year ago is a good example of this and has the full commitment of my Government.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in times of severe crises, forced displacements and migration flows, it is important not to forget those Fundamental Principles, in particular respect for human rights and humanitarian principles, as well as refugee law and international humanitarian law. In this same vein, I would like to add a few words on migration, an issue that, for obvious reasons, finds itself very high on the agenda of my Government.

I wish to underline the fact that the effort to manage migration flows more efficiently has much better chances of succeeding if it involves coordinated action by the authorities of countries of origin, transit and destination. This should be the result of increased political cooperation and dialogue. Cyprus is convinced that regional cooperation and more efficient coordination between the various international organizations dealing with separate aspects of the migration issue can substantially enhance the prospects of success. We believe that a comprehensive and horizontal approach to the problem is absolutely necessary.

We are all well aware that humanitarian crises are increasing in number, scale and complexity. It is our sincere hope that the principles of humanity, impartiality and independence have become synonymous with the concept of humanitarian assistance for our work here in Geneva as well.

Cyprus aligns itself with the statement to be made by the European Union and fully endorses the pledges to be announced therein.

In conclusion, Cyprus wishes to express its full support for the draft resolutions of the Conference and hopes that all of them will be adopted by consensus. Thank you.

**Mr William Crosbie, Assistant Deputy  
Minister, Head of Delegation Global Affairs  
Canada**

*(Original French)*

Madam Chair, Canada's support for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has never been stronger. Our contributions to the ICRC's vital humanitarian operations are at an unprecedented level and have been scaled up in step with the organization's growing needs in recent years. We had the pleasure of receiving Mr Maurer in Ottawa two weeks ago as part of an official visit he made to meet with our new Government, a clear sign of our continued commitment. The current strategic partnership between the Canadian Government and the Canadian Red Cross Society constitutes a pledge of unconditional, dependable support for the Movement in crucial areas such as disaster management and the strengthening of local capacities to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. As our support has increased, so too have our expectations: we welcome current initiatives aimed at improving and strengthening coordination among the different components of the Movement, and we encourage further progress in this area to enhance the added value that each of the components can contribute to these operations.

*(Original English)*

Today, global humanitarian needs and forced displacements have reached unprecedented levels. Regrettably, this dramatic increase has been largely driven by violent conflict and, distressingly, the effects of armed conflict have been exacerbated by rampant violations of international law. Canada remains committed to encouraging respect for, and greater compliance with, international humanitarian law. We are deeply concerned that flagrant attacks against civilians persist during armed conflict in direct contravention of international law. At the same time, the safety and security of humanitarian workers and volunteers attempting to deliver assistance is threatened. This Conference is an important moment to reaffirm our collective commitment to protecting civilians and upholding international humanitarian law.

Canada welcomes the Conference's focus on preventing and responding to violence. As we mark the 15th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, we are particularly pleased by the attention to the topic of sexual and gender-based violence and strongly support the first resolution uniquely devoted to this issue.

Canada also welcomes the Conference's continued engagement on resilience and international disaster response law. As the severity, occurrence and cost of natural disasters increase, legal preparedness is key to fostering risk reduction and resilience and, by extension, to reducing vulnerability.

*(Original French)*

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Movement's Fundamental Principles. In view of unprecedented humanitarian needs worldwide, it is more important than ever to renew our commitment to the principles that have guided all our humanitarian efforts for half a century. However, it is not enough to simply renew this commitment; we must also do everything in our power to put these principles into action. This is exactly what Canada has been endeavouring to do since the 31st International Conference held in 2011, including its work under initiatives to improve mother, newborn and child health and our new initiative to take 25,000 Syrian refugees as soon as possible. In the future, we must do everything we can to ensure that people in need are not left to fend for themselves, are not unreachable and are not left to cope on their own without vital assistance. Thank you.

**H.E. Ms Tehmina Janjua, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Geneva, on behalf of the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), except Albania. It is an honour for OIC countries that this Conference is being presided over by a woman from an OIC country, Afghanistan, our close friend and neighbour. I would like to congratulate you and the members of your Bureau on your election by acclamation. You bring with you dedication, energy and purpose to this meeting. We also express our profound gratitude to the IFRC, the ICRC, the Standing Commission, the Council of Delegates and the Swiss Government, which were actively engaged with the substantive preparatory work of this Conference.

The OIC Member States assure the Conference of our most sincere effort to promote a constructive and cooperative spirit during our discussions.

We expect readiness on the part of all participants to seek solutions to all issues facing us, with a view to achieving our shared goals.

The OIC Member States are committed to respecting IHL. We firmly believe that the international community's collective failure to respect the rules that regulate the conduct of armed conflict and limit the effects of war has made achievement of peace a difficult proposition. It is therefore the collective desire of the OIC countries to seek the strengthening of compliance with IHL in a transparent, inclusive, non-politicized and non-contextual manner.

The world today faces several challenges that put into question the security, sovereignty and well-being of our people. Unresolved disputes, coupled with new ones, have led to intractable and tragic consequences for our societies and nations collectively. The impact of armed conflict, often circumventing IHL, has given rise to grave humanitarian situations. Families once living with dignity and self-respect and in prosperity have been forced to flee their homes and beg for attention, sympathy and generosity. Without a collective effort to address the root cause of their misery, we will not only fail their expectations, but also run the risk of aggravating the existing humanitarian crisis.

Our work at this Conference assumes greater significance as we collectively strive to discuss and adopt resolutions aimed at strengthening international humanitarian law. In this regard, we appreciate the initiative of the Swiss Government and the ICRC for extensive consultations on issues of strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law and strengthening international humanitarian law for persons deprived of their liberty. We believe that more consultations may be required before adopting the resolutions by consensus.

On strengthening compliance with IHL, one of the most important initiatives undertaken during the last two years, we emphasize that consensus should be a prerequisite for establishing a new forum, as well as during its subsequent working. Here, the OIC Member States would like to enumerate some points. One, Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference of 2011 did not envisage a resolution; instead, it looked to synthesize and elaborate the research-oriented exercise. Two, consensus is a necessary and essential principle for effective compliance. Three, the draft resolution that we have before us is rather prescriptive. The details should be left to the process coming after the Conference to allow

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thorough consideration of all its aspects, which is essential for sound decision-making.

OIC Member States would like to see more substantive work carried out to bridge differences with regard to the proposed resolution on strengthening IHL for persons deprived of their liberty. I assure you that all OIC member countries would constructively engage in the drafting of all resolutions and contribute towards arriving at consensus-based outcomes. I thank you very much for your attention.

**Ms Anna Carlstedt, President, Swedish Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, dear friends and colleagues, when we met for the 17th International Conference in Stockholm in 1948 after the Second World War, the world was broken and the international community had failed. Then, together, we addressed two major humanitarian challenges. The first was how to develop international humanitarian law to better protect the civilian population and persons hors de combat. The response was the development of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and international human rights treaties. The second challenge was how to ensure better protection for all of those who were forced to flee as a result of the war. The response was the development of the International Refugee Convention.

Today, almost 70 years later, we meet again and, sadly, our major challenges remain the same. The seemingly perpetual causes and effects of conflict and our inability to learn from earlier mistakes are disheartening. It also begs the question: What do we need to do to tackle these reoccurring challenges? The law is now in place, so what is missing?

I sometimes wonder what Henry Dunant would do today. I think he would be sad. I also think he would tell the world we could do better than this; we must do better than this. I also dare to suggest that he would appreciate the following three issues, so important for us to address today: one, to halt continued violations of humanitarian law and stop all kinds of gender-based violence urgently; two, to find much more effective ways to ensure safety and dignity for displaced people and other migrants, including addressing the root causes of forced displacement; and three, to increase our efforts to address the psychological consequences of armed conflicts and violence.

Perhaps we should ask more often: “What would Henry Dunant do?” We must act together with the same passionate sense of humanitarian action, based on the humanitarian principles and values that once founded our Movement. And speaking of principles, if I, to conclude, could be a little bit informal in this important forum, I would like to share with you an old item very dear to me: a compass, to remind us all that if we keep our Fundamental Principles as a compass in these extremely difficult times, I think that we will find a way together. Thank you.

**Dr. Sharokh Shakerian, Director, Department for Multilateral Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, I congratulate you on the occasion of your election. I assure you, as the Chair of this august body, of my delegation’s fullest support and cooperation in achieving our common goals in this Conference.

We would like first of all to associate ourselves with the statement just delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.

The 21st century started with a great deal of hope and concern – hope for the advancement of humanity in all its aspects and, unfortunately, deeper concern over the defiance of the basic principles of international humanitarian law. The very apt theme of this Conference provides us with ample opportunity to reflect on both sides of the new developments that we have witnessed in the present century. More than any other place in the world, the Middle East suffers from disrespect for international humanitarian law and human dignity, continuous co-occupation, aggression and intervention. The spread of wilful acts of terrorism and misappropriation of peaceful places are among the most important factors.

The ever-increasing wave of immigrants who risk their lives for a better life is an example of the degrading power of humanity. Coming from this region and feeling such human suffering deeply, we strongly believe that it is imperative to reinforce our collective commitment to international humanitarian law. Such commitments shall turn to action. For this purpose, this valuable congregation of representatives of governments and National Societies is the best place. The centrepiece of our collective endeavour, I believe, shall be respect for human dignity. Since World War II, there has been no other time when human



dignity has suffered so seriously. It is our shared responsibility to save and improve the lives of the millions who are in dire need all around the world, in particular in the Middle East and Africa, and to mitigate the consequences of war and co-occupation, terrorism and natural disasters.

To address humanitarian situations, we need to focus on strengthening humanitarian law in all its aspects. The invaluable efforts of governments and National Societies in the 31st Conference to strengthen IHL will bear fruit if we stick to the principles that we agreed upon during the consultation process, in particular the State-driven and consensus-based character of the process.

We also need to exert the utmost caution, so as not to weaken the firm legal basis of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions, to non-legally binding mechanisms. The recent wave of migration from war-torn or the least-developed countries needs to be addressed thoroughly. It is a humanitarian priority. Those countries that have the capacity to contribute to reducing the misery of migrants need to act swiftly and without any hesitation. The 32nd Conference should give an impetus to all who can play a role in reducing such suffering.

Unless all stakeholders take concrete action, climate change as a potential cause for future conflicts will intensify the destructive natural disasters that shatter the lives of many people all around the world. Furthermore, new and old diseases cause widespread suffering. Again, the most vulnerable people continue to suffer most. Governments and National Societies need to reinforce each other's efforts to strengthen their emergency and health services to respond expeditiously and substantially to such disasters. To cope with these ever-increasing demands, we all need to act collectively and reinforce each other. I thank you.

**Ms Anita Bay Bundegaard, Director & United Nations Representative of Save the Children, Geneva Office**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, today's armed conflicts result in immense human suffering, and all parties to conflict consistently fail to spare and protect civilian populations. We see this happening in, for instance, Syria, Yemen and the Central African Republic.

Children are fully impacted by such violence and by the worrying trend that humanitarian principles and rules of war are less and less respected by parties to the conflict. Nearly a billion children were living in countries affected by conflict last year, and children make up nearly half of the world's displaced population. Twenty-eight point three million children – half of all children out of school globally – live in countries affected by conflict. Hundreds of thousands of boys and girls are subjected to or at risk of grave violations, including killing and maiming, recruitment and use by armed forces and armed groups, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals and denial of access to humanitarian assistance.

Thousands of targeted attacks on education have been reported across dozens of countries in the last five years and spanning most regions of the world. The vast majority of these attacks involve the bombing, shelling or burning of schools or universities, or the killing, injury or kidnapping of students and teachers. In addition, over the past decade, education facilities have been used by fighting forces for military purposes in at least 26 countries experiencing armed conflict.

The use of explosive weapons in populated areas is one of the largest contributors to the killing and maiming of children in situations of armed conflict, and it directly contributes to grave violations against children, including the destruction of schools and hospitals. According to available data, casualties from explosive weapons are increasing, and civilian casualties consistently outnumber those of armed actors. Child casualties were recorded in 34 countries or territories in 2013 among the 58 countries or territories where explosive weapons are in use. Almost half of the recorded child casualties were in Syria.

Ahead of the World Humanitarian Summit next year, this Conference is a key opportunity for the international community, and notably the States parties to the Geneva Conventions, to reiterate their call and commitment to urgent and unequivocal respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Save the Children strongly recommends member States to support ongoing initiatives aimed at strengthening the protection of education facilities and personnel from attack, including the Safe Schools Declaration, through which States are committing to better protect education during armed conflict and to use the guidelines for protecting schools and universities from military use during armed conflict,

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which provide an additional reference tool for parties to armed conflict. In this regard, Save the Children supports Norway's pledge to strengthen education during armed conflict.

Finally, Save the Children also supports the development of a political commitment to stopping the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas, as was mentioned by Austria earlier. We call for member States to support such an initiative.

Let me end by making a strong call for children to remain at the heart of all initiatives aimed at strengthening the protection of civilians. Thank you.

**Dr Younis Al-Khatib, President, The Palestine Red Crescent Society**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, most of the topics on our agenda, including the situation in the Middle East and maybe beyond, are connected to what we are living through in this period of time, but I will focus on one issue, that is, the protection of medical missions and the security of our volunteers, not just of the Palestine Red Crescent, but of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in general. I will be very brief – there is no need to watch the time – because my colleagues in the Red Cross Societies and the President of the ICRC this morning in his address spoke very well and focused on this issue of protecting our people in the field, and the fact that we should not tolerate actions against them and mistakes should not be accepted.

In the Palestine Red Crescent, in the last decade, we have lost 21 of our colleagues in the line of duty, and since 1968 we have lost around 150. The humanitarian agencies in Palestine have probably lost a similar number. We have lost eight of our colleagues in Syria, mainly in the Yarmouk Camp in Damascus, not to mention that the Syrian Arab Red Crescent has also lost 49 of their volunteers in the line of duty in that conflict. This also happens in many other countries in the region: Libya, South Sudan and Afghanistan. Only recently, two colleagues from the ICRC were kidnapped in Yemen; one of them is still not accounted for.

I do not want to say that we have got used to such actions in the Movement through the years.

We have lost many, and many more have been injured, but what we have not got used to, and it has been a precedent and new experience for us in the last few weeks, is the incitement coming from high political levels in governments and actors in power. I cannot say that this only happens here; it could be occurring in other places too, but I see it as a very dangerous precedent. Although all our colleagues were killed or wounded by gunfire from Israeli soldiers, there has never been such a high level of direct incitement of hate and threats endangering the lives of those working in the field. I think you know the story; I do not need to tell you. However, what I came here to say today is that this should not be repeated. I came to plead, mainly with decision-makers and governments, to save our lives, so that we are able to save lives. Thank you very much.

**H.E. Mr Andrej Grasselli, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, Slovenia followed up the implementation of the resolutions and pledges of the 31st International Conference and reported thereon. Moreover, a report on the status of the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions was drawn up and submitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with the UN resolution.

The draft resolutions of the 32nd International Conference address pertinent issues which we support, and we are convinced that their implementation will help produce an adequate response to the ever-growing challenges. As regards resolutions, we will participate in the pledging process and follow up the implementation of commitments undertaken.

International migration generates humanitarian concerns. Slovenia has recently dealt with significant numbers of refugees and migrants. We would like to thank the International Federation for its prompt and effective assistance.

We commend the ICRC's activities related to strengthening compliance with IHL. The consultation process conducted jointly by the ICRC and Switzerland was accompanied by extensive and specific discussions, which contributed significantly to the drafting of the resolution and concrete steps to establish a forum for strengthening respect for IHL and the Geneva Conventions, such as a

conference of States parties or a similar institutional forum. Slovenia strongly supports the institution of a future IHL compliance mechanism based on the key principles enunciated in the consultation process. Regular meetings of States parties should be established as a venue for thematic discussions and a platform for processing national compliance reports.

We are concerned about the effects of the conflict on children. Slovenia will continue its commitment to implementing documents on the protection of children affected by armed conflict, promoting the physical and psychosocial rehabilitation of children and exploring ways to contribute to the promotion and protection of schools during armed conflict.

We are committed to advocating for respect for IHL, including measures to underline individual responsibility and develop international criminal law. Slovenia supports all efforts seeking to end impunity for perpetrators of the most serious violations of international humanitarian law. However, primary responsibility for prosecuting the perpetrators of such crimes lies with the State. In this context, we are working together with the Netherlands, Belgium and Argentina on a multilateral treaty for mutual legal assistance and extradition for the domestic prosecution of atrocity crimes, the so-called MLA initiative, which would enhance the effectiveness of their prosecution. We would like to take this opportunity to invite States to join the almost 50 States already supporting the MLA initiative. Thank you.

**H.E. Ms Cecilia B. Rebong, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Philippines in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, the Philippines adds its voice to fellow delegations in extending our deep appreciation to the joint organizing committee for the preparations that they have made for this Conference, which is unique in its main thrust for bringing together governments and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as partners to analyse and discuss common humanitarian issues.

Humanitarian crises are becoming increasingly complex. We see the unprecedented rise in the frequency of natural and man-made disasters and

the intensity of armed conflicts, which are affecting a truly growing number of people worldwide. We recognize the complexity of humanitarian challenges. While governments should retain the primary role in humanitarian action, the important key to addressing these humanitarian challenges is through the spirit of real cooperation amongst all of us. We have to work together for the great cause of humanity.

Security-related issues are also among the main constraints to humanitarian access. To preserve safety and access to humanitarian assistance and services, my Government has always been supportive of efforts to promote safety for volunteers. In the Philippines, our Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 has provisions that protect emergency volunteers in case of accident. The government agency, civil society organization or private-sector actor that mobilizes the volunteer should be responsible for providing the latter with insurance protection coverage. We are therefore fully supportive of the resolution on the safety and security of humanitarian volunteers. We will continue to work with partners to improve measures that will ensure public understanding and acceptance of the role of our humanitarian volunteers, including public awareness campaigns and the dissemination of information on the Fundamental Principles.

We believe that this Conference should benefit from, as well as contribute to, the global processes related to the post-2015 frameworks, such as the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held last May, the ongoing climate change conference in Paris and the World Humanitarian Summit next year. To reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience, we should strengthen laws and regulations related to disaster risk reduction and recognize the importance of reviewing national laws and procedures in light of the IDRL guidelines.

The Philippines promotes the great importance of IHL and is soliciting the most efficient procedures to strengthen its implementation. We therefore reiterate our continued commitment to working with fellow States, the ICRC, the IFRC and National Societies to ensure that IHL remains relevant, effective and practical in our current humanitarian landscape. Finally, we the people are the key to achieving the aspirations of this International Conference. Our relationships and trust, forged together, should sustain world peace and prosperity. Thank you.

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**H.E. Mr Hasan Ulusoy, Ambassador, Director  
General for Multilateral Political Affairs,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, let me first express our gratitude to Switzerland and all who have contributed to the successful organization of this important Conference. Since the previous Conference, tremendous challenges in the humanitarian field have once again demonstrated the importance of international humanitarian law.

The global humanitarian system has progressively evolved and made considerable advancements over the years to the common benefit of people in need. Yet humanitarian needs are growing considerably beyond our common abilities to respond effectively. For example, the number of refugees and displaced persons has reached a record level since the Second World War. While the affected people are simply striving to survive, the international humanitarian system urgently needs to respond to these needs. Today, the international humanitarian community is awaiting a message from this Conference. It is also of importance that humanitarian actors take their responsibility to act effectively in a collective manner to strengthen international humanitarian law. In this process, States should play a leading role.

Turkey is strongly engaged in humanitarian efforts to respond to all types of crises around the globe. Moreover, in hosting and helping millions of affected persons fleeing their countries in grand despair, we also face the direct consequences of humanitarian crises along our borders. In this context, we praise particularly the Turkish Red Crescent Society for its devoted and committed efforts wherever there is a humanitarian emergency. Naturally, the same goes for other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

We would like to reiterate once again our commitment to strengthening respect for international humanitarian law. In this context, I would also like to recall our position regarding the 1977 Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions with respect to the term “armed non-state actors”. Facing the realities on the ground and witnessing the incidents at the present time, we are of the firm opinion that the utmost vigilance is needed to avoid creating an environment that can be exploited and misused by terrorist groups when we address international humanitarian law.

We all need courageous and innovative ideas and solutions to address a basic question: What can we do in order to better respond to the ongoing humanitarian crises to save lives and give people a life? We will address such pertinent questions next year in Istanbul at the first ever World Humanitarian Summit from 23 to 24 May.

The multi-stakeholder process of the Summit preparations has enabled the humanitarian community to have a wide-ranging, interactive dialogue among all stakeholders, including affected communities. In this context, let me particularly express our appreciation for the active engagement of the Movement in the World Humanitarian Summit preparation process. We hope that the outcomes of the Summit will identify the major issues that should be followed up and provide the long-needed ground towards setting the future agenda for the international humanitarian community.

We, as the host country, would like to reiterate our sincere invitation to all member States and stakeholders to support this historic process and participate in the Summit at the highest possible level, in a spirit of collective ownership and shared responsibility. Istanbul, having embraced two continents and many civilizations throughout history, is ready to welcome all participants who are committed to joining the global efforts to this end. Thank you for your attention.

**Dr Adam Bouloukos, Director, United  
Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction**

*(Original English)*

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) is pleased to be here at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, through its network of volunteers and National Societies, is a key partner for the UNISDR and the disaster risk reduction community.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted by member States in March 2015 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, and endorsed by the UN General Assembly, provides the overall guidance on preventing the creation of new risk, reducing existing levels of disaster risk and reducing disaster

losses in lives, livelihoods and health. The Sendai Framework calls for States to take the primary responsibility in preventing and reducing disaster risk, including through cooperation, with shared responsibility between central and local authorities, sectors and stakeholders. However, it also calls for the active participation of civil society, in the form of volunteers and community-based organizations among others, in disaster risk reduction planning and implementation, as well as public awareness raising and the creation of a culture of prevention and education on disaster risk.

This people-centred vision is at the heart of the Sendai Framework and the UNISDR's campaigns, such as the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, which has engaged almost 3,000 cities and towns in an effort to build urban resilience through local action. In this regard, the UNISDR welcomes the One Billion Coalition for Resilience, an initiative designed to scale up community and civic action on resilience. The UNISDR recognizes and appreciates that this initiative is the IFRC's voluntary commitment and collective contribution towards the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The dialogue over the past few days has emphasized the need to expand our scope and thinking on prevention and resilience measures. Biological and man-made hazards, including technological and environmental hazards, for example, are clearly important areas that we need to include for comprehensive disaster risk management. The Sendai Framework's wide scope goes beyond natural hazards to cover all types of hazards of all scales, with slow or rapid onset.

As we conclude 2015, it will be important to reflect on how the coherent implementation of various international instruments can result in development outcomes that are truly sustainable. Risk reduction and resilience can provide the coherence and synergy between the agreements, as well as on the ground, including through the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Priorities moving forward include: first, continue to focus on partnerships to deliver the Sendai Framework at all levels and across all sectors. The Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies and volunteers have a vital role to play in helping countries to develop national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, the first target of the Sendai Framework to be achieved; second, mobilize the local communities to reduce risks and

build resilience through multi-hazard early warning systems, accessible risk information, enhancing disaster preparedness and investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; third, assist governments in the endeavour to support communities in addressing underlying risk factors, which is more cost effective than relying on disaster response and recovery.

The UNISDR will continue to engage with partners, as we collectively seek to reduce disaster risk to build a safe, secure and resilient world. Thank you.

**Mr Sergiy Petukhov, Deputy Minister of Justice for European Integration of Ukraine**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, Ukraine fully supports the humanitarian spirit of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and welcomes the agenda of this Conference. We bring to this Conference our recent bitter experience. Ukraine had been a peaceful state since its independence in 1991 until very recent times. In 2014, we became the victims of an armed conflict that had no internal reasons or basis in our peace-loving society. This war has already claimed more than 8,000 victims. Part of our territory became occupied, which resulted in one and a half million people fleeing their homes and leaving their usual lives behind them forever.

War took a special toll on women and girls, who often became victims of sexual or gender-based violence. Ukraine's recent experience indicates that adequate and timely responses have to be found to ensure better protection of civilians from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, as well as preserve the environment from the devastating consequences of hostilities.

We are seeing this threat of hybrid wars, which are waged through mercenaries or terrorists and lubricated by State-sponsored propaganda. Civilians are used as shields, the media as an offensive weapon. These harmful and damaging wars are inflamed by irresponsible leaders for all the wrong reasons and waged with prohibited means and weapons. Truth is being distorted, facts are being denied, journalists are intentionally used to spread lies, while international observers and humanitarian missions are denied access to affected regions. In this environment, there is a dire need for really effective cooperation of all Geneva Convention States parties, with international and recognized monitoring and

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fact-finding mechanisms. Have we been able to stop genocide and war crimes from being committed? No.

**Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Excuse me, we made the promise that we were not going to make political comments. Would you adhere to that, please?

**Mr Sergiy Petukhov, Deputy Minister of Justice for European Integration of Ukraine**

*(Original English)*

I will. Regional conflicts become easily globalized. With the downing of the Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 in the eastern part of the country, hundreds of innocent passengers on this flight from Malaysia, Australia, Germany, the Netherlands and other countries became victims of this conflict.

Ukraine reiterates its respect for human rights and its obligations under international humanitarian law. We encourage this Conference to find solutions to promote its further strengthening. We would like to use this opportunity to thank the ICRC for reopening the delegation in Ukraine and helping us to face the humanitarian disaster that we have been living through since 2014.

Ukraine will become a non-permanent member of the Security Council next year, and we pledge to spread the humanitarian values of the Movement in this international forum. Thank you for your attention.

**Mr Robert Markt, Executive President, Croatian Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, due to the security situation in the Middle East which escalated during the summer, the Croatian Red Cross, in line with the principles of humanity and solidarity, launched an appeal to raise funds for the southern European countries affected by the migrant crisis and sent its intervention teams to neighbouring National Societies to provide humanitarian relief.

Since the night of 16 September and the change of the migratory route, tens of thousands of migrants and refugees have been arriving in Croatia on a daily basis, reaching almost half a million in three months.

Based on years-long experience in working with refugees during the war in Croatia, our work with asylum-seekers and now with people transiting through our country has been fully aligned with our role of auxiliary to the public authorities. We make sure that the dignity and human rights of migrants coming to Croatia are fully protected, and they are all provided with first aid, food, water, sanitation and clothing. We have also been providing ongoing psychosocial support and restoring family links.

We are particularly proud of the unique model that the Croatian Red Cross has been applying in coordinating the civil society organizations responding in the country, including the UN agencies and other national and international humanitarian organizations. For the outstanding achievements in this regard, we have been recognized by the highest authorities in Croatia and the international community.

Thanks to the excellent cooperation with other National Societies on the route, we have been successful in restoring family links. Moreover, we would like to go a step further by taking care of the most vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied children. We believe that awareness campaigns in the countries of origin can contribute to the prevention of the trauma to which children are exposed. National Societies, the ICRC and the Federation, as well as the UNHCR and UNICEF, all need to do more.

Anticipating further steps, there are a few key challenges ahead of us: securing the funds needed for the ongoing operation, with the aim of maintaining the provision of services and keeping them at a high level of quality, particularly in the face of the coming winter conditions.

Speaking about a better world, we are aware that no country can solve the problem of refugees on its own. We live in a world with 40 active conflicts, with none of them near reaching a conclusion, and with more than 60 million people on the move. More than ever, there is an urgent need for the cooperation of the whole international community. Only with full engagement will we achieve the peace and security needed to allow every displaced person to return to their home. Thank you very much.

**Mr Sven Molleklev, President, Norwegian Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, in the four years since the last International Conference, we have faced an unprecedented level of humanitarian crisis. Outbreaks of highly infectious diseases, natural disasters, protracted conflicts; from all over the globe, we have received staggering figures of affected persons – figures that must raise a humanitarian alarm. The figure that is most astonishing is the number of forcibly displaced persons, a clear indication of the state of the world. Despite this dramatic situation, we are witnessing efforts to undermine core humanitarian principles and pillars of international humanitarian law, but it is in the midst of crisis that we need to be faithful to humanitarian principles. In the midst of crisis we need to protect humanitarian law.

Allow me to address one of the issues in the ICRC's Challenges Report. In 2011, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement committed itself to influence States and to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons. Four years after, the key messages of our position are both stated and endorsed by 159 States. I commend those States that have shown courage and leadership in this field, States that have committed themselves to work together to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons. It is now time to end the era of nuclear weapons, and this vision is no longer only a long-term ideal, but an achievable objective and, as the ICRC President has said, a humanitarian imperative.

I call on all of us present here at this Conference. We carry the trust of many people in vulnerable situations, the trust that we together will step up our efforts, that we will be faithful to our previous commitments, that we will turn around a negative trend with fewer resources allocated to humanitarian action outside domestic borders. If we fail to make a real difference, to alleviate suffering and to give hope to the most vulnerable; if we fail to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law, for refugee law; if we fail to live up to the commitments made here at previous Conferences; if we fail, the humanitarian suffering of the world will be much greater when we meet again in four years, and that cannot be an option. Thank you very much.

**H.E. Mr Yury Ambrazevich, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus in Geneva**

*(Original Russian)*

Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I would like to greet you all and thank you for the exceptional decision to grant the delegation members representing Russian-speaking countries the chance to take an active part in this Conference. For the sake of simplicity and in deference to tradition, I will continue my speech in English.

*(Original English)*

Belarus expresses its greetings to the participants of the Conference, as we attach great importance to this event. We note with satisfaction that the agenda of the Conference is full, versatile and represents a wide array of current issues and challenges that need to be addressed. We welcome the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross to accommodate multilateral dialogue on the issues on the agenda of the Conference and uphold the continuation of constructive international cooperation on these topics.

Using this opportunity, we would like to share our thoughts on several draft resolutions, which we believe to be in particular need of a thoughtful and comprehensive approach from all stakeholders.

Belarus believes that IHL protecting persons deprived of their liberty needs to be strengthened. It is important that the work in this area be carried out exclusively within the framework of existing IHL, ensuring that the scope of its application is precisely defined and limited to the situations of armed conflicts and also confirming the neutral role of the ICRC. In this regard, we back the proposal for the development of an advisory instrument aimed at strengthening the protection of persons deprived of their liberty in connection with armed conflicts.

Belarus recognizes the necessity of reaffirming and enhancing respect for and compliance with international humanitarian law. We would therefore like to express our gratitude to Switzerland and the ICRC for drawing attention to the topic and initiating a consultative process and to all participating States for their valuable inputs.

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We believe that the decision to create a new international mechanism to strengthen the role of IHL must attain the broadest endorsement of all States parties to the Geneva Conventions, as this is the only way to achieve its universality and effectiveness. Since the consensus approach is proposed as the basis for the future mechanism, it is of utmost importance that its establishment is also performed by consensus. However, we have to regretfully admit that, at this point in time, the consensus around the establishment of the new mechanism is not present, as the proposal has not yet reached the needed level of maturity in terms of both transparency and universal support.

While supporting the idea behind the initiative, Belarus strongly believes that the establishment of a new mechanism is impossible without the simultaneous adoption of its mandate, terms of reference and rules of procedure. The draft resolution unfortunately lacks precision and transparency in the relevant methodological aspects, which prevents us from supporting it in the presented wording.

We would also like to suggest enhancing the draft resolution by incorporating provisions on existing mechanisms for compliance with IHL and emphasizing the role of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as the national commissions for the implementation of IHL.

We believe that, at the moment, the resolution on this issue should rather serve as a procedural device to move the process forward without deciding upon the substantive matters of the proposed mechanism. We would gladly participate in the drafting session, with a view to finding an acceptable formulation of the resolution.

Belarus sincerely wishes the Conference and its participants a successful outcome in the spirit of compromise, mutual respect and recognition of the importance of the agenda in front of us.

**H.E. Mr Pedro Comissário, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Mozambique  
in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, my delegation welcomes the holding of this 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. It gives us a unique opportunity to reflect and take measures on the all-important theme

of the Power of Humanity at a time of widespread turmoil in the world. Wars, conflicts and persecution have forced more people to flee their homes and seek refuge and safety elsewhere than at any other time since the Second World War. The number of people forcibly displaced has risen to a staggering 60 million, compared to 51.2 million a year earlier, and 37.5 million a decade ago. In the past five years, at least 15 conflicts have erupted or reignited: eight in Africa, three in the Middle East, one in Europe and three in Asia.

In this context, we all wholeheartedly praise the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. We come from a country that in the past has experienced war and conflict. We know the value of humanitarian action. Our presence here today has the purpose of expressing our strong solidarity with those who are suffering worldwide. We wish to express our profound appreciation for the humanitarian work being undertaken by the RCRC and other organizations and heed their call for the upholding of the standards of humanity. In this connection, Mozambique reaffirms its utmost respect for the principles of IHL.

This Conference is taking place after the adoption of the SDGs and the Sendai Framework. Being a natural-disaster-prone country, Mozambique has been implementing the recommendations of the Sendai Framework, which are in tandem with Resolution 7 of the 31st Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on the development of natural disaster legal frameworks. In this regard, I am happy to report to this Conference that my Government has recently enacted a law on disaster management. The law will render the actions of the National Institute for Disaster Management and the Red Cross and Red Crescent more efficient, and thus more beneficial, to the affected communities, as they seek to build resilience in coping with disasters. I thank you very much.

**Ms Lucy Duncan, Deputy Secretary,  
Multilateral and Legal Affairs Group, Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, New Zealand congratulates you and the other officers elected to preside over this important Conference, with its unique character, bringing together nearly 200 governments and – with Tuvalu’s membership – 190 National Societies.



As the President of the ICRC reminded us in his opening address today, as well as in his compelling article in the Guardian, the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement remain as clear, relevant and powerful today as they were when they were first proclaimed 50 years ago at the 20th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Vienna.

The most fundamental of the Movement's principles is humanity, which calls on us "to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found" and to "protect life and health, and ensure respect for the human being". Jean Pictet, the author of the Fundamental Principles, called humanity the "essential principle", "the spark which ignites the powder" of the Movement. It is therefore fitting that this Conference emphasizes the enduring power of humanity, and all of us present today are demonstrating this power as we join together to reaffirm our belief that principled humanitarian action is an essential part of our collective duty to people affected by armed conflict and natural disasters.

As so many speakers have said today, together we face enormous challenges in responding to unprecedented levels of humanitarian need around the world. This Conference is a timely and important forum for discussing some of the most pressing of these challenges, including reducing disaster risk and strengthening protection for victims of armed conflicts. New Zealand looks forward to engaging with all delegations and discussions on these issues, and we very much hope that together we can make significant progress on them for the benefit of people in need.

The principle of humanity gives us common ground for our discussions on these pressing issues. Even where our views differ, we should bear in mind that every one of us, every nation, agrees that even war has limits, that civilians and combatants who are hors de combat must be protected and that medical personnel and objects must not be attacked. The laws of war setting those limits must be respected, as Peter Maurer has said so elegantly in his article in the Guardian.

This common ground should remind us that, together, we can do more to improve the lives of people affected by armed conflict and disaster and that our shared humanity is more powerful than whatever differences we might have. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Mr Tobias Elling Rehfeld, Under-Secretary, Centre for Legal Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, implementation, implementation, implementation; the main challenge to international humanitarian law and our underlying humanitarian principles is not the shortage of rules, it is the lack of implementation. This was the main challenge 10, 20, 30 years ago; it is the main challenge today.

In order to achieve this aim, we must, as individual States and as members of the international community, focus our efforts on ensuring respect for international humanitarian law. We must work actively to disseminate international humanitarian law, and we must work equally hard to ensure that the rules and principles are clearly understood. In our quest for implementation, clarity and uniform understanding is key. Denmark is therefore currently drafting a Danish military manual, which is expected to be published next year and followed by a translation into English. The primary focus for this manual is the education and training of the Danish armed forces in the full spectrum of rights and obligations that they will encounter in military operations and armed conflicts today. This obviously means international humanitarian law, but it also means human rights law. Only by fully understanding the interaction and the combined protective obligations that these two legal machines place upon States and other actors in conflict situations will we give the victims of war the protection to which they are entitled.

It goes without saying that our focus on implementation naturally leads Denmark to give our full support to the draft resolution on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law. The establishment of an effective mechanism on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law is the natural step to close the gap that has existed since the adoption of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, and Denmark would like to thank the ICRC and Switzerland for facilitating this important process.

Denmark continues its commitment to strengthening protection for persons deprived of their liberty in armed conflict. An important step in this field was taken with the formulation in 2012 of the Copenhagen Process Principles and Guidelines on the Handling of Detainees in International Military Operations. A further important step will be taken with the

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adoption of the resolution providing a mandate to continue the important work done in this field.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement plays a crucial role in preventing and alleviating human suffering and in protecting those in need of assistance, particularly during armed conflict. This is the case more than ever, and I would like to pay my full respects to the brave members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement who undertake this hard and often dangerous work. They deserve our full support and protection.

Denmark recognizes the enormous and valuable efforts of National Societies, including their important role in the implementation and dissemination of international humanitarian law. The Government of Denmark attaches great importance to the close relationship that we have with the Danish Red Cross, and let me conclude with the confirmation of my Government's commitment to continuing this essential cooperation. Thank you very much.

**H.E. Mr Foo Kok Jwee, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Singapore in  
Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, good evening. We are meeting at a time of unprecedented humanitarian challenges. We are seeing new forms of conflict around the world. Conflicts have become more protracted, moving from traditional open battlefields to urban centres and involving actors with open disregard for international law and international humanitarian law.

We now have more refugees and irregular migrants than at any time since the end of the Second World War. There are more reported major natural disasters, and the humanitarian space in many conflict areas has become even more politicized. To be more effective in such complex, and even hostile, environments, humanitarian organizations, such as the ICRC, and the international community will have to retool their humanitarian assistance models, build new practical partnerships on the ground and acquire new capabilities, such as how to quickly restore urban services in urbanized conflict zones and disaster areas. But this also means that there are now more opportunities for the international community, including small States like Singapore, as well as other stakeholders such as private-sector organizations, to contribute their know-how.

Singapore is not immune from natural and man-made disasters and threats, including terrorism. We plan for the long term and integrate disaster risk reduction into our national development strategies and policies, because such incidents can cause substantial impacts, due to our small size and high population density.

We place special emphasis on building up community resilience and response. We promote regional cooperation and collective security, because we recognize that no country can deal with such disasters by itself. To date, Singapore has deployed more than 30 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations overseas. We are also building our capacity to serve as a regional hub for HADR operations.

Just last year, we set up the Regional HADR Coordination Centre (RHCC). This RHCC works closely with stakeholders such as UNOCHA and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance to better coordinate military-to-military and military-to-civil disaster response in our region and assist affected national authorities in their relief efforts. We are also sharing our experience in disaster risk management and building resilience, in particular in urban settings, through the Singapore Cooperation Programme.

Just two months ago in October, Singapore teamed up with the UNISDR to conduct a specialized training course to strengthen the disaster risk management capacity of small and developing States and other countries, including how to implement the Sendai Framework.

Singapore will continue to seek practical and impactful ways to support international efforts to tackle today's complex humanitarian challenges. We also hope to strengthen and broaden our collaboration with the ICRC in areas of mutual benefit to promote international stability and humanitarian action. I thank you.

**H.E. Mr Luis Enrique Chávez Basagoitia,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission of Peru in Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent bears a heavy responsibility, as it coincides with the end of an exceptionally challenging year, fraught with events that have

required the international community to address complex humanitarian needs in increasingly diverse, unexpected and distressing situations. These situations always involve significant movements of people. For this reason, migrants are one of the vulnerable groups that have commanded our attention and concern in recent times.

Humanitarian action needs to be strengthened in order to deal with the crisis their situation has created. It is also necessary to take into account their rights and dignity and promote their inclusion. It is our duty to protect them whatever their migration status. Peru has adopted this approach, putting people and respect for basic rights at the heart of its public policies, as befits a country committed to upholding and promoting human rights and international humanitarian law.

Fully convinced of the need to improve implementation and ensure compliance, we now have in place the National Commission for the Study and Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (CONADIH), which advises us on matters relating to the implementation of international humanitarian law. We therefore welcome and support the draft resolutions proposed at this International Conference. In particular, we support the proposal to hold an annual meeting of States to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law.

Disaster risk management is part of Peru's public policy and an essential component of the process aimed at achieving sustainable and inclusive development in our country. We therefore support the proposal to strengthen legal frameworks for disaster response, risk reduction and first aid.

Peru will implement the resolutions and pledges adopted at this conference, as it has done in the past. While significant progress has been achieved, there are still important challenges ahead, and we are confident that we can meet them, with the close and valuable collaboration of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Before I finish, I would like to express our appreciation and gratitude for the work carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Peru. In addition to performing the traditional functions of protection and assistance, the ICRC office in Lima also supports the incorporation of basic human rights and international humanitarian law into domestic legislation, provides instruction and training for the armed forces and police to prevent excessive or inappropriate use of force, visits prisoners and

monitors conditions of detention, with a view to improving them, provides assistance in disaster situations and supports forensic training to improve the process for identifying people who went missing during the period of terrorist violence suffered by my country. Thank you very much

**H.E. Mr Bertrand de Crombrughe,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission of Belgium in Geneva**

*(Original French)*

Madam Chair, my delegation conveys its greetings to all the participants of this 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. I would like to commend the efforts of the thousands of volunteers and humanitarian workers from Belgium and elsewhere who work with selfless dedication to help people in need, sometimes putting their own lives in danger to do so. We therefore fully endorse the European Union's call to strengthen the existing humanitarian system and the European Union statement to be presented tomorrow.

The global context is increasingly complex and presents ever growing humanitarian needs. Belgium cannot but agree that it is essential for the different components of the Movement to uphold our humanitarian principles and for States to implement an approach guided by the principles that the Movement has adopted.

I would like to voice my country's concern about the increasing number of attacks targeting civilians, humanitarian workers and, in particular, medical services and about the pressure that this puts on the families of healthcare workers. It is crucial to ensure that all healthcare personnel and facilities are protected from danger. Otherwise, the consequences will be felt in the long term by the people in the community or country in question.

We support the idea of creating a forum of States for the implementation of international humanitarian law. Preferably, this forum would meet annually and have a small secretariat to deal with preparatory work between sessions. We are sure that a forum for the exchange of views among States on the implementation of international humanitarian law would be very worthwhile in terms of added value. As a non-politicized forum, it would help to develop a culture of respect for international humanitarian law and uphold the principle of humanity.

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In addition to prevention and compliance mechanisms, emphasis should also be placed on the suppression of serious violations of international humanitarian law. Imposing sanctions makes an important contribution to recognizing the suffering of victims and furthering the reparation process. On this subject, I would like to mention the progress of the initiative launched by the Netherlands, Argentina, Slovenia and Belgium to open negotiations on a new multilateral treaty for mutual legal assistance and extradition in the domestic prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes of genocide. The circle of States wishing to become involved is growing, and there are now around forty of us. A side event on this subject has been scheduled for 8 a.m. on Thursday, 10 December, which you are all warmly invited to attend.

I would like to finish by highlighting the importance that Belgium attaches to the ratification and implementation of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict adopted in The Hague in 1954 and its two Protocols. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Alexandre Fasel, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of Switzerland in Geneva**

*(Original French)*

Madam Chair, my delegation would like to congratulate and thank the ICRC, the International Federation and the National Societies for organizing this 32nd International Conference here in Geneva, international and humanitarian capital and the historic birthplace of the Red Cross. We applaud the efforts undertaken to make this a more dynamic and inclusive conference. Switzerland has chosen this year to make the humanitarian principles one of the main themes of the conference. It is deeply convinced of the need to reaffirm and strengthen the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's seven Fundamental Principles, all the more important today in view of the growing confusion, polarization and complexity involved in humanitarian issues across the globe. In particular, the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence are necessary prerequisites for effective, lasting and inclusive humanitarian action.

Humanity is, let us not forget, the core principle, the principle that should inspire and guide every one of our decisions and actions. Upholding this principle is at the heart of our common commitment

to help the most vulnerable. My delegation would like to recall the fact that, for over 150 years, the Movement has remained inextricably committed to the humanitarian principles that demonstrate both its interculturality and its universality. Drawing on its extensive experience and wealth of local and national expertise, the Movement carries out its work within a humanitarian ecosystem, the confines of which it has itself established. The 32nd International Conference offers a historic occasion to show that the States party to the Geneva Conventions take their commitment and responsibility to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law very seriously. We have a collective responsibility to take action to deal with violations committed in contemporary armed conflicts.

We thank all the States and other actors concerned who have taken part in the consultations that the ICRC and Switzerland have been conducting together since 2011. Your input has led to the broadly accepted realization that the mechanisms currently in place are insufficient and that there is an institutional gap that needs to be filled. The proposed forum will operate on the basis of guiding principles agreed by all. They have been defined in such a way as to avoid any kind of politicization. The purpose of the forum will not be to criticize or lecture States, but to examine the common challenges involved in implementing international humanitarian law in a non-contextual way.

I strongly encourage you to take part, in a constructive spirit, in the discussion on the draft resolution on strengthening international humanitarian law. This draft resolution is the result of a compromise based on intense consultations. I would invite you to examine it, bearing in mind that consensus-building requires a degree of flexibility from us all and should not be used by some as a right of veto. Thank you.

**Mr Javier Senent Garcia, President, Spanish  
Red Cross**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Chair, at the different meetings held by our International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, we have talked, among other things, about the message for the World Humanitarian Summit. I would like to highlight two of the pillars set forth in the document: the need to restore humanity and the call to action and building resilience.

I have seen how some countries have, for many years, been taking large numbers of people who have had to leave their homes, and many National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have been working for some time now to meet the needs of these people in terms of protection and assistance. I think that all of us here today have a moral obligation to concern ourselves with the situation of migrants. We must go beyond providing assistance on an occasional basis and advocate respect for diversity and facilitate their social inclusion by working with governments and the different components of the Movement.

The task of protecting the dignity of vulnerable people brings me to the second pillar that I mentioned at the start: decent livelihoods are critical to personal dignity and building resilience to cope with and overcome adversity. Reducing vulnerability is a crucial part of our work as National Societies, and sustainable livelihoods increase the resilience of individuals and communities and reduce their vulnerability to disasters, food insecurity and poverty.

I call on you, then, to include measures to strengthen livelihoods in your policies and programmes, as they contribute to enhancing self-sufficiency and personal dignity and building safer, more resilient communities.

Before I finish, I would also like to briefly mention something that I consider to be a priority in our Movement: looking after our volunteers. They are the driving force of our organization, and we must be able to ensure safe working conditions for them at all times and in all places. The situation of volunteers working in armed conflicts is of particular concern. In this regard, the Spanish Red Cross, in close cooperation with the ICRC, has finalized an online training module on health care, and I am pleased to announce that it is now available. We hope that it will prove useful in their day-to-day work, although what we would really like is for there to be no need for such a programme. Thank you very much.

**Prof. Michel Veuthey, Deputy Permanent Observer, Permanent Delegation of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in Geneva**

*(Original French)*

Madam Chair, the Order of Malta applauds the efforts of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other humanitarian actors to protect the victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters in increasingly difficult conditions. The Order of

Malta contributes to the international humanitarian network through its national associations, its ambassadors in over a hundred countries and its international humanitarian organization, which act without discrimination and in keeping with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. As leaders of the ICRC and the International Federation recently remarked in a public statement, the basis of humanitarian law and action is increasingly being undermined by the targeting of humanitarian and medical personnel in armed conflicts.

The Order of Malta, which is one of the humanitarian organizations protected under the Geneva Conventions, would like to highlight the role played by faith-based humanitarian organizations. They are there on the ground, often helping those in need before other humanitarian organizations arrive and continuing long after they have gone, and they strive to ensure the protection of human life and dignity, not only through the law, but also through universal and local moral and religious values.

The Order of Malta organized the international symposium “Religions Together for Humanitarian Action” on 27 May 2015 in Geneva. It is also currently involved in the organization of a global religious forum to be held in Istanbul on the eve of the World Humanitarian Summit. A preparatory meeting will be held in mid-January, with a focus on prevention and protection issues. We hope that the ICRC will be able to take part in this meeting.

Just a few more words to finish. One objective of the world religious forum is to show that faith-based humanitarian organizations are not to be ignored as actors in the field of humanitarian assistance and protection and that they are, in fact, unique partners in a network based on solidarity. The second is to reaffirm and restate the essential principles of humanitarian law and action in universally accepted moral values. Thank you.

**Ms Yumino Tanaka, Youth Member, Japanese Red Cross Society**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, before beginning, I would like to say that it is a great pleasure to be here as a youth delegate of the Japanese Red Cross Society.

As tensions rooted in ethnic and religious differences and economic disparities become more pronounced,

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and in a world affected by various natural disasters, the need to provide humanitarian assistance by observing the Fundamental Principles of the Movement is increasing.

The Fundamental Principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, as something born of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, are now shared by the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations, and the first four articles of the Code of Conduct for the Movement and non-governmental organizations in disaster relief find their basis in the first four Fundamental Principles of the Movement. It is stated in the recommendations to the governments annexed to the Code of Conduct that governments should recognize and respect the independent, humanitarian and impartial actions of non-governmental humanitarian agencies. It is a great pleasure to find that a major part of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement is shared with the United Nations, humanitarian agencies and governments in the year celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Movement's Fundamental Principles, and indeed the importance of observing the principles is increasing.

Disseminating the Fundamental Principles to the general public is still a major challenge. Dr Jean Pictet, former Vice-President of the ICRC, who was the greatest contributor to laying the fundamentals of the principles of the Movement, states in his book that indifference is one of the four obstacles that stand in the way of practising humanity.

Humanitarian education can tackle indifference. The importance of humanitarian education was confirmed at the Movement's meeting in Vienna celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Fundamental Principles held in October. Humanity, as a value, forms the behaviour of the people and is as important as knowledge and skills in education. One of the strategic aims of Strategy 2020 of the International Federation is social inclusion, a culture of non-violence and the promotion of peace. The Fundamental Principles in action are crucial to realizing such strategic aims, and the need for education has been confirmed in the mid-term review of Strategy 2020 of the International Federation. Thank you.

## 4.8 PLENARY ON MIGRATION

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### Wednesday, 9 December 2015

(9.00 a.m.)

#### Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference

(Original English)

Ladies and gentlemen, we are opening the second day of the 32nd International Conference with a plenary session on migration. You can see that I have people here who are really involved and aware and will be able to answer most of your questions. On my right, we have Mr Elhadj As Sy, our Secretary General, who does not need to be introduced. Mr Yves Daccord certainly needs no introduction; he is always with me. Then we have H.E. Mr Jean-Marie Ehouzou from the African Union. We have, from the IOM, Mr Lars Johan Lönnback. On this side, from the Mexican Red Cross, we have Mr Carlos Freaner, and from the UNHCR, Mr Volker Türk. So, we are all in good hands, and hopefully many of your questions will be answered.

Migration assumes a key role in this year's Conference, as it is a central feature of our current complex and ever-changing world. Many migrants arrive safely in their destination countries and integrate into communities there, bringing experiences and contributions that enrich our societies. The reality is that many endure great hardship on migration routes which affects their physical integrity, mental health and well-being and of their families. The plight of migrants in many countries is of enormous concern, and it requires a great deal of attention and effort from all of us. The situations that migrants face are not new, but remain alarming in many instances. Figures, statistics and legal considerations are indispensable indicators for informing policy makers and policy making, but what we are dealing with goes way beyond figures.

The suffering of migrants along migration routes cannot be described in figures. These human beings, these people, are mothers, fathers, sons, daughters – like you and I – whose lives have been disturbed, and they are scared. They endure traumatic ordeals on their journeys and again even after they have arrived at their destination, which simply cannot be quantified. Indeed, the humanitarian needs and the increasing gaps in protection along migration routes are tremendous, multi-layered and multifaceted. Understanding the diverse and complex human realities behind migration is fundamental to the identification of humane, effective and sustainable responses to these challenges. Such responses should focus on affirming, restoring and preserving the expectations of humanity that define us all.

This session will highlight the role of States in this respect, the work of the Movement and a wider perspective encompassing the vulnerabilities of migrants and the complex phenomenon of migration. I would like to start this session with a video presenting one example of the many difficulties migrants and their families endure. This video is from my own country, Afghanistan. After eight years of separation, a mother from Afghanistan was able to get back in touch with her son with whom she had lost all contact when he migrated from Afghanistan through Iran and Belgium. The joyous moment revealed the suffering the family had gone through, due to the uncertainty of not knowing what had happened to their loved ones. This video exemplifies the Movement's collective efforts, which are very important in restoring family links for separated persons, including migrants and their families. This is a task that involves working across numerous borders and implementing innovative approaches. The video gives us a sense of both the humanitarian consequences of migration and separation, and the beautiful outcomes that working together can bring.

*A video was shown on work to reunite families in Afghanistan.*

What you see now on the screen is something I see sitting in my office at the Red Crescent Society every day. I see a mother and father, who come and ask us through the ICRC to find their families. Sometimes we are lucky, as you saw, but most of the time we are not so lucky. We have to give them very bad news. This is the reality of migration these days and maybe even in the future.

Now, I give the floor to H.E. Mr Jean-Marie Ehouzou, Permanent Representative of the African Union Commission in Geneva to share with us a perspective on migration pertaining to the nature of the phenomenon in Africa and beyond.

**H.E. Mr Jean-Marie Ehouzou, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the African Union Commission in Geneva**

*(Original French)*

Madam Chair,

It is an honour for me to have the opportunity to take part in this discussion on migration, which is a major cause of concern for us all. Some go as far as to term it the scourge of the century. It is a problem that extends across the globe, but does this mean that we should turn inwards, put people back to sea, pursue them or throw them in prison? No, it does not, because migration has been and still is a coping strategy, a strategy that allows some to seek a better life elsewhere. Migration is therefore intrinsic to the history of humanity. It is widespread in Africa. One of the most common forms is labour migration by “navétanes”, who are seasonal migrant workers. This word might be a local neologism derived from the word “navetteur” or commuter, meaning someone who travels to and from work by car or bus. However, although migration can pose a number of challenges, its development potential has long been recognized and reaffirmed by African leaders.

At the 25th African Union Summit held in Johannesburg (South Africa), the heads of State and government, aware that intra-African migration accounts for most of the migratory movements of African people, renewed the political commitment to strengthen migration management capacities and press ahead with the process to facilitate the free movement of people and promote mobility in Africa. At the summit, they undertook to put in place a visa

exemption scheme by 2018, offer all Africans the same possibilities as citizens of the member countries of our respective regional economic communities, speed up the introduction of the African passport and improve labour mobility. Migration and mobility are considered to be major contributing factors for achieving African integration and implementing the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

Intra-African labour migration and mobility is, in fact, one of the priority areas of the Strategic Migration Policy Framework for Africa adopted in 2006. This framework provides guidelines for member States and regional economic communities on formulating their own national and regional policy frameworks. One of the main objectives established is to improve the situation of migrant workers in terms of employment conditions and social protection. In order to press ahead with these key measures, the African Union, together with the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and the Economic Commission, launched a joint programme on labour migration governance for development and integration in Africa.

The programme, approved by the 24th African Union Summit in January 2015, includes a “cooperation and capacity-building” component, under which the member States and the regional economic communities will benefit from assistance over four years to support better governance of labour and skills mobility.

The protection of migrants’ human rights is an essential element in the formulation of migration management policies. As highlighted in the Strategic Migration Policy Framework for Africa and the Common Position on Migration and Development, the question of irregular migration should be addressed in a context of full respect for human rights and human dignity, regional and international cooperation and the shared responsibility of the countries of origin, transit and destination.

Political will and dialogue, partnership and cooperation are essential at the regional and international level. With regard to the management of migration, action is required to promote legal channels for migration and strengthen the capacities of member States to combat human trafficking and people-smuggling, if we are to put an end to the tragic loss of lives.

The action plan adopted by the Valletta Summit on Migration held in November 2015 provided the international community with an opportunity to



work in partnership to combat the underlying causes of migration, ensure the international protection of migrants, refugees and displaced people and strengthen the development potential and benefits of migration for the countries of origin and destination.

In conclusion, I can only reiterate the crucial importance of strengthening cooperation and partnership in the management of migration and of harnessing the development potential of migration for positive change in countries of origin and host countries and particularly in the lives of migrants, wherever they choose to live and work.

I will finish with the words that appeared in the weekly magazine *The Economist* a few weeks ago on the subject of migrants: “Let them in and let them earn”, because migrants are on the whole dynamic workers and creative people who contribute to national income. We do not cross hostile deserts – increasingly hostile because climate change is causing temperatures to rise – we do not face violent storms and risk our lives to receive welfare benefits. The energy of despair that drives these survivors of the desert and the Mediterranean is a fertile, profitable energy for both the host countries and the countries of origin. Thank you.

### **Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Thank you very much, Ambassador Jean-Marie Ehouzou. Our next speaker is Mr Carlos Frenaner, who is the Vice-President of the Mexican Red Cross, and he will speak about the humanitarian needs of migrants and the activities carried out for them by the Mexican Red Cross.

### **Mr Carlos Frenaner, Vice-President of the Mexican Red Cross**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Chair of the International Conference, Fatima Gailani,

Mr Secretary General, Elhadj As Sy,

Our good friend, Yves Daccord, from the International Committee of the Red Cross,

Distinguished honorary members accompanying us on the panel,

I am grateful for the honour, bestowed on me by the President of my National Society, Mr Fernando Suinaga, of addressing the esteemed participants of this plenary on migration.

The world is once again divided by walls and fences. Many countries are putting them back up, reversing the trend of the latter part of the 20th century, when numerous borders were opened. They claim that these barriers are necessary for reasons of security and to control migration flows. However, for migrants, the result is that large numbers of people die or go missing, and many more face increased hardship and vulnerability. It is easy for us to ignore these barriers, because we can cross them without too much difficulty, but migrants are forced to run more and more risks at borders if they want to reach their destination. It is not expensive to cross a stretch of sea between two countries on a ferry, but it costs a fortune to do so illegally on an overcrowded dinghy liable to sink and kill its passengers. The same occurs in forests, plains and deserts. This is the new global landscape of migration.

The Mexican Red Cross is concerned about migration or rather about the people affected by it, the migrants. Since 2003, it has been providing humanitarian assistance for this group of people. Mexico began as a migrant-sending country and then became a transit country for tens of thousands of people, mainly from Central America and the Caribbean. Insecurity in the region and its weak economic situation means that hundreds of families have had to split up, because the heads of households, the adults, the parents, migrate northwards in search of the American dream, a journey that often turns into their worst nightmare. They try to have their children, many of them minors, join them. Those who try to follow in their parents' footsteps, longing to be reunited with them, are not always successful in their attempts. Many of them die or get lost. It is often years before families are reunited. All too often, the family is broken up forever, because one of the members dies or goes missing during the journey. In such cases, the Mexican Red Cross provides assistance through the aid centres it has set up in strategic locations on its northern border and in the central and southern parts of our country.

The Mexican Red Cross extends a humanitarian hand and provides migrants in need with assistance in the form of first aid, advice, psychological support and restoring family links. We are very proud that the International Committee of the Red Cross has joined forces with us in this worthy task and has been working with us for more than three years

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now. In addition to the extraordinary work it carries out in fulfilment of its traditional statutory duties, it also offers its experience and procedures and even financial aid to support the Mexican Red Cross and other National Societies in the region in their efforts to assist vulnerable migrants. Thanks to these efforts, our National Society has been able to assist tens of thousands of migrants in recent years.

However, the assistance that we provide to migrants, in accordance with the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence, is not enough. What is required, first of all, is concerted action by the region's National Societies. Second and more importantly, the governments of the region, including mine, need to take measures to update their public policies, creating and incorporating adequate protection and response systems, with a view to avoiding the terrible suffering that migrants today are forced to endure on their journey, including violations of their basic rights, extortion, physical and psychological violence and the lack of effective, caring assistance. Thank you very much.

### **Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Thank you, Mr Frenaner, that was really moving for all of us. It is as if in every country, the same story is being repeated. Now we are going to see a video, a production from the International Federation, and then we will continue.

*A video was shown highlighting the activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.*

Our next speaker is Mr Lars Johan Lönnback. He is the Senior Migration Policy Advisor and Head of the Multilateral Processes Division at the International Organization for Migration.

### **Mr Lars Johan Lönnback, Senior Migration Policy Advisor and Head of the Multilateral Processes Division of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, let me touch on some of the pressing migration issues and some examples of the very important collaboration between my organization, the IOM, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. As the

leading global migration agency and, by consequence, one of the main actors on humanitarian issues, the IOM engages across the world in partnerships with sister agencies on the protection of migrants, including a supported protection role of migrants in armed conflicts and crisis-related situations. As ICRC President Maurer mentioned yesterday, there is an urgent need for more humanitarian space; the protracted refugee situations, for example, are not sustainable any more. My Director General, William Swing, recently pointed out at the IOM Council that, in a world characterized by human mobility, too often of a coerced nature, "States stand before the challenge of developing robust safe legal and orderly channels for temporary and permanent migration at all skill levels, for family reunification, students, and humanitarian entry, and more."

The IOM enjoys an excellent working relationship with the ICRC, the IFRC and the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and we hope to have regular retreats at the principals' level, where points of collaboration are identified and disseminated to the field. Current key substantive areas of collaboration include joint advocacy efforts, migration health projects, shelter-related collaboration and information sharing.

When it comes to the current migration and refugee crisis in the Mediterranean, the IOM has been working closely with National Red Cross Societies, for example in Croatia, to ensure that the necessary humanitarian responses reach vulnerable migrants and refugees. Together with the UNHCR, the IOM is currently coordinating a massive inter-agency response in Turkey, Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary, which includes the relevant National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. This joint response, which covers 2016, assumes that an additional one million migrants and refugees will be arriving in Europe and the western Balkans next year.

Turning to the issue of missing migrants, which is at the core of both our organizations' work, as of yesterday, the IOM published the figure of 5,014 migrant fatalities in 2015 along the migratory route, 3,601 of them in the Mediterranean alone. Identifying the missing is not an easy task, given that many migrants travel without documentation. As a result, tens of thousands of family members endure great suffering, as we were reminded in the video that we just saw. They do not know where their loved ones are, dead or alive, and in that sense families experience a double tragedy. Not only are they experiencing a death in the family, but also they have an inability to

mourn properly, not knowing where their loved ones may be buried or the circumstances of their deaths. The IOM is collaborating with the ICRC on tracing family members of deceased migrants.

At the global level, the IOM is a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), where it co-leads the camp management cluster with the UNHCR. The IOM actively participates in the clusters, where they are set up to deal with humanitarian crises, and leads many national clusters in the context of such responses. This reflects the view of the IOM that humanitarian crises and their mobility aspects need a collaborative effort.

In closing, Madam Chair, I would just like to say that it is the IOM's firm belief that our joint collaboration will effectively reinforce the IFRC's and ICRC's continued implementation of Resolution 3 of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Thank you very much.

### **Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Thank you very much, Mr Lönnback. Our next speaker is Mr Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He is here today to present to us some of the humanitarian challenges migration poses, the responsibility of States and coordination and cooperation among all the actors concerned. You have the floor.

### **Mr Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

*(Original English)*

Thank you very much, and thank you also for the invitation to this very important International Conference. I think it is very fitting that you have chosen migration as one of the main themes and certainly, in the work of the UNHCR, the whole aspect of people on the move is obviously one that is a phenomenon that we have been grappling with ever since its existence and since the organization started in 1950. What we see is that displacement issues have become much higher on the international agenda, and I think it is important to bear this in mind because, for a long time, we did not see displacement

issues and migration issues high enough on the political agenda of governments. Therefore, I think there is a huge opportunity out there to actually put on the agenda of the international community a number of issues that we have been grappling with for a very long time and that now deserve the urgent attention of governments around the world.

What we see is a sobering reality of people on the move, with over 60 million forcibly displaced at the end of 2014, and probably much higher numbers in 2015. It's clear that, if one looks at the reality of people who flee circumstances such as persecution, human rights violations, violence and conflict, that these are visible manifestations of people voting with their feet, in fact, in order to survive. That is why they actually need to move. If one looks especially at the last five years, with 15 conflicts that erupted or reignited, it is clear that there is a very clear linkage between, on the one hand, very atrocious forms of violence and, on the other, people on the move.

This is not therefore a new phenomenon. At the same time, there are a number of characteristics I would like to share with you. First, and I know that the ICRC in particular has been at the forefront of making sure that this gets the attention of the international community, civilians bear the brunt of conflict and violence and, as a result, you see people moving. We know that there is displacement that happens on multiple occasions; it is not just once, we know displacement is a pathway towards impoverishment through the need to survive, and it is not just that you see people displaced from one place to another, you see people displaced many times, internally often and then externally. I think that is important to bear in mind. I think it is also – and this is the third phenomenon – that you see people on the move, not just to neighbouring countries, but also across continents, as we have just seen with some of the pictures from these films, but also heard from the previous speakers. Protection at sea has become a major issue, with incredible loss of life at sea and not just in the Mediterranean, also in the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman Sea, in the Red Sea and in the Gulf of Aden.

There are different reactions that countries have to these phenomena; some are open, accepting, dealing with realities, and others are more restrictive and, in fact, are frightened – fear comes in. All of these phenomena are characterized by fundamental protection issues: family separation, detention, exploitation, trafficking and smuggling issues along the way of people on the move. It is clear that the partnership that we enjoy with yourselves, with the

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International Committee of the Red Cross, with the International Federation, with National Societies, is extremely important. None of us could do what we're supposed to be doing without working with each other very closely, and some of what we have seen from the film – restoring family links is one example – and the fact that the ICRC works very strongly on detention issues.

We, the UNHCR, launched the “Beyond Detention” campaign; we really want to make sure that children get out of immigration detention over the next five years, and we have had some success in this, but there is still a lot of work to be done. There is also the fact that National Societies have this incredible network of volunteers, over 17 million, and we know that they are the first sign. They are at the forefront of action, but they are also a very concrete manifestation of people-to-people solidarity, which is so important, especially when populist politics comes into play and when anti-foreigner and xenophobic tendencies sometimes dictate the agenda.

I would also like, in conclusion, to say one important thing from the perspective of the UNHCR. Words matter. I think we need to look at individuals on the move in their own right. It is important, when we talk very broadly about migration issues, to remember that there is a very specific issue of people who are forced to flee because of conflict, persecution and human rights violations, where a special legal regime has been established for refugees. I think when we talk about movements, let us just be clearer about the individuals behind them. There are people who move for various reasons; it is clear there is a humanitarian imperative behind all of them. There is a very strong human rights basis, but let us also acknowledge that there is a special legal regime, because of the nature and the characteristics of refugees, which protects specifically this category of people on the move. I think it is important to bear that in mind within this broader discussion of migration. Thank you very much.

### **Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Thank you, Mr Türk. Now I would like the Secretary General, Mr Elhadj As Sy, and Mr Yves Daccord, to together tell us exactly what they want to say after seeing the videos and hearing from these people who are directly involved in migration, who are dealing with it day to day. What is their input? What is the input of the Movement as a whole?

### **Mr Yves Daccord, Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**

*(Original English)*

Thank you very much, Ms Gailani, and good morning everybody. Can I just say, first of all, that I am very happy that our International Conference is taking the time to really dig into the question of migration, not only to talk about it, to try to understand it, but also I hope to maybe commit to more. We will have pledges that we will be able to discuss at different events, and I think that is important. Can I also thank the speakers, because I thought the way you portrayed us shows that what we know already – although it is important to take stock of it – is that, when we talk about migration, we have to understand it as a phenomenon that is today affecting millions of people. Mr Türk, you were very clear about that. It is global; it is not happening just in Europe or the Middle East, it is of course affecting us, but it goes beyond that. We have heard it is happening in Africa, in the Americas, in East Asia, but I think what is really new is that it is also affecting both States and the Red Cross Red Crescent, beyond the traditional agencies, such as the UNHCR and the IOM, that used to deal with this problem.

This is maybe what is new, which means we might have to rethink the way we collaborate together; that is something that I see very clearly. When we talk about collaborating, the first thing we need to be able to understand is that the vulnerabilities of migrants are complex, that they are changing and take different forms. I think we need to understand that a migrant can become vulnerable depending on the stage of their journey on migration routes, as they travel from home, often through other countries, which are sometimes at war, to their final destination. I therefore think we need to understand that the vulnerability of migrants is evolving and that most of the time, during their journey, this vulnerability is very difficult to deal with.

Another element I would like to mention, one that we have not spoken about so far, is that when we talk about migration we also have to talk about the responsibility of the State and security concerns. I think governments do have security concerns, and they are legitimate. I think the point here though is that these security concerns must not become the primary factor in States' migration policies. I really would like to insist on that. They are important, but security concerns cannot be the primary factor when migration has to be dealt with. Great care must be

taken to maintain humanitarian considerations and respect of the rights of migrants. In other words, the security imperative must not supersede the humanitarian imperative. The security-focused management of migrants, including the excessive use of force against civilians and the systematic use of detention, has direct and serious negative consequences. When we look into that, what we know from States and from all of us, the Red Cross Red Crescent, the IOM and UNHCR, is that the scale of the issues, the complexity of these questions, the magnitude of the problem requires stronger collaboration among all of us – governments, international organizations and the Red Cross Red Crescent. What I find interesting is that we have a very strong base on which to undertake that.

You mentioned, Mr Frenaner, that we have a resolution that we adopted here four years ago on migration, entitled “Ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion”, and we firmly believe that this resolution is a very strong, good basis for our collective response. It is a very good basis, but what needs to be done and what is new is perhaps that we need to implement it more effectively. We need to do more. We do not therefore have to have a new resolution, but we need to be able to do more collectively. We need to make sure that we do so assuming our respective roles – I am talking here about States and also the Red Cross Red Crescent and international organizations – our respective mandates in ensuring that migrants are assisted and protected according to needs that may arise at any point during their journey. That is what is so important. With regard to my own organization, the ICRC, we are committed to doing more where we can really make a difference, which is in the country of origin and possibly in the first country of arrival, together with our Red Cross Red Crescent colleagues.

I therefore think we will continue in this direction. I think it is also important to say, Ms Gailani, in response to your question about what our take is, that we will continue to adopt an individualized approach when it comes to migrants, showing respect for each individual’s rights and, as Mr Türk mentioned, bearing in mind the fact that some categories of migrants are entitled to more extensive legal protection, which must be promoted and not reduced. I am thinking here about refugees, for example. We should do this together: States, governments and the Red Cross Red Crescent. I feel that we are ready to do so. We will pledge to increase our response. Mr Elhadj As Sy will mention it more specifically, and I really hope – and this is my call to you today – that you will join us in

pledging to do more collectively under our respective complementary mandates. Thank you.

**Mr Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**

*(Original English)*

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, I think these presentations have reminded us of the scale and severity of the challenges that we face today and that are being faced by people on the move. They tell us a lot about the fragile world in which we live. They also tell us about the level of violence, the level of despair, the level of threat that people face, which has put so many millions on the move. However, these challenges do not only describe problems, they also tell us that it is precisely in these times that we are needed more than ever before, and we have to be there. As we have heard a number of times, it is nothing new. In the middle of the last century, as large numbers of refugees were drifting across Europe as borders shifted and many empires were expanded, an American author and political scientist said that “it was not only their own misfortunes that the refugees carried with them from land to land, from continent to continent [...] but the great misfortune of the whole world”. The same can be said today. Our world is not well, and it is the misfortune of that world that is carried – as we have already heard – carried across the Sahara, carried across the Mediterranean, carried across the Rio Grande and in many other parts of the world where we are present and try to respond. We have seen dramatic scenes and continue to see them; we can never get used to that. Every time we are deeply moved; maybe it should be an emotion that sets us in motion, prompts us to act, rather than an emotion that paralyzes us in the face of so much human suffering.

We have also seen a lot of hope, such as migrants themselves feeling that they are being treated with dignity, the dignity that they are trying to recover miles and miles away from home. We have also, however, seen shame in the eyes of so many, when they receive a bottle of water and a loaf of bread, proud fathers and mothers who used to be able to provide for themselves and their families. We have seen the unbearable picture of the inanimate body of a young child on the shores of Europe, which left so many blue spots on our own souls and on our own humanity.

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We also see a number of times hope in the eyes of many; when confronted with a man in uniform, they feel safe and do not feel threatened. This gives us hope that we are not helpless, that we are not hopeless and that we can do something about it. We hear different words used – a migrant, a refugee, a person on the move. They are not identities, they do not refer to social status; they are just situations that any of us could find ourselves in. We need to do what is required, which is to call on a humanitarian imperative to act, to respond. Mr Daccord already talked about the resolution we adopted four years ago, but as the colleague from UNHCR put it, the focus should be on the protection of people before the protection of borders. In the four years since the adoption of the resolution, we were therefore encouraged to see a greater understanding of the challenges we face, but more importantly to see a range of activities in support of migrants, a range of partnerships that make us strong. We have also seen a true lesson in humanity from the host communities, the real local actors, who are there before anyone else, who sometimes share the last grain or crust they have, who wrap up the baby who arrives without clothes. Those host communities remind us, despite the politics, despite the tensions, despite the misunderstandings, that we have a shared responsibility which is based on a shared humanity.

We take this opportunity today, on behalf of the IFRC and ICRC, to reaffirm our commitment to this resolution and to work together with everyone, including States, to ensure that the collective responsibility and commitment are met. We take the opportunity, as well, to emphasize the need to develop policies and laws that put people at the centre. All people, regardless of status, have a right to live in safety and dignity. The best way to stop the illegal industry of people smuggling, of people trafficking other people, is to provide legal means and safe avenues for people who are seeking protection. Our Movement is present at all points – in the places where people are coming from, the points they travel through and obviously their destination. We are there as they make their journey. We are there at those moments when they are exploited. We are also there when they receive the support they need, a helping hand, and sometimes simply a shoulder

to lean on, in addition to the basic supplies that we are providing. During our General Assembly and Council of Delegates, we also renewed the same commitment – not the same as usual – but the same commitment to do more, to do better and to do it faster, because every minute counts in the lives of these people. Today, together, we will sign a pledge, and that pledge will reaffirm our commitment to do more for people on the move. We pledge to work with everybody, including States, to ensure the safety of all migrants, as well as their access to relevant services, and we pledge to report on the measures taken in implementing the provisions of this resolution next time we meet at our International Conference in 2019. I hope you will find this pledge useful in guiding our work, perhaps, and I hope you will be joining us in strengthening the partnerships we have. Moving ahead together, we can do better. Thank you very much.

### **Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Thank you both, Mr Elhadj As Sy and Mr Yves Daccord. This is what I wanted to hear. Being in the middle of all this, in Afghanistan, it is so important that people feel that they are not alone. As I said yesterday in my opening speech, sometimes our just being there – as you said – makes them feel safe and that someone is close to them; it makes a huge difference. Of course, after that, what they need materially has to come. You can all join the pledge; I think it is very important. I also wanted to tell you that there are two events, one hosted jointly by the Italian Red Cross and the Australian Red Cross, at 12.15 p.m., and a thematic dialogue on migration which will take place later, at 3.30 p.m.

While migration is at the centre stage of our discussion this morning, vulnerable people are faced with many more challenges. We will now present another video, which will show us a wider perspective of what they are going through.

*A video was shown highlighting the wider work of the Movement.*

## 4.9

# THIRD PLENARY MEETING: GENERAL DEBATE

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### Wednesday, 9 December 2015

(10:05 a.m.)

#### Ms Annemarie Huber-Hotz, Vice-Chair of the Conference

(Original English)

Dear colleagues, good morning everybody. I hope that all delegates had a good discussion yesterday and that we will continue with inspiring discussions today. Let me start by thanking all the people who made our discussion happen. Above all, I would like to thank the secretaries, staff and volunteers. I think they deserve some applause. (Applause follows).

I remind you, as mentioned by the Chair yesterday morning, that all delegates' statements must conform to Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Statutes, i.e. that no delegation shall engage in political, racial, religious or ideological controversies. I will give you the floor in the order delegations have registered. I currently have 75 delegations on the list of speakers. I should also like to remind everyone that statements must be no longer than three minutes. Should you speak on behalf of a group or as Head of State or at ministerial level, you may speak for up to five minutes. If that is the case, please say so before you make your statement. It is my obligation as Chair to make sure that all delegates respect their assigned time. Let us start now with our list. I am happy to give the floor to Sweden.

#### H.E. Ms Veronika Bard, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Sweden in Geneva

(Original English)

Madam Vice-Chair, the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement takes place against the backdrop of the most serious humanitarian situation since the Second World War. Millions of people are on the move, due to violent conflicts, threats, poverty and a changing environment: Syria has fallen deeper into the abyss, the suffering in Yemen has become even more serious, ISIL is spreading across the Middle East and beyond and Ebola has claimed thousands of lives across West Africa. We have seen devastating hurricanes and earthquakes in the Philippines and Nepal. I could go on, but I would like to stop and remind us all of a painful fact: it is our world, it is our only world and we all share the responsibility for its future. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement clearly reflects this sense of responsibility and the need to act both locally and globally. A changing world requires changed methods; the challenges to international humanitarian law (IHL) are no exception. Both sexes suffer the harsh consequences of violence and are victimized by war, but women and girls, and men and boys, have distinct and diverse strengths, interests, needs and capacities, which should be equally valued. A central part of the feminist foreign policy of Sweden is to address these issues. We strive to integrate a gender perspective into international humanitarian law and work to put it into operation and practice. International humanitarian law and gender will be addressed at an informal side event and a book launch hosted by Sweden at lunchtime today. Criminal accountability is another crucial aspect of ensuring respect for international humanitarian law. Sexual and gender-based crimes in armed conflict have for too long been overlooked by the international criminal justice

system. Crimes of atrocity are being perpetrated with impunity; this calls for our urgent action.

The increased lack of respect for the Fundamental Principles of humanity is worrying. Therefore, it is our common obligation to find ways to raise awareness of and strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law. Implementation and monitoring are fundamental to strengthening international humanitarian law. Sweden strongly supports the efforts made by Switzerland and the International Committee of the Red Cross and supports the work to improve compliance with international humanitarian law by developing stronger international mechanisms as a natural part of my Government's efforts to safeguard the environment. In light of the negotiations in Paris, Sweden would like to reiterate the need for increased protection of the environment in armed conflict.

In about six months' time we will gather in Istanbul at the World Humanitarian Summit. This will be an important opportunity to ensure a flexible response to different humanitarian situations. Frankly speaking, humanitarian action is not the only answer to the many crises of today. We need to identify the root causes to be able to prevent conflicts and to ensure financing that allows for an adequate humanitarian response. We must work together to save lives, alleviate suffering and prevent the crises of tomorrow.

**Mr Pertti Torstila, President, Finnish Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, my theme today is migration. This International Conference meets at a time when we are witnessing a humanitarian tragedy that is growing in dimension from day to day; migrants and asylum seekers are fleeing from their homes in search of safer and more secure futures. Many are doing this by deadly routes. Migration is nothing new, and a large number of countries, as well as our sister Societies, have faced and handled refugee flows for years, if not decades. The reason, however, that we are discussing it now so intensively is that the ever-growing number of people on the move has reached dimensions in regions that have not had to deal with such massive flows before. Consequently, the circumstances in which refugees and migrants are obliged to live are getting worse. This requires a huge effort and is pushing many countries' National Societies to their limits. The International Red Cross

and Red Crescent, as a movement, has been brought to the forefront of the migration crisis. National Societies in practically all our countries are facing this situation in their everyday work.

Speaking out for humanity and human dignity and against hardening public opinion is a big challenge. What makes our Movement so special is that we help fleeing people everywhere – the places they leave from, where they pass through and where they end their journey. Neighbouring countries in conflict regions do enormous work in trying to help millions of refugees who wish to stay close to their homes. Countries along the migratory route work countless hours to provide this sad procession of refugees with shelter and food for the short time that they stay within those countries. At the end of the route – and this is the case in my country, Finland, on the northern flank of Europe – we provide shelter and help those who are permitted to stay to integrate into society. National Societies have been doing their work in support of State authorities in their auxiliary role. Many National Societies and the authorities have worked in perfect cooperation in order to best respond to the situation in their own countries. This relationship has been beneficial for both National Societies and the authorities, and the principle of their auxiliary role should be upheld and defended. And we must do even more.

As everyone along the migration routes is stretched to the limits, it is clear that broader solutions will need to be found. This is why we, the National Societies, need to assume our auxiliary role on a Movement level. The authorities need to assume their primary role in responding to the situation and work together with a Movement that can and will assist them in this task. We, as National Societies, need to bring together our strengths and resources, better share information and find innovative partnerships. We need global cooperation; States cannot concentrate on what happens inside their borders alone – migration routes go across borders and so must our joint response. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Lazhar Soualem, Ambassador,  
Director of Human Rights and Humanitarian,  
Social and Cultural Affairs, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic  
Republic of Algeria**

*(Original French)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the four years that have elapsed since the 31st International Conference have not



been a respite for the international community from armed conflicts of various types and scale in different parts of the world or from natural disasters, which are becoming increasingly frequent as a result of the adverse effects of climate change.

In accordance with their mandate, the components of the Movement have taken action as an integral part of the international community's response to this particularly difficult context.

Today is an opportunity to pay a well-deserved tribute to the leadership and staff of these organizations, who possess intrinsic qualities of discretion, effectiveness and credibility in the eyes of governments and vulnerable people affected by crises and natural disasters.

The fact that the work of the ICRC and other components of the Movement is underpinned by humanitarian principles, particularly the principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence, has contributed significantly to building trust, giving them a broader scope of action and thereby increasing the number of people benefitting from humanitarian action.

It is important to maintain this trust and strengthen it, by ensuring a closer alignment between the principles that guide the role of the ICRC and activities carried out in the field.

Algeria has embraced humanitarian values and principles, with a deep and steadfast commitment to respect and promote international humanitarian law. This commitment is fuelled by our cultural traditions, embodied two centuries ago by Emir Abdelkader, who offered his protection to thousands of Christians from Lebanon, and strengthened by long-standing, constructive interaction with the ICRC, which carried out its activities during the war of independence.

In the past two years, Algeria's commitment to international humanitarian law was highlighted by the organization of two events: the 10th meeting of Arab national commissions and government experts for the implementation of international humanitarian law in Algiers in November 2014; and last month, the 9th edition of the Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations or SWIRMO, which brought together over 200 participants from more than 80 countries.

Domestically, this commitment focuses on educational activities, aimed at incorporating

the teaching of international humanitarian law requirements into military training.

Algeria reiterates its readiness to share its experience and best practices in international humanitarian law with its partners, particularly those in the Southern Neighbourhood, with a view to promoting respect, in all circumstances, for this branch of law at different levels, particularly in the troubled area of the Sahel.

Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Fedor Rosocha, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Slovak Republic in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, four years have passed since the previous International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent; these four years have brought new challenges and opportunities. Yet, the 50th anniversary of the Fundamental Principles reminds us that, despite the rapidly evolving humanitarian environment, these principles remain as valid as 50 years ago. The role of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in promoting these principles is unique and irreplaceable.

At the operational level, Slovakia strongly appreciates the invaluable role of the ICRC and other components of the Movement, in particular the emphasis on proximity to victims and affected populations. Slovakia expressed this support in concrete terms, by providing substantive financial support for the activities of the ICRC and National Societies in various emergencies, including in Syria, Ukraine, Mali, Georgia and others, as well as for assistance for refugees and migrants coming to Europe. In the realm of policy and international law, it is not only standard participation in the pledging system, but in the wider context that Slovakia has been actively involved in the effort to support the universality of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court since its adoption in 1998. Moreover, Slovakia was among the first to sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty and thus contributed to the early entry into force of the Treaty last December.

Madam Vice-Chair, we commend the organizers for the innovative approach to conducting the discussion of the current Conference. My delegation is ready to engage constructively in its deliberations. Unique in kind, we hope that the Conference will provide substantive results and the necessary impetus for our

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ongoing discussions about the future humanitarian system. Slovakia supports the resolutions presented to the Conference. The issues of protection of humanitarian and health-care personnel, sexual and gender-based violence, disaster risk reduction, and others, deserve our attention, as very suitably expressed within the respective resolutions. At the same time, there is one fundamental overarching issue, a common denominator to all these issues, which deserves our utmost attention and action. It is the issue of non-existent or weak respect for international humanitarian law, which leads to unspeakable civilian suffering in conflicts, especially for the most vulnerable groups – women and children. In this sense, we particularly appreciate, as very timely and fruitful, the consultation process facilitated by the ICRC and Switzerland, in an inclusive and transparent manner, leading to the current proposal of Resolution 2 of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. A considerable amount of work has been achieved here, and we believe it will come to fruition.

**H.E. Mr Ravinatha Aryasinha, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Democratic Socialist  
Republic of Sri Lanka in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, at the outset, my delegation wishes to thank the Swiss Government, the ICRC and the IFRC for this opportunity to discuss the core humanitarian law issues of contemporary relevance. We recognize the complex humanitarian challenges before us today which are impacting on millions of people. The efforts of the ICRC and the IFRC humanitarian workers and National Societies in reaching out to those in despair and in need of support, often amidst the most dangerous and risky situations, must be commended and supported. During our own difficult period of protracted internal armed conflict, the ICRC played an important role in providing humanitarian assistance, and Sri Lanka expresses its appreciation for the ongoing close cooperation of the ICRC in the area of improving conditions in detention facilities and also in addressing issues relating to missing persons and their families. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, together with the ICRC, will be organizing a workshop in Colombo from 27 to 28 January 2016 on the humanitarian and legal consequences of anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war.

We note the comprehensive programme for the 32nd International Conference, and Sri Lanka joins in marking the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which has enabled the Movement to carve out a clear identity and distinctive role for itself. In this context, we support the ICRC's efforts in enhancing compliance with international humanitarian law which aims to protect victims of armed conflicts. We hope that this Conference will be able to achieve broad consensus on enhancing and ensuring effective compliance mechanisms, for IHL in particular, to address the existing gaps in non-international armed conflicts, with a view to advancing action to prevent and respond to violence. We have carefully noted the resolutions presented on this broad theme, covering, in particular, the issues related to IHL compliance, protection of detainees in non-international armed conflicts (NIACs) and sexual and gender-based violence. We will engage in negotiations to help build consensus on these important issues. My longer statement has our positions on the detention issue, the new framework on IHL compliance and disaster reduction and strengthening resilience.

Finally, we remain committed to engaging in support of the objectives of the Conference and wish to reiterate the fact that there is renewed political commitment and will in my country to strengthen the national IHL compliance mechanisms, as well as to advance measures to prevent and respond to all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), in a holistic manner. This is reflective of the clear policy of the current administration to engage positively with the international community, including international organizations. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Claudio Troncoso, Director of Legal  
Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Vice-Chair, I would like to begin this address by noting that Chile has long recognized and observed the rules of international humanitarian law, as demonstrated by its dynamic in ratifying international humanitarian law treaties and the fact that it is currently party to fifteen of the eighteen main international instruments of this body of law.

Through its National Commission on International Humanitarian Law, Chile is committed to the study of international humanitarian law, its effective

incorporation into domestic legislation and its dissemination. Allow me to give a brief account of some of the achievements in these areas.

First, pursuant to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols, a series of sites have been identified for protection, and work is currently in progress to have them registered.

Second, in fulfilment of Part V of the Third Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, a project has been formulated to set up a national information bureau for prisoners of war, and it was recently determined which institution it will be attached to.

With regard to the ratification of international humanitarian law treaties, we are pleased to report that, this year, Chile's National Congress approved the amendments to Article 8 on war crimes and amendments concerning the crime of aggression adopted at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (known as the Kampala amendments). The codification of these crimes in Chile's domestic legislation is currently being studied, and once this has been completed, Chile will proceed to ratify the amendments.

The Arms Trade Treaty adopted in 2013 at the United Nations General Assembly is also expected to be brought before Congress shortly for approval and ratification.

The National Commission is currently analysing the amendments required to domestic legislation for the full implementation of the provisions established in the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions ratified by Chile in 2010.

This year, Chile also expressed its support for the Lucens Guidelines on protecting schools and universities from military use during armed conflict.

Turning to a different subject now, I would like to briefly mention the position adopted by Chile as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council on promoting international humanitarian law. In this forum, our country has prioritized the protection of civilians and vulnerable groups and the implementation of international humanitarian law, by supporting the adoption of various resolutions relating to these matters and the inclusion of a special mention in the mandates of peace missions concerning the protection of civilians.

My country therefore firmly supports the initiative proposed by Switzerland and the ICRC for the establishment of a mechanism to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law, with a view to ensuring and improving its effectiveness, as indicated in the draft resolution submitted to the International Conference for consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this conference. To conclude my address, I would like to reaffirm our country's commitment to developing, implementing, disseminating and strengthening international humanitarian law. Thank you very much.

**Ms Preslava Volodieva Lilova-Georgieva,  
Head, International Department, Bulgarian  
Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, we will comment on the Fundamental Principles. Royal Highnesses, Excellencies, Red Cross and Red Crescent colleagues and guests, it is a crucial moment for all of us humanitarians. We must not stop pursuing, implementing in practice, demonstrating and disseminating the Fundamental Principles of our International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Now, more than ever, these basic humanitarian values determine the civilization choices we are making and describe the world we want; a world of fear, separation and confrontation, or a world of solidarity, mutual support and peace. Europe is facing the largest migration crisis witnessed in recent times, but there is more to this crisis than humanitarian needs alone. There is a worrying reaction from the citizens of our own countries; a fear sometimes so strong that it threatens the core values of the European Union, the fundament on which we all imagined Europe being built: the values of freedom, solidarity and humanity. Witnessing how these values become weaker, as instincts are forming public opinion and sometimes decision-making, is very worrying.

Following the principles of humanity and neutrality and led by the humanitarian imperative, the Bulgarian Red Cross is assisting vulnerable communities. Yet, often in doing so, we overstretch our resources and capacities, allocating them between the needs of the many thousands of ageing people with very low incomes struggling every day to cover their basic necessities, the needs of young people facing a bleak future with fewer and fewer job opportunities on a shrinking labour market and the needs of refugees and

migrants seeking survival. We work hard to support all vulnerable groups, by creating an environment of safety and peace, but this requires enormous efforts to inform our citizens and demonstrate our values in action, and thereby reduce anxiety.

Europe has seen worse in the past century and has the resources needed to overcome the current crisis. This is the kind of Europe we want, and this is the difference our Fundamental Principles and our values make, not only for the well-being of vulnerable communities, but for the sake of our own societies and our civilization choice. Thank you.

**H.E. Ms Regina Maria Cordeiro Dunlop,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

On behalf of the Government of Brazil, I commend the work carried out by Mr Peter Maurer, as well as by Mr Tadateru Konoé. I would also like to place on record our appreciation for the extraordinary contribution of the thousands of workers and volunteers of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement who run risks on a daily basis to defend, on the ground, the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross. Brazil is pleased to participate in this important Conference and contribute to the ongoing debate on humanitarian activities.

Over the past year, we have witnessed multifaceted humanitarian crises across the globe. At a time when humanitarian needs around the world are significantly expanding, we are concerned that repressive actions are escalating. It should be clear by now that the militarization of humanitarian action is not a solution to the current humanitarian challenges. In view of the ongoing global economic crisis, protracted armed conflicts, including, in specific cases, those motivated by international military action, as well as major natural disasters, the international community needs to foster coordination of humanitarian responses. It is not only a matter of solidarity, but of respect for international law. We need to shift the discussion from the security area to the humanitarian field.

In Brazil, humanitarian concerns gave rise to programmes which welcome migrants and refugees, particularly Haitians and Syrians. Presently, more than 65,000 Haitians live in Brazil, enjoying full rights and benefiting from government programmes. Brazil has been working, within its capacities, to receive people displaced by war and conflict. In 2013, we

established a system to expedite the issuance of visas, on a humanitarian basis, for persons affected by the Syrian conflict. More than 8,000 Syrians have already been issued with such visas. This “open arms” policy, as stated by President Dilma Rousseff, was recently extended for two additional years. Syrians account for the largest number of refugees in Brazil today. It is still a small contingent compared to the magnitude of the crisis, but it is a contribution that we believe can help many people in need.

Among the pledges undertaken by Brazil, I would like to highlight the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and the amendments to the Rome Statute adopted at the Review Conference in Kampala. Brazil further pledges to continue efforts to host Syrian refugees and to launch a national plan of action for women, peace and security, among others. We also organized a side event yesterday, in partnership with the ICRC, on the Rio Project led by the Committee in Rio de Janeiro between 2009 and 2013. We hope that the conclusions and the lessons learned may be useful. Although Brazil is not faced with armed conflicts, we believe in the added value of maintaining cooperation with the ICRC.

Finally, we look forward to renewing our cooperation, both in Geneva and in Brazil, to build a stronger and closer relationship with the ICRC and the Movement. Brazil’s full statement will be sent to the ICRC and will be available on its website. Thank you.

**Ms Tautala Nivaga Mauala, Secretary  
General, Samoa Red Cross Society, on  
behalf of the Pacific National Societies**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to present this statement on behalf of the Pacific National Societies. The Pacific island nations have one of the highest rates of violence against women and girls and of intimate partner violence in the world. Estimates suggest that almost 70 per cent of women and girls are raped or sexually assaulted in their lifetime, with an intimate partner violence prevalence rate of 57 per cent for women in Pacific countries. The Samoan Red Cross, and I am confident to say, all Pacific National Societies, renew our support for Resolution 3 of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, further calling on all National Societies to support the development of a clear, more holistic and strategic approach to sexual and gender-based violence, by collectively developing an overarching, Movement-wide framework setting out

the Movement's vision, approach and commitments to addressing sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies. This must be based on research and consultation with key stakeholders to build a stronger evidence base for action.

We must prioritize and strengthen the Movement's capacity to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, as well as to support national institutions in strengthening their capacity and deepen our own understanding of the causes, dynamics and impact in order to foster more effective prevention and response. This includes prioritizing awareness-raising and capacity-building for staff and volunteers at all levels, developing and disseminating tools and guidance, training, preparedness and response, and exchanging experiences and good practices in relation to sexual and gender-based violence. Sexual and gender-based violence is not an issue for a National Society to address on its own, and I highlight the importance of strengthening strategic and operational coordination mechanisms within the Movement to address sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict and disasters and other emergency situations.

In looking forward, the Samoan Red Cross will, alongside our colleagues in Pacific National Societies, enhance the quality and scope of their programming to better include gender, diversity and sexual and gender-based violence analysis in all needs assessments. We will adopt zero-tolerance policies on sexual exploitation and abuse by Movement staff and volunteers. We will ensure that appropriate policies – for example child protection and codes of conduct, reporting mechanisms, screening processes and training – are put in place to prevent or address sexual exploitation and abuse by Movement staff and volunteers. We will develop multidisciplinary, locally and culturally appropriate preventive strategies, including initiatives such as child education, in our efforts to expand sexual and gender-based violence programming through a victim/survivor-centred and evidence-based approach. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr César Gómez, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Panama in Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the Government of Panama is pleased to be taking part in this well-attended 32nd International Conference, a clear demonstration of

the universality of humanitarian principles, inspired initially by the principle of humanity and global humanitarian action, of which the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is a paradigm.

For Panama, the International Conference has two main objectives that call for the adoption of concrete measures: one is the strengthening of international humanitarian law and the second is the promotion of humanitarian action, so very necessary in the times we live in. In the contemporary world, these two objectives take on particular significance. Humanitarian crises are becoming more and more complex, armed conflicts are increasingly frequent and volatile, hazards and extreme weather events, including those caused by climate change, are now a reality and violence and the dire situation of migrants, refugees and displaced people have led to an alarming and troubling increase in the number of victims across the globe.

Cities are now also affected by war, and civilians are exposed to the appalling consequences of armed conflict.

Panama strongly supports compliance with international humanitarian law and its promotion and implementation through our solid foreign policy. We endeavour to strengthen multilateral and bilateral action and to ensure that we are better prepared, so that we can more effectively deal with the challenges posed by the protection of civilians and guarantee respect for human dignity and civil rights.

We believe that it is our duty to bring about changes that will strengthen resilience in the face of humanitarian challenges, a goal that is also included in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In October of this year, the Permanent National Commission on Humanitarian Law, chaired by Panama's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented by the Vice-President and Foreign Minister, worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Panama to develop a roadmap to press ahead with the fulfilment of the country's international commitments.

The commission, formed by twelve public institutions, is the body tasked with helping the State to meet its international obligations under international humanitarian law treaties, incorporate the provisions of this body of law into domestic legislation and ensure dissemination among all sectors of society.

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Panama believes that this conference and the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit provide the international community with an opportunity to address future challenges posed by conflicts, violence and disasters. There is an urgent need to identify critical proposals, including preventive measures, with a view to addressing the underlying causes of these serious problems.

In this spirit and as part of its multilateral agenda, our government is working in cooperation with Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations to establish the Regional Logistics Centre for Humanitarian Assistance, better known as the “Regional Humanitarian Hub”, in Panama. The purpose of the hub is to bring together the emergency operations of various humanitarian actors in a single modern, integrated logistics facility for humanitarian assistance delivered in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Thank you very much.

**H.E. Ms Monica Bolaños Pérez,  
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent  
Representative, Permanent Mission of  
Guatemala in Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Vice-Chair, it is a great satisfaction for Guatemala to be taking part in the proceedings of this International Conference. I would like to express our appreciation of the work of the leaders of the Movement, the International Federation and, of course, the National Societies, with their volunteers, for preparing this vitally important conference.

Guatemala has ratified the majority of international humanitarian law treaties, including the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their three Additional Protocols. In 1999, my country set up the Guatemalan Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (COGUADIH), attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and formed by representatives of the different institutions concerned. Its main function is to advise the government on the measures that need to be adopted to give domestic effect to the provisions of international humanitarian law. In its work, the commission has received assistance and valuable technical support from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

We believe that the issues addressed at this conference are vitally important to improving respect for international humanitarian law, because this is a time in which the nature of conflicts and violence throughout the world is constantly changing.

The number of armed conflicts and prolonged situations of violence is increasing. We are witnessing the emergence of new types of conflict, with new dynamics and posing new challenges for States and humanitarian actors. They include intra-state conflicts, prolonged conflicts that affect basic social service systems, regionalized conflicts that spill over into neighbouring countries, violence that spreads to cities and other communities where civilians live, with bombardments and attacks on densely populated areas, politicized conflicts and violence generated by third parties, motivated by criminal and commercial interests.

We are therefore concerned about numerous specific aspects, such as the difficult situation faced by refugees and people who are internally displaced, the restrictions on humanitarian access to assist the most vulnerable sectors of the population in need of food and medical attention, the situation of migrants, exacerbated by vulnerability factors, attacks on humanitarian personnel, health facilities and ambulances, attacks on crowded areas, such as markets, schools and places of worship, and the use of sexual violence as a means of warfare.

My country therefore welcomes the draft resolution on this issue submitted to the conference for consideration.

Although the main challenge to improving the situation of the victims of armed conflict lies in ensuring compliance with the existing rules, we should not ignore the problems arising from the development of methods and means of warfare in the 21st century. Rapid advances in military capacity are a good example.

The Geneva Conventions grant a mandate to work on the humanitarian impact of weapons, always following the rule that all warfare must be conducted according to the principles of precaution, proportionality and distinction. We have seen successes in this area with the ban on anti-personnel landmines, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and, more recently, the Arms Trade Treaty which extensively regulates the trade in small arms. We have witnessed the high cost in human lives that

the lack of a legally binding instrument on the arms trade entails, hence the importance of ensuring that it is fully enforced and universal.

We need to deliver tangible results on the issue of explosives in densely populated areas. Fighting has increasingly shifted to cities, turning them into urban battlefields, but we cannot accept weapons being moved into urban centres, so close to people's homes and to hospitals and schools.

Guatemala is among the countries that have endorsed the Humanitarian Pledge, undertaking to work to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and to cooperate with all the parties concerned to achieve this goal. Initiatives such as the Humanitarian Initiative on Nuclear Weapons seek real solutions to break the deadlock the disarmament machinery is facing.

We also wish to touch on the subject of the use of modern technology, such as drones and remote-controlled weapons, which complicates the application of basic rules of international humanitarian law concerning the principle of distinction between combatants and non-combatants or civilians, the principle of proportionality and asymmetric warfare, when there are significant differences between the parties involved in terms of their military power and technological capacity, and the principle of precaution which requires all feasible measures to be taken in choosing means and methods of attack, with a view to avoiding, or at least minimizing, civilian casualties.

Sexual violence in armed conflicts and humanitarian emergencies is an unacceptable reality, a crime and an affront to the public conscience. Sadly, however, the problem persists, as we have observed time and time again.

An effective course of action is to step up advocacy, urging States to implement reforms, as a matter of priority, to improve the rule of law and strengthen the capacities of national institutions, including civilian and military justice systems, with a view to tackling the problem of sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and putting an end to the impunity enjoyed by those who commit this type of crime. It is crucial to take action to break down the wall of impunity that currently stands in the way of the majority of victims getting justice. We must take action to ensure that the truth and the suffering of these women is known and that the perpetrators are held accountable for their acts. We must take steps to at least ensure that the truth is established

and justice is done, to promote reconciliation and to guarantee access to medical assistance in order to restore and uphold the dignity of victims.

Guatemala supports the removal of the obstacles that women face in gaining access to justice in conflict and post-conflict situations. We strongly condemn all violations of international law committed against women and girls during and in the aftermath of armed conflict.

We consider it important to advance the agenda on the responsibility to protect. My delegation fully supports this priority, which in turn contributes to moving forward the issues that we are discussing here. The key message on responsibility to protect is that all members of the international community are expected to comply with certain standards of behaviour in the way they treat their own citizens. There must be a clear understanding that States failing to fulfil this basic expectation or comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law will have to face the consequences. By advocating the protection of civilians, we send out a message of hope and a strong signal of our firm collective commitment. We are capable of protecting those who are vulnerable in the face of the devastating effects of war.

We hope that these deliberations and the measures proposed will contribute to strengthening our collective capacity to protect civilians in armed conflicts and vulnerable people in immediate need of our attention.

Thank you very much

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**Mr Abdelghani Elnaim Awadelkarim,  
Undersecretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of Sudan**

*(Original Arabic)*

Madam Vice-Chair, I would like to begin by extending our thankfulness and appreciation to the Swiss Government and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for the good preparation and excellent organization of this important Conference. We also wish you every success in your great mission.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement acquires exceptional importance in today's world replete with unrest, transition and challenges. The issues and topics of the 32nd International Conference, which we have witnessed the opening thereof yesterday and whose slogan is "The Power of Humanity", are also milestones in the promotion of IHL. We hope the Conference will achieve the objectives set through discussion and constructive deliberations.

The Sudan delegation would like, in its national capacity, to reconfirm our compliance with IHL and the firmly established principles upon which it rests, based on our firm belief in the principles of humanity, brotherhood and assistance to those in need and victims of conflicts and disasters and on being a genuine and sincere party to important IHL instruments. Sudan has worked on the passage of legislation and the creation of national mechanisms in order to achieve compliance with IHL. Most importantly, Sudan established the National Commission for International Humanitarian Law in 2003 and has striven since its inception to organize workshops and seminars in order to raise awareness and build capacities. In this regard, Sudan emphasizes the importance of promoting existing national and international mechanisms for enhancing compliance with IHL and to subject align new initiatives with the principles of dialogue and consensus building.

Mr President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir, has launched three initiatives to address the issues of internal conflicts, refugees and migrants. The first initiative raised the issue of food security. We would like, in this regard, to highlight our gratefulness and appreciation for the tripartite agreement between Germany, Sudan and the IGAD to assist refugees and host communities, provide food security, combat drought and provide vocational training and rehabilitation opportunities.

The second initiative is related to national dialogue and seeks to achieve peace, security, stability and national reconciliation, put an end to conflicts and address the root causes of displacement and asylum-seeking. Sudan has confirmed this trend by declaring a ceasefire in the Darfur region and other conflict zones, namely Southern Kordofan and the Blue Nile, and expressing its keenness to achieve full-fledged peace through political and security arrangements. The third initiative consists in hosting large numbers of fellow nationals from South Sudan and Syria, on an equal footing with Sudanese nationals in terms of access to education and health services, as well as the right to employment and movement.

Additionally, by virtue of its geographic location and regional stature, Sudan hosts thousands of refugees and irregular migrants from neighbouring countries and provides them the required assistance and protection without external support to offset the burden posed by the presence of such large numbers of hosts, despite the limited financial resources available to the Government of Sudan. The latter is currently suffering from the fallout of unilateral sanctions and accumulated debts resulting from fulfilling the needs of refugees and other segments of the population.

Sudan is supporting all efforts geared toward the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and addressing the risks faced by health care personnel. We have undertaken a pioneering experience in Sudan, with the establishment of a special department for combating violence against children and women, which has made several achievements.

We also have a success story in facilitating access to humanitarian assistance by those who need it inside Sudan, through specialized committees comprising representatives of the Sudan Government and United Nations organizations, and implementing effective mechanisms for action. Sudan is currently allowing the passage of humanitarian aid from the Sudan to the Republic of South Sudan through the World Food Programme.

To conclude, we wish this Conference every success and hope it would reach consensus on recommendations that would contribute to advancing the process of humanitarian action and to promoting IHL. Thank you.



**Dr Rudi Coninx, Coordinator, World Health Organization (WHO)**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, distinguished delegates, the World Health Organization (WHO) takes this opportunity to commend the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for its tireless efforts to protect and to provide services to vulnerable populations worldwide. The Movement works in the most difficult circumstances, often at great personal risk to its staff and volunteers. WHO recognizes the significant work of the Movement in the ongoing fight against Ebola in West Africa, and we pay tribute to all those who helped in this effort, particularly those who regrettably lost their lives.

WHO is grateful for the engagement of the Movement in inter-agency efforts to improve our collective response to health needs, including in the Global Health Cluster. WHO especially commends the work of the ICRC's Health Care in Danger project. Attacks against health care are flagrant violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law and restrict the right to health, which is enshrined in the WHO Constitution. Such attacks undermine already weak health systems, depriving affected populations of urgently needed life-saving care and impeding progress towards our shared health development goals. Together with the ICRC and other organizations in the Health Care in Danger's Community of Concern, WHO has urged its own Member States to protect health care in many ways, including: to document, report, investigate and condemn attacks against health care; to ensure that domestic legislation and its implementation are in line with obligations under international humanitarian law; and to cooperate with health and humanitarian organizations to ensure that health personnel are specifically trained to know, apply and uphold their legal and ethical duties.

WHO welcomes the Movement's commitment to disaster risk reduction, as agreed at the Sendai Conference, and also welcomes further collaboration between the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the National Societies in this regard, including making hospitals safer from any hazard, including violence.

**Ms Jacqueline Deroin de Gaillande, Chief Executive Officer, Vanuatu Red Cross Society**

*(Original French)*

First of all, I would like to convey, on behalf of the Vanuatu Red Cross Society, our gratitude to the International Federation, the ICRC and the National Red Cross Societies of Australia, New Zealand, France, Japan and China for their constant support. I will now speak on behalf of the National Societies of the Pacific.

*(Original English)*

As Pacific National Societies, we welcome this opportunity to show our strong support for the IFRC Disaster Law Programme. As small countries, Pacific island States are disproportionately affected by natural disasters. All of us have felt the effects of natural disasters and are acutely aware of the important role that strong, fit-for-purpose, locally adapted legal frameworks play in reducing risk, facilitating international assistance and addressing the numerous issues associated with the provision of shelter when disaster strikes.

International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) remains a key priority and we recall the historic decision made by the Pacific leaders in 2012 endorsing the IDRL Guidelines and encouraging Pacific countries to strengthen their legal frameworks. Pacific leaders listen and respond to the call of their National Societies to give priority to IDRL. Earlier this year, when tropical cyclone Pam slammed into Vanuatu, IDRL played the crucial bridging role between the vast international response and the domestic disaster response system. Without this important tool, the Government found itself being quickly overwhelmed by the inflow of international assistance – a common occurrence for small island States. Pacific national disaster management offices have embraced the idea of developing a set of regional guidelines on IDRL which will serve as a template for governments seeking to strengthen their legal frameworks, providing harmonization and standardization of policies and procedures across Pacific countries. As a core message for the international community, we will respectfully ask that you also responsibly consider the absorptive capacity of the country you are seeking to help. Let us not allow international humanitarian assistance to be so overwhelming that it hinders rather than helps.

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Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are key policy goals in the Pacific. In 2010, the Pacific region was the first in the world to endorse an original policy integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change. Despite this, the legislative environment in most Pacific countries still needs to be strengthened to integrate the commitment made on traditional knowledge under the recent Sendai Framework. We welcome the recent checklist on law and disaster risk reduction as a valuable tool for Pacific governments. We would like to highlight, however, that there are also a number of other legal issues that arise in the aftermath of many natural disasters. Housing, land and property rights and legal frameworks have been identified as major issues in light of the growing reality that many Pacific peoples will be forced to leave their homes permanently, and possibly their countries, due to climate change in the near future. Addressing such rights to lands of customary and ancestral land practice will be the key to helping people move to a new location peacefully and sustainably. Our message to this meeting is simply this: we commend the work of the IFRC for their disaster law effort in the Pacific. Disaster law is still a developing area in many countries, but Pacific National Societies are committed to ensuring that disaster law remains on the agenda across the region and is prioritized accordingly. Thank You.

**H.E. Ms Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba  
in Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Vice-Chair, in this convulsive world, where armed conflicts are increasingly complex and of prolonged duration, it is essential to promote the development, dissemination and implementation of the rules and principles of international humanitarian law.

In this context, we believe that strengthening international humanitarian law will contribute to increasing respect for the aims and principles established in the United Nations Charter, international law, sovereignty, the territorial integrity of States, the self-determination of peoples and non-interference in domestic affairs. Noble humanitarian ideals must not be manipulated in a selective or discriminatory way to justify violations of the United Nations Charter and international law, which mainly affect developing countries.

This highlights the continued relevance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, their Additional Protocols and the guiding principles for international humanitarian assistance, endorsed by the United Nations. These instruments remain valid in the operations carried out in response to the complex humanitarian emergencies occurring around the world.

In order to find lasting solutions to today's most pressing humanitarian problems, we must tackle the underlying causes, which include underdevelopment, the unfair international economic order, inequality, marginalization, social exclusion, armed conflicts and insecurity, to name but a few.

An end must be put to all coercive unilateral measures that are contrary to international law, as the implementation of such measures can adversely affect the humanitarian situation of the countries concerned. There is also an urgent need to strengthen the national capacities of developing countries, as these are the nations that bear the brunt of such situations.

At this conference, we face the important challenge of finding ways of strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law. One such proposal is the initiative to create a new monitoring mechanism. We believe that it should focus on promoting intergovernmental dialogue, exchanges of experience and international cooperation, with a structure that avoids politicization and prevents the selective use of humanitarian ideals. It is the responsibility of us all to ensure that it does not become a platform in which double standards are applied, with the countries of the South being required to comply with the rules, while a blind eye is turned to systematic violations by the major powers. Madam Vice-Chair, Cuba will contribute to achieving this goal with a constructive spirit and with the moral authority bestowed on it by its firm commitment to the observance and promotion of international humanitarian law. Thank you very much.

**Ms Annie Burlot-Bourdil, Director General,  
French Red Cross**

*(Original French)*

Madam Vice-Chair, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address this 32nd International Conference and congratulate the Federation and the ICRC on the outstanding organization of the event.

New scourges are increasing vulnerability, and it is time to draw on the wealth of successful experience that the Red Cross Red Crescent collective possesses to overcome them together. It is then that the non-political power of humanitarian action will take on its full significance.

We applaud the adoption by the Council of Delegates of a joint statement on action to protect and respond to the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and its inclusion in an International Conference resolution. The exceptional scale of the problem means that this is not just the responsibility of individual National Societies, but requires collective action. Everywhere in the world, migrants have been able to come to the Red Cross Red Crescent and enjoy the protection granted by our emblem. Many National Societies today carry out activities on an unprecedented scale to assist migrants in their countries. We must now focus on delivering our response, including humanitarian, social, medical, psychological, legal and administrative components, at an earlier stage, on the migration routes. These routes entail dangerous and life-threatening conditions, and we should be present throughout, innovating to improve our response for migrants.

At the first point of arrival, migrants should be able to make a free and informed decision on their destination, based on full and accurate information about potential host countries and the conditions of reception in them. In order to achieve this, we need to mobilize the Movement as a whole. We propose to you the establishment of a professional transnational migration team, similar to the emergency response teams that the International Federation has been successfully deploying for many years. Such a team could provide the support required in the areas of humanitarian, social and linguistic assistance and restoring family links, with full respect for human rights, all along the migration routes. We also welcome the general support provided by the International Federation in the area of migration and thank it for the assistance delivered through its regional offices.

However, a concrete, practical methodology must be urgently formulated and made available to the National Societies concerned. It is essential to create useful, functional tools, such as the interactive data platform, which will enable us to optimize the impact of our actions and map reception and rest points for migrants.

I would like to address another major problem which is linked to migration in that it is one of the causes: climate change. We know that climate change is now causing natural disasters, which are increasing in frequency and scale.

As the future of the planet is discussed in Paris, let us, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, continue our everyday work with vulnerable people affected by the adverse impact of climate change. To this end, we urge all National Societies here today and governments to sign the pledge on climate change, which focuses on risk anticipation and prevention. By partnering with our respective governments, we can step up our efforts in this area and be more effective in limiting the impact of climate change. It is our responsibility. Thank you.

**H.E. Dr Suraya Dalil, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Islamic Republic of  
Afghanistan in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is pleased and honoured by the election of Ms Fatima Gailani, President of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, as the Chair of this Conference. We believe that her knowledge and hands-on experience adds value to the deliberations and decisions of this Conference.

On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I would like to thank the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross for their serious efforts in drafting resolutions and convening this Conference. My delegation supports the statement made by the Ambassador of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC group.

Afghanistan is a country affected by both chronic conflict and natural disasters. We are party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 1977. We understand our responsibility

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to respect international humanitarian law and customary international humanitarian laws. The Afghanistan High Peace Council is a body responsible for the Peace and Reintegration Programme established in September 2010. The members of the Peace Council, including men and women, are endeavouring to pave the way for peace and stability across the country. This demonstrates that peace is one of the top priorities of the Government and should be dealt with in a manner that could bring armed opposition groups to the negotiation table and encourage them to use democratic processes. For us, the call for peace is meant to be genuine and inclusive, with a long-term vision and commitment.

Afghanistan is a member of many conventions, including those against weapons that cause indiscriminate effects, civilian casualties and socioeconomic and other adverse impacts. During the 70th General Assembly of the United Nations, a resolution on countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices, drafted by Afghanistan, Australia and France and co-sponsored by 27 countries, was successfully adopted. The last tragic accident of this kind happened in Kabul just last month, when explosive remnants of war exploded among children and killed eight of them. We condemn civilian casualties, including among children and women.

According to the United Nations, Afghanistan ranks among the 12 most vulnerable countries in terms of the risk of humanitarian crises and disaster and hazard exposure, yet it has the least coping and adaptive capacity worldwide. This translates into approximately 250,000 Afghans being affected by natural disasters every year. The destruction of homes and shelters in natural disasters has displaced over 23,000 people every year since 2008. Afghanistan is exposed to multiple hazards, such as earthquakes, extreme winter conditions, landslides, avalanches, floods, droughts and sandstorms, which threaten the population in many parts of the country. Under the National Unity Government, given the importance of humanitarian action, the new post of Minister of State for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs has been established. This portfolio leads all aspects of disaster management, including risk reduction, effective response and legal frameworks, and coordinates the efforts of stakeholders – both governmental and non-governmental – for a coherent and systematic approach. The content of Resolution 6 of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and particularly the attached Checklist, is important in enhancing current efforts.

In conclusion, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that Afghanistan appreciates the development and enhancement of international humanitarian law, disaster response law and norms and standards for aid workers and for the most vulnerable groups to be treated with dignity during conflicts and disasters. We support the process to finalize resolutions on the basis of consensus, as raised by many States during the consultation meetings. We hope that, by collaborating with each other, we can mitigate and eventually eliminate all kinds of violence against aid workers, as well as against vulnerable persons, during conflicts and disasters.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the host country, Switzerland, for convening this Conference. We also extend our gratitude for the humanitarian response provided by the ICRC, the IFRC, the Afghan Red Crescent Society and other humanitarian organizations during conflict and disaster in Afghanistan. I thank you for your attention.

**H.E. Mr Triyono Wibowo, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Indonesia in  
Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, let me start by congratulating you on being appointed to preside over this Conference. We also thank the ICRC and the IFRC for their efforts in preparing all the necessary substantive as well as logistical support for the convening of this Conference. We believe that the Conference will be able to provide concrete contributions in line with our common endeavours to further promote the fundamental work based on humanitarian principles. We also acknowledge the importance of this gathering, where the representatives of States will work together with partners in humanitarian action to undertake joint commitments with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The theme of this year's Conference and Commission A, the Power of Humanity: the Fundamental Principles in Action, gives clear indications of the challenges that we face, as well as the steps that need to be taken to address various humanitarian challenges in many parts of the world. It is also important that all actions to be taken be guided by the humanitarian principles of "humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence".

We have been facing many humanitarian crises in many parts of the world, in particular with respect to armed conflict and other man-made crises. While we are committed and persist in our efforts to address these challenges, these crises continue year after year. It is important, therefore, that we redouble our efforts, our commitments and our adherence to and compliance with international humanitarian law. We need to continue strengthening our efforts to address the underlying risks and vulnerabilities that can lead to humanitarian crises, whether man-made or caused by natural disasters. We need to continue to build resilience at all levels and we need to change the paradigm of humanitarian action from response to prevention. We also need to ensure that women, who account for the majority of those affected by crises and are disproportionately affected by humanitarian emergencies, are given equal opportunity to voice their aspirations and get involved in all phases of humanitarian assistance.

We strongly believe that one of the cornerstones in addressing various humanitarian challenges is the implementation of international humanitarian law, based on the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Therefore, it is crucial for all actors to strengthen their compliance with and respect for international humanitarian law at the national, regional and global levels. As far as Indonesia is concerned, we continue to take various steps at the national level, with a view to integrating international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles into our military doctrines and procedures. The Government also conducts the necessary dissemination activities among different stakeholders in order to generate broad public awareness on the importance of this law. At the regional level, the Indonesian Government, together with several other countries, has conducted various regional workshops, with a view to providing a forum for the exchange of best practices among countries in the region for the implementation of international humanitarian law. We are also involved in several global initiatives aimed at generating global awareness on the issue of protection of civilians. Together with the governments of Norway, Argentina and Uganda, we organized the Global Conference on Reclaiming the Protection of Civilians under International Humanitarian Law in 2013. We are also co-chairing the 2014 regional consultations on preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit, together with the Government of Japan.

Let me conclude by emphasizing the need for more coordination and communication between humanitarian actors and governments. It is only through coordinated and concerted efforts that

we can really make a difference on the ground, in particular, by utilizing the full potential of all actors involved in humanitarian activities. I thank you.

**Ms Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, Chairman,  
American Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the American Red Cross is pleased to have the opportunity to address this forum. Together, we are working to meet humanitarian needs on an unprecedented scale. Globally, more than 60 million people are displaced from their homes – the most since World War Two – fleeing violence, insecurity and economic privation. Emblematic of this phenomenon is the Syrian crisis, which is a major driver of displacement. This crisis, along with other major humanitarian emergencies, is prolonging suffering and uncertainty for millions of people, and uncertainty about the fate of loved ones can be the most heartbreaking aspect of a displaced family's predicament. Fortunately, dedicated volunteers and staff of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' worldwide network are there now, not just to meet basic needs, such as the provision of food, water and shelter; we also actively seek to restore family links for people who have been separated by conflicts and disasters, knowing that this service is absolutely critical to maintaining resilience in the face of extreme duress.

Building resilience is a cornerstone of the American Red Cross programmes, both at home and abroad. Whether it involves installing smoke detectors in the homes of thousands of people in communities in the United States or working with communities in Myanmar on disaster risk reduction projects, we are committed to creating conditions in which people are safer, healthier and better equipped to cope with and recover from hardship. And we do not do this vital work alone. Working closely with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners, we are able to respond to disasters when they strike. We help families recover from tragedy. Together, we extend our reach into the most marginalized communities to improve the lives of vulnerable people.

This commitment to help people build and strengthen their resilience is embodied in the One Billion Coalition for Resilience – a bold initiative, a partnership, an opportunity that will make a positive impact on communities, individuals and families throughout the world. This initiative comes at a time when solidarity is urgently needed. A generation from

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now, how will our children look at us? It is our fervent hope that, among many other accomplishments, we will have dramatically improved their health and well-being and ended preventable child deaths and illness. As a founding member of the Measles and Rubella Initiative, the American Red Cross has been focused on the measles virus and its elimination for nearly 15 years. Before the initiative's founding in 2001, more than 562,000 children died globally from measles complications each year. Since that time, the American Red Cross and its partners have helped vaccinate two billion children in more than 88 countries, reducing measles deaths by 78 per cent globally. We still have much work to do; more than 300 children die from measles complications every day, but the progress is impressive and we are firmly committed to eliminating this entirely preventable disease. Our mission remains to reach the least and the last and the lost, and this gives us our dignity and a purpose.

Perhaps Reinhold Niebuhr said it best, "Nothing that is worth doing can be accomplished in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love." Surely our faith, our hope, our love, put to work, is how we must honour this noble, necessary mission of the 190 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Here, today, the American Red Cross is proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with each of you.

**Mr Michael Legge, President, Australian Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the Australian Red Cross is concerned that, today, there are more people displaced, fleeing conflict or otherwise on the move, than at any other time since the Second World War. This is a truly global phenomenon, with migratory trails in all directions across the world and the causes for migration being diverse. Forced migration is a particular and pressing humanitarian challenge and, while neighbouring countries are usually impacted first and foremost, no country can remain untouched by the extent of need. How we respond to this extraordinary challenge is critical to our place as the world's largest humanitarian movement. In Australia we are actively involved in migration issues and seek

to contribute at local, national and international levels.

The Australian Red Cross monitors the conditions of those detained, we have worked with the Government to develop and implement alternatives to immigration detention, we have supported tens of thousands of people seeking protection to be cared for in community settings, and we have provided restoring family links services for decades. Along with the Mongolian Red Cross, we are currently co-chairs of the Asia Pacific Migration Network and look forward to working with other National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC to further humanitarian support for migrants across the region. We strongly support further engagement of all parts of the Movement in responding to the substantial humanitarian challenges for those impacted by migration from a genuinely global perspective.

An advantage for us in migration is our presence, as a Movement, along migratory routes. Our work in countries of departure and of destination also leads us to think about the importance of localization. Whether it is supporting efforts to contain Ebola, being the first responder in a natural disaster or dealing with the root causes of migration, we know that the humanitarian system is at its best and its most sustainable when local National Societies are in the driver's seat. The Australian Red Cross prioritizes local humanitarian action through supporting the capacity-building of National Societies, working to strengthen international disaster response laws and through disaster risk reduction and building resilience. We would urge a Movement-wide push in this direction.

The Conference is struggling with the important issues of international humanitarian law. We know that compliance with international humanitarian law is the only way of protecting civilians in armed conflict and ensuring that, in the midst of war, some semblance of humanity can be retained. This is core to our Movement, and at the Australian Red Cross we have a large and extensive IHL programme. We work not only in Australia, but also with our Pacific brothers and sisters to enhance knowledge, understanding and the implementation of the law. We work closely with the Australian Government to this end and thank them for their support in this important work, so critical to enhancing compliance with the law. The draft resolution on compliance represents a historic opportunity to demonstrate, as a Movement, that we are prepared to take on the challenge. The Australian Red Cross encourages us all to support it. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Taonga Mushayavanhu,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of  
Zimbabwe in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, allow me to congratulate and thank both the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for organizing this 32nd International Conference, which brings together States parties, National Societies and other international organizations to deliberate on, among other issues, the need to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law.

Zimbabwe is a nation that gained its independence after a protracted armed struggle. For this reason, it has a deep appreciation for the importance and place of international humanitarian law and also for the critical role that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement plays in conflict situations. Zimbabwe continues to benefit from the work of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through their interventions during times of natural disaster.

The world continues to be confronted with armed conflicts of varying magnitude and complexity. Collectively, we have the responsibility of ensuring that parties to the conflicts adhere to the principles that constitute international humanitarian law. The application of and compliance with international humanitarian law should be universal, regardless of the proportions of the conflict, the parties involved or where these armed conflicts are taking place. For us, international humanitarian law remains the relevant international legal framework to regulate warring situations and the conduct of parties to armed conflict and to protect civilians and prisoners of war. It is our view that international humanitarian law ought to be observed even in non-international armed conflicts, because these armed conflicts have the same consequences for the civilian population.

It is in this regard that the Government of Zimbabwe agrees that compliance with international humanitarian law needs to be strengthened. Nevertheless, this has to be done in a manner that does not impose new obligations on member countries, especially obligations that are already being fulfilled in other international fora. We also want the proposed annual meetings to discuss

national situations and to be a transparent platform that will deal solely with issues within the confines of international humanitarian law.

Finally, my Government is also in support of other resolutions concerning detention in relation to armed conflict and sexual and gender-based violence. Zimbabwe abhors gender-based violence and has national laws to protect women and girls from this form of violence. Accordingly, we take a strong stand at the international level against gender-based violence. The media is currently awash with atrocities being committed against women and young girls in armed conflicts. We have a responsibility to act. Thank you.

**Mr Kansuke Nagaoka, Minister, Permanent  
Mission of Japan in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, Japan congratulates the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement on marking the 50th anniversary of its seven Fundamental Principles. We express our deep respect to the Movement for having pursued the humanitarian cause in the past 150 years and for addressing today's humanitarian situations, which are aggravated by displacement and violence caused by non-State actors to the worst extent that the world has seen in the past 70 years. Japan highly commends the initiative of Switzerland and the ICRC to give effect to international humanitarian law and has actively contributed to major related deliberations. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of the work so far at this Conference and wish to participate in the meeting of States scheduled for next year.

Japan stresses the importance of preventing sexual violence in conflict and appreciates the inclusion of disasters in Resolution 3 on sexual and gender-based violence to be adopted at this Conference. Tokyo, with the cooperation of the ICRC, hosted a symposium on this topic in 2014. At this Conference, Japan is joining the UK in making a pledge on this issue and co-hosting a side event. We will continue to cooperate closely with the Movement on this agenda.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March this year, stresses: (a) investment in disaster risk reduction from the long-term perspective; (b) "build back better", that is, learning from disasters how to overcome vulnerabilities and reconstruct a more

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resilient society; and (c) collaboration between the central government and other actors, particularly local governments and civil society. These points should apply not only to the hardware, such as anti-seismic infrastructure, but also to the software, the modalities of emergency aid and the habits and attitudes of people in the community. In the aftermath of the great earthquake of March 2011, the Japanese Red Cross Society and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as a whole were hugely instrumental in engaging local communities in extending assistance and in galvanising support from across the globe.

Historically, Japan was the first Asian nation to accede to the Geneva Convention of 1864. The Japanese National Society was amongst the five founding member societies of the IFRC in 1919. The Empress Shōken Fund, established in 1912, pioneered assistance in peacetime. This fund, jointly managed by the IFRC and the ICRC, has supported more than 600 projects in 158 countries and regions in the past 100 years. We expect that it will continue to play its humble role in demonstrating the power of humanity in all parts of the world. Thank you very much.

**Ms Alina Orosan, Director, International Law and Treaties Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the year 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the seven Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Such moments merit reflection, especially on their relevance today, in a very complex, fragile and unstable humanitarian environment. This reflection can reach a very clear conclusion, which is that these Fundamental Principles have not only guided the Movement well since their adoption 50 years ago, but, in a world in turmoil, they are more relevant and resonant than ever and represent a much-needed ethical compass, which should guide our action.

Romania continues to attach great importance to the promotion and implementation of international humanitarian law. Following the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Romania ratified the Third Additional Protocol to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Arms Trade Treaty, the latter in April 2014, thus directly contributing to the entry into force of the Treaty just a year ago. We have a new Criminal Code, as of February 2014, which

takes fully into account the relevant provisions of the international humanitarian law treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The importance Romania attaches to the dissemination of international humanitarian law is also illustrated by the declaration by law, in 2013, at the initiative of the Romanian National Commission on International Humanitarian Law, of 14 May as the day of international humanitarian law at national level. In order to mark this day, a series of events aimed at promoting IHL are organized annually by the Romanian authorities, in collaboration with the Romanian Red Cross.

In a world faced with unprecedented humanitarian need, we believe that respecting IHL is both a moral and strategic imperative. Against this backdrop, my delegation would like to express its gratitude to the Swiss authorities and to the International Committee of the Red Cross for facilitating the consultation process on strengthening the application of IHL in a very open, transparent and inclusive manner. Romania fully shares the view that the current mechanisms of compliance with IHL are not adequate and need to be improved. Therefore, we strongly support Resolution 2 of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the idea of establishing a regular meeting of States to provide a forum to discuss, in a non-politicized manner, thematic issues and voluntary reports on national implementation of IHL. We would equally like to express our support for Resolution 1 of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, acknowledging the need to address, with priority, the gaps in IHL on detention in non-international armed conflict. Deprivation of liberty in connection with armed conflict continues to cause serious concerns, and the role of IHL and clear standards in this field are vital to protecting detainees.

Romania further welcomes Resolution 6 of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the adoption of the Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction as a very useful assessment tool, with a view to guiding a review of relevant domestic legal frameworks. My delegation underlines the importance of Resolution 3 of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and stresses the need for decisive action by the whole international community, which must join efforts in order to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, combat impunity for this crime and protect and support victims of sexual violence.

Last, but not least, my delegation would like to express its deep gratitude to the humanitarian workers and



volunteers who constantly face particular risk by operating in dangerous and insecure environments. Their invaluable contribution is highly appreciated and represents a very eloquent illustration, not only of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, but also of the power of humanity to save lives and alleviate human suffering.

Romania fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the European Union and its member States. Thank you.

**Mr. Filipe Nainoca, Director General, Fiji Red Cross Society**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, for many States in the Pacific, time and distance have separated us from the troubles that international humanitarian law seeks to address. The peace and harmony that many of us enjoy, across a huge part of the Earth's surface, challenge those of us who champion international humanitarian law, particularly in the South Pacific, where we must not be complacent. The tragic consequences of war are very real for all of us, and this realization, along with our Movement's mandate, underpins our shared responsibility to respect and ensure respect for the Geneva Conventions and other rules of international humanitarian law. While international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions are topics that rarely feature in the parliaments of small Pacific island States, in June 2006, it was Nauru's ratification of the Geneva Conventions that marked, for the first time, the universal acceptance of these instruments. However, while the universal nature of the Geneva Conventions is a cause for celebration, violations of international humanitarian law continue. There is no doubt that the main challenge in armed conflict today is insufficient respect for the rules of war – not a lack of rules. The law can only be effective when it is respected. This much was recognized by the 31st International Conference. We also know that violations of IHL are the principal contributor to the overall human cost of war. Spurred on by this knowledge, we must find ways to ensure greater respect for IHL in order to reduce the needless human suffering caused by armed conflict.

I stand to express the support of the Fiji Red Cross for Resolution 2 of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. I stand confident, following consultation with my Pacific colleagues, that this is a view strongly held by all Pacific National Societies. While States bear the primary

responsibility for ensuring respect for IHL, we must also acknowledge the important role the National Societies of the Pacific must play in supporting the effective functioning of the new platform proposed by the resolution, and we will encourage the fullest participation of Pacific States, in line with our special auxiliary role and our mandate to disseminate and assist governments in disseminating IHL. We feel that the Pacific region must continue to be engaged in international dialogue on generating respect for this body of law. Pacific participation in peacekeeping missions around the world makes this essential.

With the memory of the Second World War in our minds, as well as more recent experience of violence and unrest in our region, we must remember that we are not just inhabitants of the Pacific Ocean, but also citizens of the Global Ocean. Ensuring greater respect for international humanitarian law through an effective IHL compliance system is a vital expression of this shared humanity and an important key to unlocking the potential of our small island nations to build that respect and meet the challenges faced by IHL today.

**Dr Salwa Eldaghili, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Libya in Geneva**

*(Original Arabic)*

Madam Vice-Chair, we are pleased first of all to extend our sincere congratulations to the Swiss Government, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Standing Commission and the distinguished Council of Delegates for having organized this Conference. We would like to wish you every success throughout the activities and events of this international forum, so that it achieves the desired results and enhances respect for IHL.

Since the 31st International Conference in 2011, our world has witnessed accelerated developments, beginning with the Arab Spring uprisings and the subsequent outbreak of armed conflicts and terrorist attacks in many countries of the world by the so-called "ISIS" group, as well as the barbaric terrorist attack on the Gaza Strip, resulting in the deaths of thousands of civilians and the displacement of millions of refugees and displaced persons. My country got its fair share of those tragic events, as Libya is home to more than 400,000 displaced persons, in addition to over one million individuals in need of urgent humanitarian aid. More than 18% of health care centres are inoperative due to the lack

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of essential medicines for the treatment of chronic diseases, such as insulin, vaccines, anaesthetics and supplies required for emergency surgery, dialysis, etc. Furthermore, over 60% of hospitals are inaccessible because they happen to be situated in clash zones. The health situation in Libya has greatly deteriorated, since the health care system reached the point of total breakdown. We received news from the beloved south that there are six cases of malaria in Wadi Al Shatii district, more specifically in the city of Gardah.

While we greatly appreciate the strenuous efforts the ICRC is making to deliver humanitarian aid to those in need within Libya, we wonder why ICRC international delegates are absent from Libya under the pretext of insecurity, when we know that they are present in countries where tensions and insecurity are more acute. In this context, the delegation of my country requests the following:

- 1) Accelerate the dispatch of ICRC international delegates to Libya in order to closely monitor the deteriorating humanitarian situation.
- 2) Refrain from dealing directly with non-governmental humanitarian institutions in Libya without prior coordination with the Libyan Red Crescent Society, which is the sole legitimate entity concerned with humanitarian affairs and authorized to act in this domain in Libya.

In conclusion, we hope that the ICRC maintains the neutral character it has been renowned for since its inception and exercises caution to avoid being dragged into contentious issues of a politicized nature, in order to continually maintain the full respect of all the conflicting parties. Thank you.

**Mr Hamadou Konaté, Minister for Solidarity, Humanitarian Action and Reconstruction of the North, Republic of Mali**

*(Original French)*

Madam Vice-Chair, this Conference is for me an opportunity to thank the ICRC and the Mali Red Cross, on behalf of the Government of Mali, for the assistance that they have provided and continue to provide since a security crisis shook my country.

Between March 2012 and August 2013, Mali experienced a period of political and military instability and insecurity, which weakened the institutions of the Republic and led to massive

displacements of people from the northern regions towards neighbouring countries, mainly Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania. It also left the entire northern area of our country without basic services.

The aftermath of this unprecedented humanitarian situation was marked by the destruction of the country's social and economic fabric and human rights violations on a scale never before seen.

Throughout the crisis, Mali received the assistance and support of all the humanitarian partners within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, enabling it to cope with dignity and meet essential humanitarian needs.

The Red Cross is at the forefront of humanitarian action in Mali. The cities of Gao and Timbuktu, which fell into the hands of armed groups, only managed to continue fulfilling their basic responsibilities and meeting essential needs because these humanitarian actors remained on the ground and helped to cover basic necessities.

Mali commends the courage of the humanitarian workers who have continued to deliver assistance to the civilian population in the north of the country throughout, often risking their own lives. Mali condemns all terrorist attacks that target humanitarian convoys, a problem not unfamiliar to ICRC convoys. This is a good opportunity to pay a heartfelt tribute to all the humanitarian workers, all the men and women, who have been killed by the bullets of terrorists and Jihadists acting in contravention of the principles of international humanitarian law.

Although a peace agreement has been signed and the crisis is now behind us, there is no question that our country continues to experience difficult times, as displaced people are reluctant to return and the country faces significant challenges in reconstructing basic social services, mitigating food insecurity, ensuring safe conditions in the humanitarian space and strengthening social cohesion and human rights.

Mali is addressing these challenges and doing so successfully, thanks to international and subregional solidarity.

Mali supports the resolution on strengthening international humanitarian law. It is in favour of establishing mechanisms to monitor compliance with international humanitarian law, because it believes that in a situation of insecurity and conflict, it is

respect for certain rules that allows humanity to live in conditions that are acceptable in the 21st century.

Once again, on behalf of the Government of Mali, I convey the gratitude of the people of Mali to the Movement and the Mali Red Cross.

Mali is fully committed to upholding the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Mali welcomes international solidarity and fraternity, without which humanity would be elusive. Thank you.

**H.E. Dr Ahmed Bamarni, Ambassador,  
Director of the International Organizations  
and Conferences Office, Iraq**

*(Original Arabic)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the delegation of my country wishes to extend its thankfulness and gratitude to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for the huge efforts it has put into organizing and facilitating the proceedings of this Conference.

The 32nd International Conference is taking place amidst great challenges on several levels. As you know, Iraq has been facing enormous challenges ever since the ISIS terrorist group captured areas in northern and western Iraq, killing thousands of innocent nationals, without sparing children, women or the elderly, and even selling Iraqi Yazidi women as captives of war. It has destroyed temples, churches, mosques and archaeological sites. This terrorist group has no religion or doctrine and while claiming to be Islamic, Islam completely revokes such acts. ISIS stands against all human values, declares hostility and war against the international community and recognizes no international laws or regulations. Although Iraq is on the front line of confrontation with ISIS, the latter is recognized by the entire world as being a transnational terrorist organization operating across borders and having no homeland or origin. ISIS members hold different nationalities, and their main objective is to eliminate the global order and its international organizations, impose their brutal codes of killing, slaughtering and even burning people alive and spread terror throughout the entire world. Therefore, the international community is at war with them.

Since ISIS imposed its sway on parts of Iraq, more than three million Iraqis have been forcibly displaced from their homes and, in addition to this, Iraq is hosting

over 280,000 Syrian refugees. The Iraqi Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government have pledged, despite declining core financial resources and falling oil prices, to meet the basic needs of displaced Iraqi nationals and Syrian refugees. We would like here to extend our thankfulness and gratitude to all States and international and humanitarian organizations that have provided and are still providing assistance to Iraq to cope with such needs.

In February 2015, the Permanent National Commission for International Humanitarian Law was established in Iraq. It is considered the main reference on IHL-related matters and enjoys consultative status with the Iraqi Government in its fields of competence. The IHL Commission is addressing all human rights violations during conflicts and is competent to host national and international experts, based on the requirements of its activities.

We are well aware that sovereign States as well as parties involved in military conflicts yet recognizing the international order and international law will comply with IHL provisions. However, the question raised here is: What impact does IHL have on a terrorist group such as ISIS, which uses all forms of brutality in dealing with people held into their grip? Hence, it must be emphasized that ISIS and its sister groups should not be given legal status.

In this huge global forum, it should be pointed out that nuclear weapons pose a serious threat to humanity, the environment, the global climate and infrastructure. We confirm Iraq's commitment to observing the relevant provisions of international treaties and conventions related to the nuclear threat. Furthermore, Iraq's support of the humanitarian pledge submitted by Austria reflects our keenness to support all efforts geared toward reaching a world free of nuclear weapons. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Jean-Marc Hoscheit, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg  
in Geneva**

*(Original French)*

Madam Vice-Chair, Luxembourg fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered shortly on behalf of the European Union.

My country welcomes the themes chosen for the 32nd International Conference. In a world that continues to suffer under the effects of conflicts and natural

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disasters, this Conference provides an opportunity to come together to discuss the challenges faced by the humanitarian system currently in place and reaffirm the power of humanity.

My country deeply appreciates the remarkable work carried out by the Movement, whose staff and volunteers work day to day in complex and dangerous situations, often risking their own lives.

The ICRC, the Federation and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies play a crucial role in the effective implementation of humanitarian principles. I would like to express the particular pride I feel in the work of the Luxembourg Red Cross in this regard. As a founding member of the Shelter Research Unit, the Luxembourg Red Cross works alongside its sister National Societies to provide innovative shelter solutions adapted to the specific circumstances, cultures and needs of vulnerable people. You can see an example of these efforts in the lobby of the Conference Centre.

We also commend the rapid and effective mobilization of the Luxembourg Red Cross in the refugee and migrant crisis currently affecting Europe. The assistance provided to people arriving in Luxembourg continues to be exemplary.

Luxembourg is, in particular, alarmed by the price paid by civilians, particularly women and children, in armed conflicts. Children are the main victims in conflicts. Deprived of education and stability and forced to witness atrocities, they are particularly vulnerable. We had the chance to further substantiate this assessment during a side event that we organized yesterday with Switzerland and Ms Zerrougui, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. In many situations, women continue to be victims of sexual and gender-based violence. The resolution on sexual and gender-based violence is therefore particularly relevant and has our full support.

It is our collective responsibility to put an end to the indescribable suffering of people in conflict areas and the impunity that the perpetrators of serious crimes continue to enjoy. We strongly condemn all acts of violence targeting civilian facilities, such as hospitals and schools. Strict compliance with international humanitarian law, which seeks to protect civilians and limit the effects of armed conflict, is essential. International humanitarian law is an indispensable tool for ensuring the protection of victims of armed conflicts.

It goes without saying that rules have no value if they are not observed in practice. In this regard, I would like to express Luxembourg's full support for the resolution on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law. The establishment of a new mechanism to provide a forum for exchange and dialogue among States on international humanitarian law matters is, in our view, vitally important, and we are confident that, after four years of negotiations, those who had any doubts will have received all the assurances they need. The time has come to decide and take action!

This Conference is an important milestone, six months before the World Humanitarian Summit is to be held. We hope that the Istanbul Conference will result in a high-level political commitment to address current and future challenges, galvanizing all actors within and outside the humanitarian system to join forces. We have a chance there to improve the effectiveness of the response and address the underlying causes of today's crises. Let us make sure that we do not waste it. Thank you.

**Mr Alejandro Alday, Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Vice-Chair, Mexico welcomes the celebration of the anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at this 32nd International Conference.

In these fifty years, the Movement has consolidated its eminent presence as an international humanitarian actor. At the same time, new and increasingly complex factors, such as technological developments in weapons, global warming, pandemics and the emergence of new actors in armed conflicts, threaten the wellbeing of society as a whole. There is no question that contemporary armed conflicts and natural disasters have intensified significantly.

Mexico is convinced that the Fundamental Principles are still relevant and necessary today. We applaud the Movement's initiative aimed at reaffirming these principles and believe that the recommendations emerging from the process will provide a valuable basis for strategies to address contemporary global challenges.

I would also like to share with you some details of Mexico's enriching collaboration with other components of the Movement, such as cooperation

with the ICRC's regional delegation, which has been operating in my country since 2002. This delegation provides invaluable support to the public authorities in the form of training for the armed forces and instruction in the principles applicable to the use of force and international humanitarian law.

The Mexican Government maintains close relations with the Mexican Red Cross, which has one of the largest volunteer networks in the world and carries out its role as auxiliary to the public authorities in an exemplary manner. It is the only National Society in the world that is directly integrated into the national civil defence system. It also forms part of the National Emergency Committee and the National Advisory Committee on Civil Defence and Disaster Prevention Standards.

Mexico has promoted the exchange of information on best practices for risk identification, prevention and mitigation measures in regional and international forums. In March, it was one of the promoters of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in Japan. The work of Mexico's Interdepartmental Commission on International Humanitarian Law benefits from the inestimable support of the ICRC and the Mexican Red Cross. Some of its significant achievements are the preparation of a set of regulations establishing a sanctions mechanism to deal with cases of misuse of the red cross and red crescent emblems, the registration of nine archaeological sites with UNESCO for special protection and the establishment of an annual specialized course on international humanitarian law.

It is not gaps in the rules of international humanitarian law that currently pose a challenge, but rather the failure to implement the rules that do exist. Our opinion on this matter is one shared by the International Committee of the Red Cross and other States. Mexico greatly appreciates the valuable work carried out by the Swiss Government and the ICRC in recent years to explore new mechanisms for ongoing dialogue on these issues.

As one of the principal promoters of the initiative to raise awareness about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and as part of the humanitarian initiative seeking to fill the legal gap regarding the prohibition of this type of weapon, Mexico reiterates its view that the use of nuclear weapons is not compatible with the principles of international humanitarian law and that their elimination and prohibition is a priority. We also recognize the difficulty of ensuring that conventional arms transfers are carried out in a responsible way, so

that they are prevented from being used to commit violations of international humanitarian law. In this regard, the recently adopted Arms Trade Treaty represents a watershed. Lastly, the outcomes of this International Conference will be of great significance for the World Humanitarian Summit 2016, bearing in mind that 80% of humanitarian assistance today is dedicated to dealing with the effects of armed conflicts, and 20% to addressing the consequences of disasters. Thank you very much.

**H.E. Mr Trung Thanh Nguyen, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, every morning we wake up to some heartbreaking news, from kidnappings to killings, bombings, migration and climate change. Civilians, particularly women and children, are suffering. And there are more heartbreaking stories that remain untold outside the media spotlight. This is a blunt and brutal challenge to humanity. Owing to events back in time in my country, Viet Nam knows only too well that armed conflicts cause massive suffering, especially among civilians. The "napalm girl" became an icon of the infamous war. Even now, more than 40 years after it ended, the war continues to inflict the most brutal and countless consequences on tens of thousands of people. We must enhance compliance with IHL, particularly the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols. A forum of regular dialogue among States on IHL issues and improving respect for this body of law appears to be more necessary now.

In this connection, while favouring a regular meeting of States, we hold that such a meeting should focus on the implementation of IHL on the basis of voluntary, non-contextual consensus and non-politicization, rather than formulating amendments or even new norms for the existing IHL treaties. With regard to national reports on compliance, we are of the view that such a reporting mechanism should be implemented on a voluntary basis and without it placing financial and operational burdens on States.

In relation to the protection of persons deprived of their liberty, our discussions seem to call for continued deliberation in order to eventually achieve the further progress needed to ensure legal protection for persons deprived of their liberty in the context of non-international armed conflicts, especially in prudently

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determining the body of international law governing the treatment of detainees in NIACs. Should there be no consensus, the adoption of a relevant non-binding instrument, as the outcome of an intergovernmental process, would be more suitable.

Also of importance in the context of armed conflicts is the issue of sexual and gender-based violence during and after conflicts. Denouncing violence in all forms and manifestations against women, especially young girls, who suffer most during and even after armed conflicts, my Vietnamese delegation supports practical measures to raise awareness of and eliminate sexual and gender-based violence and has in fact engaged in various programmes, domestic and international, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325. We therefore support the proposed measures that will help eradicate this utterly shameful phenomenon in both NIACs and IACs (international armed conflicts).

My delegation will remain willing and ready to engage and continue the constructive discussions necessary for achieving success at this important normative event. The Vietnamese delegation is committed to strengthening international core operations to make a genuine difference on the ground. Thank you.

**Mr Ehssan Taieb, General Secretary,  
International Islamic Relief Organization in  
Saudi Arabia**

*(Original English)*

I am Ehssan Taieb, General Secretary of the International Islamic Relief Organization in Saudi Arabia.

*(Original Arabic)*

Madam Vice-Chair, ladies and gentlemen. A greeting for relief, a tribute and express our appreciation to the Swiss Government, the Red Cross and Red Crescent and all those involved in the preparation and organization of this event. The International Islamic Relief Organization KSA (IIROSA) is a popular voluntary organization having worked for over three decades and having been set to become one of the offshoots of Saudi Arabia's good deeds. IIRO's humanitarian goal is to lend a helping hand to those in need, regardless of their country of origin, colour or religion, and it is driven solely by a sense of responsibility towards humanity. IIROSA offers diverse services, including relief, education, social activities, health and development, to most countries

of the world, through offices and representatives based in various countries and continents around the world. The slogan of the IIRO is: "Relief, Development and Reconstruction in words and deeds".

In the period 2014–2015 (1434 Hijri) the number of beneficiaries of IIRO-sponsored projects and programmes reached 7,056,348 individuals. The breakdown of beneficiaries by continents is: in Asia: 5,377,882 persons; Africa: 1,623,528 persons; and Europe: 54,938 beneficiaries. Since events in Syria and Yemen have dominated the humanitarian scene recently, resulting in a huge toll of victims including refugees, displaced people and the injured, homeless, needy and handicapped, the IIRO has focused greatest attention on the afflicted populations in these two countries, but without this affecting other regular relief programmes and the many development projects the organization is committed to carry out. The IIRO also pledged to provide material and humanitarian support in the Syrian crisis and pledged \$ 40 million at international conferences in Kuwait. IIRO devoted its efforts, material and human capacities to providing relief to victims of the bloody conflict in Syria, where the total IIRO budget up to 30th April 2015 was nearly US\$ 26,322,368, in coordination with the UN, the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization, the Saudi National Commission, government bodies and humanitarian institutions in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Egypt. In Yemen, IIRO was assigned to take part in the Custodian of the Two Holy Places Campaign for emergency relief to the Yemeni people for a period of one year, with a budget amounting to US\$ 54 million. This campaign benefited more than a quarter of a million Yemenis in need, mostly those affected by the tumultuous events their country is witnessing.

Apart from activities carried out in Syria and Yemen, IIRO medical teams conducted catheter and open-heart surgeries on 51 patients in Sudan, treated more than 7,000 Somali children suffering from malnutrition in Tryon camp in Mogadishu, conducted open-heart surgeries on 1,200 Yemeni children with the help of Saudi volunteer surgeons and performed urinary tract surgeries in several countries. IIRO performed thousands of ophthalmic surgeries pursuant to cooperation agreements concluded with Sightsavers and the Secretariat of The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, whereby the three institutions cooperated in the Programme for the Fight against Blindness in Tanzania, Chad, Eritrea, Sudan and Pakistan. Around 20,000 people affected by the torrential rain disaster in South Albania benefited from the relief campaign launched by IIRO, in addition to 15,000 beneficiaries in the State of

Benin following floods and torrents. A further 140,000 people benefited from the distribution of hundreds of tonnes of rice and sugar in Niger and Burkina Faso, as well as 2,541,000 families benefiting from the IIRO campaign to assist victims of war in the Kordofan region in Western Sudan, where huge amounts of corn, sugar and oil have been distributed. During the holy month of Ramadan, 32,211 food baskets containing several basic household food items were distributed in 21 countries. IIRO had a distinctive role in issuing awareness-raising and prevention bulletins to combat Ebola.

The foregoing is a summary including some examples of IIRO operational activities. Our institution has also actively and proactively engaged, in concert with our partners in the humanitarian field, in organizing the International Forum for Humanitarian Action in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in collaboration with the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Discussion at the forum centred on legal issues relevant to humanitarian action.

The IIRO was also involved in conferences for the relief of the Yemeni people in Turkey, in the 2nd and 3rd International Humanitarian Pledging Conferences for Syria held in Kuwait and in the UAE Conference on Saving Sight held under the auspices of Sightsavers International.

This is just a glimpse of the huge work carried out by IIRO. We would like to wish this meeting all the best in its efforts to serve humanitarian action in the contemporary world, where humans have fallen prey to confessional, ethnic and political conflicts, resulting in millions of casualties and affected populations expecting a helping hand from us. May God grant us success!

**H.E. Mr Peter Sørensen, Ambassador, Head of the Permanent Delegation, Permanent Observer Mission of the European Union in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We are witnessing today a multiplication of crises and armed conflicts with dire humanitarian consequences. The number of forcibly displaced persons is unprecedented. No-one is spared from this phenomenon, including Europe. The European Union has laid out its response to the refugee crisis

in the European Agenda on Migration. We applaud the strong response of the Movement to the crisis and will continue to support operations targeting the most vulnerable along the migratory routes.

The protection of civilians in conflicts remains an acute concern. Women and children bear the brunt of today's conflicts. We call for respect for IHL and the Fundamental Principles of humanitarian action. We strongly support Resolution 2 of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. A more systematic and regular dialogue is crucial to enhancing compliance with IHL. We strongly support the establishment of a regular, voluntary meeting of States to provide a forum for discussing thematic issues and reports on national implementation of IHL. We will also promote and encourage work and studies to further develop and understand a gender perspective in international humanitarian law. We recall that deprivation of liberty is an ordinary and expected occurrence in all situations of armed conflict. We therefore welcome Resolution 1 of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The European Union (EU), Member States and National Societies remain very concerned about sexual and gender-based violence in conflicts, humanitarian crises and other disaster situations. The European Union has strengthened its commitment to addressing sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian assistance through the 2013 gender policy and the recently adopted joint EU Gender Action Plan. We applaud the strong commitment of the Movement to preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence, including its zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse by its staff and volunteers. Madam Vice-Chair, we wish to recall the concern of violence against the wounded and sick, health-care personnel and facilities and medical transports. Just take a look outside of this conference room and you will see the effects. We welcome Resolution 4 of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and its efforts to make health-care delivery in conflicts more secure.

We appreciate the call for National Societies and States to collaboratively work on achieving the commitments of the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals. Effective implementation is vital, including ensuring a joint approach to climate change adaptation and reducing underlying risk factors. Local actors, such as National Societies, play a vital role here. We welcome the One Billion Coalition for Resilience, especially for

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recognizing the role of local and community levels. Thank you very much.

**H.E. Mr Ajit Kumar, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of India in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, this Conference is significant as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. We thank our ICRC President and IFRC President and their able teams, as well as the Standing Commission, for their tireless efforts in preparing for this important Conference. Complex humanitarian emergencies and turbulent times around the world present a challenging environment for the international community to respond to. The ICRC's role as an intermediary and humanitarian partner has proven crucial, time and again, in addressing the current complex situations. National Societies have also proven their immense contribution in this connection.

India greatly values the independent and impartial role of the ICRC in alleviating the suffering of victims of armed conflict. The ICRC's adherence to its mandate and core principles of neutrality, independence and confidentiality remain paramount. These principles guarantee the unique status of the ICRC among humanitarian actors and need to be preserved.

India strongly believes in respect for and compliance with international humanitarian law; being party to all four Geneva Conventions, India is committed to and has consistently supported compliance. We believe that IHL and the existing mechanisms remain the most appropriate framework for regulating the conduct of parties to armed conflict and providing protection for persons affected. The need of the hour is to improve the existing mechanisms to ensure greater respect for and compliance with IHL. This should be the focus of our collective efforts. The Indian Red Cross Society has become an indispensable pillar of humanitarian support within the country.

India appreciates the humanitarian concerns highlighted in the run-up to the Conference. Further strengthening IHL protecting persons deprived of their liberty in non-international armed conflict situations

entails proper implementation of the existing protections. Strengthening the capacity of national institutions concerned with security and justice and providing adequate funding for them is critical; the international community should step up to the plate and partner with national authorities, at their request, to strengthen their capacities. Humanitarian actors helping populations affected by armed conflict have to be insured, including safety net assistance for volunteers. Humanitarian actors need to work in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks and should not provide legitimacy, even inadvertently, to operational space for armed terrorist groups.

Sexual and gender-based violence in conflict situations must be promptly investigated and perpetrators prosecuted in accordance with respective laws. We should collectively ensure that the stigmatization of victims, the trivialization of crime and the impunity of perpetrators are stopped. Finally, Madam Vice-Chair, India looks forward to productive deliberations during the Conference. Thank you.

**Mr Boniface Ebode, Secretary General, Cameroon Red Cross Society**

*(Original French)*

Madam Chair, I would first of all like to warmly congratulate you, on behalf of the Cameroonian delegation, on your election as Chair of the Conference. In view of your intrinsic qualities and your extensive experience in matters of concern to the Movement, I trust that our Conference will be a great success. Madam Chair, please be assured of the full and complete collaboration of my delegation in ensuring the successful conclusion of these proceedings.

Although my country, Cameroon, currently enjoys a climate of peace and stability on the domestic front, in recent years it has been feeling the effects of the crisis situations affecting some of its neighbouring countries. For example, the northern part of the country is facing a considerable influx of refugees and internally displaced people fleeing the atrocities committed by the Boko Haram sect. The latest official figures indicate that there are around 250,000 Nigerian refugees and some 100,000 internally displaced Cameroonians. Likewise, in the east of the country, there are massive inflows of people from the Central African Republic, fleeing the socio-political crisis that has gripped this neighbouring



country for more than two years. The statistics put the number of refugees arriving in the country since 2013 at over 100,000. These two situations are further exacerbated by other disasters, such as floods, famine, malnutrition and epidemics of water-borne diseases, which affect these regions on an almost permanent basis. In response to this considerable humanitarian challenge, the Cameroon Red Cross Society has mobilized resources, in conjunction with the Government of Cameroon and other Movement partners, to assist vulnerable people.

Activities undertaken with other components of the Movement include International Federation operations carried out in partnership with the Cameroon Red Cross Society in eastern Cameroon and projects implemented by the French Red Cross in partnership with the Cameroon Red Cross Society to assist refugees in the east and combat malnutrition and cholera in the far north. A number of joint projects have been implemented for the distribution of food supplies and non-food items, the construction of shelters, sanitation and restoring family links.

I would like to take the opportunity provided by this event to sincerely thank our partners, the International Federation, the ICRC and the French Red Cross, who have joined forces with us to help reduce vulnerability among the affected sectors of the population. Specifically, the ICRC provided us with several four-wheel-drive vehicles to improve our response in the far north of Cameroon. I must also thank the wider family of humanitarian organizations and the international community as a whole for the large-scale mobilization undertaken.

While much has been done, as I mentioned earlier, there is still a great deal left to accomplish to ensure effective and optimal management of the thousands of refugees and internally displaced people in Cameroon. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to launch a solemn appeal, on behalf of this community, for comprehensive assistance and support from our sister National Societies, the International Federation, the ICRC and any other humanitarian actor able to support the Cameroon Red Cross Society in this important mission. Lastly, I would like to express our appreciation of the efforts undertaken by the ICRC and the International Federation to provide countries affected by the actions of Boko Haram, namely Cameroon, the Niger, Chad and Nigeria, with well-coordinated solutions to improve the response to this humanitarian challenge. Thank you.

## H.E. Ms Laila Baha'Eldin, Ambassador, Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights of Egypt

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, excellencies, representatives of governments and National Societies, ladies and gentlemen, allow me, at the outset, to express Egypt's recognition of the efforts exerted for the organization of the Conference. The wide participation is a clear demonstration of the importance of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as the global, sincere desire to strengthen international humanitarian law and humanitarian action in today's world, which is suffering the consequences of ongoing armed conflicts on a scale unprecedented since the Second World War. In view of the world's constantly changing humanitarian challenges, it is of paramount importance that all participants in this Conference work together in a spirit of cooperation to uphold the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality and to confront the changing and aggravated needs created by current crises and conflicts.

We believe that one of the most important challenges facing humanitarian work is to ensure that humanitarian aid keeps being delivered, in particular to ensure adequate financing and good coordination. Humanitarian crises are becoming increasingly complex, as armed conflicts increase in number and scale and natural, man-made and environmental disasters become more frequent, with a detrimental impact on a growing number of victims. The ICRC's disaster response capacity should be further strengthened to provide an effective response and to better illustrate that the ICRC is among the fastest and most effective actors when disaster strikes.

The 32nd International Conference is an opportunity to address and negotiate resolutions on many important questions, including strengthening compliance with IHL, prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence and strengthening IHL protecting persons deprived of their liberty. We look forward to active participation during discussions of these subjects. We believe that consensus in such matters is of paramount importance. We cannot allow politicization to negatively affect compliance with the noble principles we are seeking to strengthen. Finally, we are keen to see the success of the current deliberations; we trust that, by working together, the outcome of the 32nd International Conference will

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provide valuable inputs towards developing the right strategy and operations for IHL. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Ivan Piperkov, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria in  
Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement just made by the European Union. I would like to confirm the strong commitment of our country to the Fundamental Principles, adopted 50 years ago under the framework of the Conference. The principles have greatly contributed to the mainstreaming of humanitarian action worldwide and have helped us confront the global challenges we face today. We commend the ICRC for its continuous and tireless efforts to uphold the principles and its valuable contribution to the development of international humanitarian law. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols are the cornerstones of IHL. We call for full respect for IHL, based on inclusive dialogue and cooperation. Principled humanitarian assistance and protection of all those in need is essential. In this vein, we support the resolutions that will be adopted by the Conference, in particular Resolution 1 of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Participation in and effective national implementation of the principal IHL instruments and other relevant legal instruments that have an impact on IHL are of paramount importance. The dire spread of armed conflicts and humanitarian crises we witness today requires an ever more robust response. Respect for and compliance with IHL is crucial and, in this regard, we strongly support the consultations held by Switzerland and the ICRC towards the establishment of an impartial, non-politicized, voluntary, consensus-based and State-driven mechanism of universal character.

Madam Vice-Chair, today the increase in the refugee flow and the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) pose an unprecedented humanitarian challenge for all of us. It is the international community that has the overall responsibility for coping with the difficult humanitarian situation in Syria and Iraq. As long as there is a conflict in Syria and the region, the refugee crisis will not go away. The efforts of the entire international community should be focused on ending hostilities in conflict zones and supporting institution-building, the rule of law and respect for

human rights. We empathize with the neighbouring countries of Syria and Iraq, which are mostly affected by the enormous refugee crisis.

Europe, and Bulgaria in particular, also faces an emergency situation. Nevertheless, we confirm our irrevocable position of respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law standards for asylum-seekers. We pay particular attention to the Fundamental Principles of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees: non-discrimination, no punishment on account of illegal entry or stay and prohibition of expulsion or return. Solidarity with and compassion for those in need is a powerful expression in support of the universal values of humanity. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Alexandros Alexandris, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of Greece in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Greece would like to pay tribute to all the staff and volunteers of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement who have lost their lives, while serving in the line of duty in their effort to uphold the admirable principles on which the Movement was founded. We are humbled by the selflessness and strong sense of vocation and dedication of Red Cross staff and volunteers and of all their fellow humanitarian workers who risk their lives, on a daily basis, in dangerous parts of the world in order to save human lives.

Saving lives remains the key humanitarian priority for my country as well. Greece does its utmost to rescue people fleeing from war, terror, poverty and despair, when they struggle in their flimsy boats at sea. The Hellenic Coast Guard has saved, so far, more than 90,000 lives in over 2,500 search and rescue operations in the Aegean since the start of the year. The role of civil society, and the Hellenic Red Cross in particular, is also significant in this respect.

Given the Conference's strong focus on migration, with special attention to vulnerable groups of migrants, we stress that a system of diagnosis and prompt detection of patients is being used at the points of entry on the eastern Aegean islands, for the evaluation of the medical needs of refugees and migrants and their treatment. Medical units are organized on a daily basis at the pre-departure centres and operate 24 hours a day at the open hospitality centres.

The Department of Public Health has created a personal travel health record for refugees and migrants, in collaboration with the IOM and the European Commission, using immediate information concerning their current needs. We have secured adequate supplies of medicines and health-care products, such as vaccines, etc., and immediate pharmaceutical coverage for refugees and migrants for chronic non-communicable diseases. Suffice it to say that about 2,000 refugees and migrants have been hospitalized in Greece in the last few months, with costs exceeding the sum of 800,000 euros from national funds.

At the migrant reception centres, special attention is given to vulnerable people. The Greek authorities are trying their best to meet the needs of unaccompanied children, pregnant women and single-parent families, by providing them with special protection assistance and by channelling relevant EU funds into setting up designated protection centres, especially for unaccompanied children, in close cooperation with non-governmental organizations and other humanitarian partners. Also, in the Eleonas open hospitality centre near Athens, the Hellenic Red Cross is especially involved in providing psychosocial support to migrant children in order to help them deal with the trauma of their perilous journey. Two mobile units of the Red Cross have been transferred to Macedonia in northern Greece, near the refugee hospitality centre at the border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM).

My country very much appreciates the multifaceted humanitarian work performed in Greece by the ICRC and the International Federation, inter alia, in support of our National Society. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the other National Societies that have so far generously contributed to the IFRC's relevant operations in Greece. I would also like to thank the IFRC's Secretary General, Mr Elhadj As Sy, for his recent successful visit to Greece, which is also recognition of the existing humanitarian imperatives in our country.

As far as the resolutions of this Conference are concerned, allow me to reiterate our support, especially for Resolution 2 of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Furthermore, regarding Resolution 1, we particularly appreciate references to non-international armed conflicts, because we believe that this is exactly the area where a protection gap exists. Also, in accordance with our long-standing commitment to supporting the work of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission and the protection of education

during armed conflicts, we have signed the respective Swiss and Norwegian open pledges.

Finally, we wish this Conference success in highlighting that the power of our shared humanity will prevail over the threat of wars and protracted crises, becoming the "new normal", as Mr Peter Maurer very rightly said during his speech yesterday. It is our shared responsibility to keep translating the inspirational ideas of Henry Dunant into meaningful action. Thank you.

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## 4.10

# FOURTH PLENARY MEETING: GENERAL DEBATE

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### Wednesday, 9 December 2015

(2 p.m.)

#### Ms Annemarie Huber-Hotz, Vice-Chair of the Conference

(Original English)

Good afternoon everybody. We will now continue our general debate. Since the delegations taking part this afternoon are not the same as this morning, I am obliged to repeat the rules that govern this debate. All delegates' statements must conform to Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Statutes, which states that no delegation shall engage in political, racial, religious or ideological controversies. I should also like to remind everybody that statements must not be longer than three minutes. Should you speak on behalf of a group or as Head of State or minister, you may speak for up to five minutes. If that is the case, please say so before you make your statement. It is my obligation as Chair to make sure that all delegates respect their assigned time, and I will interrupt and remind you of this if you speak longer. I still have 40 delegations on my list for this afternoon and I propose that we start with the Danish Red Cross. You have the floor.

#### Mr Anders Ladekarl, Secretary General, Danish Red Cross

(Original English)

Madam Vice-Chair, this 32nd International Conference takes place in the midst of exceptional human suffering. More than ever before, there is a need for States and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to come together and undertake a joint commitment to advance humanitarian action. Sixty million people are fleeing conflict and persecution. This cannot be right in 2015. My son, who is eight years old, does

not understand why children have to cross freezing cold oceans in inflatable boats. We should not allow ourselves either to understand or to accept it.

A main trigger behind these huge numbers is lack of compliance with IHL. Lack of compliance has very real consequences, particularly for civilians. Civilians have no stake in the initiation of violence, but are affected by the conduct of violence in the most brutal ways. People are fleeing their homes for a reason. While promoting and strengthening compliance, the humanitarian community must also move into a different gear to secure the protection of refugees.

While I speak, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are trying their best to meet the needs of millions of victims on the run. In Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia and other epicentres of armed conflict, in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Kenya and other countries neighbouring these epicentres, and now also in Italy, Spain, Germany and in my own country, Denmark, we are stretched to our limits by the magnitude of needs. But we have to do more, and we expect stronger support from our governments. We also expect governments to respect their responsibilities to protect, as per international law, in particular IHL, human rights law and refugee law.

Many important agendas are being discussed at this Conference, and with the three minutes in mind, we would like to highlight our strong support for the draft resolution on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law, facilitated by the ICRC and the Swiss Government. We think there is a need to bring confidence back to IHL and the underpinning norms and principles. The compliance resolution is a necessary step in that direction.

To end our note on a more positive tone, the Danish Red Cross has a very constructive engagement with the Danish Government. We would like to congratulate our Government on the drafting of a military manual

to be used in the training and education of Danish armed forces to ensure compliance with IHL and international human rights law. We also thank Mr Carsten Staur, the Danish permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva, for taking on the task of chairing the Drafting Committee. I thank you.

**H.E. Ms Nardi Suxo Iturry, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia  
in Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Vice-Chair, in 2006, the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, headed by our President and brother Evo Morales Ayma, took on the historic challenge of collectively building a United Social State of Plurinational Communitarian Law, which includes and articulates the goal of advancing towards a democratic, productive, peace-loving and peaceful Bolivia committed to integrated development and promoting the self-determination of peoples.

The nation's Constitution states that Bolivia upholds freedom, equality and justice as supreme values of its legal order and that every individual is entitled to the established rights, freedoms and guarantees with no distinction as to race, sex, language, religion, political opinion, ethnic origin or financial or social status. It also highlights the country's pacifist character and the fact that Bolivia promotes a culture of peace, the right to peace and cooperation among the peoples of the region and the world, with a view to contributing to mutual understanding, equitable development and interculturality and ensuring full respect for the sovereignty of States. Bolivia categorically rejects recourse to war or aggression as a means of settling differences and disputes between nations.

The Government of Bolivia also approved its plurinational human rights policy 2015–2020, putting the country at the forefront of human rights protection in the region, as its Constitution includes the rights and recommendations formulated by the United Nations committees that monitor international human rights treaties and conventions.

Likewise, the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has established a general public policy framework designed to ensure the effective promotion, observance, protection, defence, application and exercise of human rights, with the strategic aim of putting into practice the relevant

provisions of international law and international humanitarian law.

In 2014, my country reactivated the National Permanent Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law, attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its mandate is to ensure the effective implementation of international humanitarian law in Bolivia and propose appropriate measures aimed at strengthening international humanitarian law treaties and disseminating knowledge of this body of law.

Additionally, with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Bolivia promotes international humanitarian law through annual training courses for civil servants. Since 2014, two courses have been organized for over a hundred civil servants from all areas of the public sector. These courses, including training for commissioned and non-commissioned officers in highly relevant issues relating to international humanitarian law and the protection of human rights, cover topics such as the application of international humanitarian law, hostile acts, combatants as subjects of IHL, protection of the victims of war, military objectives and conventional and non-conventional weapons.

Bolivia is party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977. As I have already mentioned, international human rights treaties and instruments signed, ratified or acceded to by Bolivia take precedence when they establish more favourable rights than the country's Constitution, and the rights recognized in the Constitution will be interpreted in the light of international human rights treaties when the latter are more favourable.

This means that the rules of international humanitarian law that Bolivia adopted on signing the Geneva Conventions of 1949 have constitutional status and take precedence over ordinary laws.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia believes that there are humanitarian challenges that we need to address and that there are issues of common interest and concern that we should tackle together. We must therefore work together to find solutions through dialogue and consultation, with a view to achieving positive outcomes based on consensus. Thank you very much.

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**H.E. Ms Yvette Stevens, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone  
in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, Sierra Leone would first of all like to extend its gratitude for the election of the Ambassador of Sierra Leone to serve as Vice-Chair of the Conference, for which we are particularly honoured.

The Conference coincides with the 50th anniversary of the seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. These principles, which have guided the exemplary work of the Movement, are as relevant today as they were 50 years ago. However, respect for them is being challenged as a result of the current state of affairs and the nature of conflicts in the world. In this regard, the theme of this Conference – the Power of Humanity – is an important reminder of the values that we all have to adhere to in order to make the world a better place.

The subjects to be discussed in the commissions of this Conference – the Fundamental Principles in action, contemporary challenges to international humanitarian law, building resilience for disasters and emergencies, health care in danger and sexual and gender-based violence, as well as migration in the plenary – are particularly timely. It is the fervent hope of Sierra Leone that the deliberations on these subjects, as well as the resolutions, will go a long way in addressing the challenges faced.

Sierra Leone is pleased that it has emerged from the Ebola crisis and was declared Ebola-free by WHO as of 8 November 2015. Ebola was an enemy like none other – it hit us while we were well on the way to recovery from an 11-year conflict. Unlike the war, it was not governed by any rules of war or ceasefires, and peace agreements could not be negotiated. Predictions on the evolution of the disease were grim. Over 3,500 persons lost their lives in Sierra Leone, but with international assistance, for which we are most grateful, we have been able to prevail.

On behalf of the President, His Excellency Ernest Bai Koroma, the Government and the people of Sierra Leone, I would like to take the opportunity of this Conference to put on record our profound gratitude to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for the assistance it provided to address the Ebola crisis that has hit our country during the past 18 months. This assistance in mobilizing community engagement, tracing and monitoring

contacts, emotional and psychosocial support, clinical management at two centres in Kenema and Kono, as well as supervising safe and dignified funerals, was vital in the fight against the disease. In the post-Ebola phase, the planned project to re-skill the burial teams and provide survival kits to survivors would be very much appreciated, as indeed would other measures to rebuild affected communities and to reverse the social and economic damage brought about by the crisis.

In conclusion, Sierra Leone would like to pledge its continued support for the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement worldwide.

**H.E. Mr Pedro Nuno Bártolo, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of Portugal in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, one may ask: What is the ICRC all about? What does it stand for? Why do we need it? Allow me to try and find the answer in just one example. In August this year, while so many of us were looking the other way, the President of the ICRC, Mr Peter Maurer, found the time and also the courage to visit the capital of Yemen, Sana'a, and to ask the world to wake up to the suffering in Yemen. In my view, this is what the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is all about; this is what it stands for. The world needs such an ICRC more than ever.

Portugal of course shares the views expressed by the representative of the European Union on behalf of its 28 Member States, but we would like to highlight some aspects.

We pay tribute to the fundamental role played by the ICRC and the personal sacrifice of so many members of its staff. We acknowledge the importance of the Movement in responding to the suffering of victims of wars and disaster situations that affect so many people in our world. Fifty years ago, the Fundamental Principles of the Movement were proclaimed in Vienna: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. Today, in my view, these principles remain more relevant than ever.

It is, of course, good to support the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, but it is even better to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law. Since the last International Conference, too many countries have remained engaged in armed conflicts. Portugal is

gravely concerned by the fact that the vast majority of victims did not rank among the armed forces, but rather among the civilian population. We condemn all forms of violence against civilians and believe that further coordination among humanitarian actors and other stakeholders remains of paramount importance.

We therefore welcome the proposal of a resolution to be adopted at this Conference on strengthening protection for people deprived of their liberty. We also take note of the report on IHL and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts. We will be following with interest the humanitarian dialogue and other discussions focusing on several topics of the utmost importance for the international community today, such as migration, disaster risk and climate change.

Strengthening compliance with IHL is a key priority for Portugal, and we think that it remains the appropriate legal framework for regulating the conduct of parties during armed conflicts and for providing protection to the persons affected. That is why we warmly welcome and support the Swiss/ICRC initiative on strengthening compliance with IHL and sincerely hope that the proposed resolution can be adopted by consensus at this Conference. As Peter Maurer reminded us all, we are not deciding on a perfect mechanism here, of course, but we are agreeing on the best possible compromise and seizing the best opportunity to further strengthen respect for IHL.

In concluding, I am pleased to share with you that my country has decided to resume voluntary contributions to the ICRC budget. This is one way of reaffirming our commitment to the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and we expect to come up with an initial contribution of 100,000 Swiss francs before the end of the current year. Thank you.

**H.E. Ms Vesna Batistic Kos, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Croatia in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, we fully align ourselves with the statement delivered by the European Union.

As we gather here today, armed conflicts and humanitarian crises are happening in all parts of the world, resulting in the largest refugee crisis since the Second World War. The world's humanitarian system is facing unprecedented challenges directly affecting tens of millions of people. Croatia pays tribute to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for its tireless contribution

to helping vulnerable people, often undertaken in the most difficult and dangerous situations.

For Croatia, IHL remains the very basis for the protection of civilians and other participants in armed conflict. We strongly believe that strict adherence to the rule of law at the national and international level is essential for a more peaceful and just world.

Croatia is committed to promoting compliance with IHL by State and non-State actors and their accountability. We have consistently advocated for the effective implementation of the investigation and prosecution of violations of IHL and are a strong supporter of the ICTY and the ICC. It is important to develop effective, independent and neutral means of monitoring compliance with IHL and, in that context, we strongly support the draft resolution on the IHL compliance mechanism. We also strongly support the continuation of work on the protection of persons deprived of their liberty in armed conflicts, aimed at achieving useful outcome documents based on cooperation.

A particularly disturbing feature of contemporary armed conflict is the frequency and severity of conflict-related sexual violence that is used as an instrument of war and a tactic of terror. Its use by non-State actors is especially alarming. Addressing this issue must remain a priority. It is equally disturbing that millions of children are affected by war. The conflict in Syria continues to have disastrous humanitarian consequences for children. This Conference should reiterate that all parties in conflict must abide by their obligations under IHL, in particular the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution.

For Croatia, IHL is not just a legal concept. In November 1991, around 400 patients, medical staff and civilians were driven a few kilometres out of the town of Vukovar in Croatia to Ovcara, where they were murdered and dumped in mass graves. Vukovar's hospital was shelled and bombed constantly during the 87-day siege. Croatia therefore has a special sensitivity for advancing the security of health care, particularly in situations of armed conflict and internal disturbances.

In the past three months, almost half a million migrants have passed through Croatia. We are deeply grateful to the 300 or so volunteers and staff from the Croatian Red Cross involved in the humanitarian response, in particular at the camp in Slavonski Brod, which sometimes accommodates as many as 5,000 people. They have invested particular efforts to reunite families that have been separated during the journey.

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In conclusion, IHL has become a central pillar of the international legal order regulating armed conflicts. Its provisions serve to protect the identity of human beings during times of war and our humanity when it is most at threat. Today, our priority must be to strengthen respect for these rules, to protect human life and dignity and to reaffirm the principle of humanity. I thank you.

**Mr Ngako Sekonyana, First Secretary,  
Permanent Mission of South Africa  
in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

South Africa associates itself with the statement to be delivered by Rwanda on behalf of the African Group.

South Africa wishes to acknowledge the contribution, partnership and collaboration with the ICRC at the country level, which all South African stakeholders working in the area of IHL fully appreciate. The national and regional preparatory processes for this International Conference have been largely successful through this collaboration and working together. The South African Government has, in partnership with the ICRC, been successful in convening regional ICRC conferences aimed at better implementation of IHL, including, most importantly, the strengthening of this essential body of public international law.

The theme chosen for this Conference, namely the Power of Humanity, is timely in the context of the various challenges and threats currently confronting the international community. These threats range from armed conflicts – whether international or non-international in character – to migration, disasters, humanitarian crises and the concomitant displacement of people. South Africa believes that these challenges need to be addressed in a fair and balanced manner and by the United Nations system collectively.

The work undertaken and achieved by the ICRC and the IFRC and National Societies since the historic Geneva Conventions of 1949 has been impeccable. The Fundamental Principles should remain intact and inviolable at all times, and we should jealously guard these basic tenets for the purposes of protecting the Movement's integrity. This is particularly so in view of the 50th commemoration.

The meetings of States, which took place between the last Conference and the current Conference, have been useful in that they provided an opportunity for States to express their views on the various options

for the strengthening of IHL. At the same time, South Africa acknowledges that more work still needs to be done in this respect.

Madam Vice-Chair, my delegation remains concerned that, while embarking on this journey, important contributions by a number of States have not yet been considered. The Government of the Republic of South Africa does not support the view that IHL could be strengthened through non-binding guiding principles. To this end, it should be noted that amendments to IHL could only be effected through an international conference of the High Contracting Parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols.

South Africa believes that a regional approach in the form of regional conferences should be considered among the many options currently being explored for strengthening the implementation of and compliance with IHL. In the southern African region, this approach has proven hugely successful as a model.

Madam Vice-Chair, South Africa has been involved in global consultations on the worrying matter of health care in danger. Like many countries, South Africa is committed to working with members of the Movement to ensure that vital and essential health services are not unduly abused. South Africa is concerned at the growing trend, particularly in armed conflicts, to indiscriminately abuse this essential infrastructure aimed at saving lives for belligerent purposes. In this regard, South Africa was honoured to host a Health Care in Danger expert workshop, whose outcome, we believe, will positively contribute to this International Conference.

Finally, Madam Vice-Chair, it is our hope that in the next few days we will be able to narrow the gaps that currently exist. Our delegation wishes to give assurances that we will be working collaboratively with all partners towards consensus in an effort to support the three main aspirations of the Conference, namely to prevent and respond to violence, to safeguard safety and access to humanitarian assistance and services, and to reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience. I thank you.



**Mr Sveinn Kristinsson, President, Icelandic Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, ladies and gentlemen, I was brought up in an isolated place in the northern part of Iceland. My world was peaceful, and the worst threat I knew of was for a hungry polar bear to come sailing in on an iceberg from the Arctic. Now I know, of course, that the world is far bigger and can be far more dangerous.

One of the dangers we face now is global warming, which may cause many future wars and disasters. Madam Vice-Chair, the Icelandic national football team has qualified for the European Championship in France next summer. How could such a little nation with a population of 330,000 people do so well? Well, we have a Swedish coach! But the main reason is that everybody in the team is fighting for each other and nobody is bigger than the team. That is exactly how we should deal with climate change. All of us on this Earth must be on the same team. The Earth is the referee of the game. Will we win or will we lose? It depends on us and how we act together.

At the same time, we must take action in accordance with our Fundamental Principles, which are more important now than ever before. We have to recognize the need to improve compliance with international humanitarian law and to address current weaknesses and gaps in the implementation of international humanitarian law. Indeed, we welcome the numerous draft resolutions before us which are intended to strengthen and underline the importance of international humanitarian law.

I also want to use this opportunity to underline the importance of taking a clear stand and action against sexual and gender-based violence, during both man-made and natural disasters.

We, as the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, must continue to better the lives of those in need. We have to remember that refugees, war victims and other vulnerable people are people like you and me. They have their hopes and dreams like any of us. It is important that they are treated with respect and dignity. The Red Cross, as a humanitarian movement, has a duty to help when people are victimized or displaced because of circumstances they cannot control. That is why we must act. Thank you.

**H.E. Ms Elisabeth Laurin, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of France in Geneva**

*(Original French)*

Madam Vice-Chair, ladies and gentlemen, France aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

This 32nd International Conference is an opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. On this occasion, France would like to commend the remarkable work of the Movement around the world and emphasize its commitment to these Principles and respect for international humanitarian law. This anniversary comes at a particularly difficult time, with the proliferation and seriousness of crisis situations resulting in unacceptable suffering, massive movements of people and serious violations of international humanitarian law in different parts of the world. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the world's largest and oldest humanitarian organization, is on the front line, bearing witness and assisting the victims.

In an unprecedented joint appeal made at the end of October, the United Nations Secretary-General and the ICRC President stressed the blatant inhumanity evident in the current context. Sitting back and doing nothing is not an option. The Conference taking place today is also a chance for the States party to the Geneva Conventions to collectively reaffirm their unity, with the responsible commitment of all to ensure respect for international humanitarian law, the rules of which are too often flouted. France therefore supports the adoption of the resolution on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law. The creation of a mechanism for the meeting of States, providing for voluntary national reporting and thematic discussions, will forge our collective commitment to strengthen respect for the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols. We call on all States to support the creation of such a mechanism. It is also important to adopt concrete measures to strengthen protection in all circumstances for civilians affected by armed conflicts. France firmly supports the adoption of the resolution to strengthen the protection of persons deprived of their liberty in non-international armed conflicts. It also welcomes the consultative approach promoted by the ICRC.

I would now like to address some specific issues. Health care facilities and personnel are repeatedly



subjected to targeted attacks. Now more than ever, it is crucial to ensure respect for medical neutrality and protection for the sick and wounded and for medical personnel, facilities and transport. The Movement can bear witness to this problem. Again this year, too many of its members working in the field have paid with their lives for helping others. The adoption of a resolution on sexual and gender-based violence to promote joint action on prevention and response is one of the aims of this conference. This is a priority for France. Thanks to the dialogue they maintain with weapon bearers and their close contact with the people affected, the ICRC and the National Societies are well positioned to take concrete action in armed conflicts. Before I finish, I would just like to mention the question of addressing climate change and the discussions taking place now in Paris.

Rest assured, Madam Vice-Chair, that France is committed to promoting humanitarian principles and respect for international humanitarian law and to making an active and constructive contribution to the debate. We will continue our efforts in this regard at this conference and in the coming years.

Thank you.

**H.E. Ms Sabine Böhlke-Möller, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Namibia in  
Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, this Conference takes place at a time when the world is, more than ever, in need of the humanitarian assistance offered by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to prevent and alleviate human suffering where humanitarian crises prevail.

The theme for this Conference is fitting, as it is now more important than ever to live up to these words. Those who suffer must be able to feel the positive impact of our decisions and actions on their lives, and compliance with IHL instruments is at the heart of this action. We are witnessing an exceptional scale of tragic human suffering as a result of conflict, terrorism and natural disasters. The Movement performs arduous work and wide-ranging tasks not provided for under the Geneva Conventions and Protocols, but which are, however, crucial for the understanding of, respect for and compliance with IHL. It is therefore imperative that this reality be carefully considered.

Namibia acknowledges the importance of strengthening IHL compliance and furthering its implementation by addressing emerging risks threatening human life, strengthening legal frameworks for disaster management, ensuring and enabling environments for volunteering and nurturing the auxiliary role of National Societies to public authorities in the humanitarian field.

Namibia reiterates its pledge to support the role of the Movement in encouraging States and all other role-players to comply with IHL instruments applicable in all circumstances and to respect the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality, upon which the Movement is built.

We look forward to the global set of activities aimed at the promotion of IHL to be undertaken by the Movement. Let us be reminded throughout this Conference and beyond that our own humanity is dependent on recognizing the humanity in others. I thank you.

**Mr José Martín y Pérez de Nanclares,  
Deputy Director-General of the International  
Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and Cooperation of Spain**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Vice-Chair, it is a pleasure for me to address this 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and I must congratulate the Movement on the organization of this event.

First of all, I would like to note that Spain fully endorses the address delivered this morning on behalf of the European Union.

I can assure you that Spain has a strong sense of commitment to international humanitarian law. We welcome the holding of this conference and hope that we will have a fruitful debate on the main humanitarian challenges facing the international community. We support the draft resolutions to be submitted for consideration and the innovative initiative involving the “Vision Lab” discussion forum.

Spain also welcomes the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Fundamental Principles which guide humanitarian assistance and acknowledges the central role played by the Movement in their formulation and consolidation.

Regrettably, the question of protecting civilians caught up in conflicts is still a cause for concern today and one that should never be forgotten. It is important to remember that they are the principal victims in such situations and in emergencies and disasters. For this reason, compliance with international humanitarian law is and will continue to be required of us all.

Spain strongly supports the resolution on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law. My country has participated with great interest in the work conducted jointly by Switzerland and the ICRC to develop a mechanism to strengthen the implementation of humanitarian law. Spain favours a consensus-based solution in accordance with the nine principles that have guided the consultation process, including effectiveness, non-politicization and ensuring that the mechanism is voluntary, State-driven and based on the Geneva Conventions.

With regard to the strengthening and implementation of international humanitarian law in our domestic legislation, I am pleased to inform you that my country recently approved measures to update and improve legislation prohibiting anti-personnel mines and weapons with similar effects and adopted the new Volunteering Law.

We share the concern of the European Union, its member States and National Societies about sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts, humanitarian crises and other emergency situations. We therefore support the resolution on sexual and gender-based violence. Spain is fully committed to combating this scourge with all the means at its disposal. Our country has prepared a protocol to deal with cases of sexual abuse by the armed forces, which will be adopted shortly by the relevant authorities. In addition, both the ordinary Penal Code and the Military Penal Code now contain harsher penalties for sexual abuse crimes committed at home and during international operations.

Another issue not to be forgotten is violence against the sick and wounded and against health care facilities and personnel. We support the resolution to provide more effective protection for the delivery of health care in conflict areas, bearing in mind that limiting access to health care is often used as a means of warfare.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, Spain would like to congratulate the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross for their engagement and commitment to raising the awareness of

the international community about the need to promote the strengthening and implementation of international humanitarian law. I cannot end without expressing my sincere gratitude to the Spanish Red Cross for its active collaboration and unwavering commitment in assisting the most vulnerable. Thank you very much.

**Mr Aboubacar Barry, Minister-Counsellor,  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of  
Senegal in Geneva**

*(Original French)*

Madam Vice-Chair, my delegation would like to congratulate you and commend the Movement and Switzerland for their unstinting work to further the humanitarian cause. Today, serious challenges jeopardize full compliance with the rules of international humanitarian law. In some regions, violent conflicts, extremism, human rights violations and disasters affect the everyday lives of vulnerable sectors of the population and continue to subject innocent civilians, including women, children and the elderly, to indescribable hardships and appalling conditions. The proliferation of such ills, resulting in harrowing tragedies, highlights the importance of humanitarian action. The use of prohibited weapons, the uncontrolled use of autonomous weapon systems, easy access to light weapons and migration on an unprecedented scale are aggravating factors that influence the scenario in which international humanitarian law is implemented and require us to adapt to the realities of these new situations. It is therefore necessary to innovate in our approach, put in place viable mechanisms and set in motion a new dynamic to deliver operational solutions, including measures to ensure safe working conditions for humanitarian personnel and to deal with breaches of international humanitarian law by non-State armed groups involved in conflicts.

Strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law in the current context is a significant and crucial question in the establishment of a framework for the formulation of new policy directions and for addressing current challenges. Efforts to seek compromise must continue in order to avoid solutions that are not based on consensus, as they will have only a limited effect.

Senegal, which ratified the four Geneva Conventions, soon after gaining its independence, and Additional Protocols I and II, remains committed to promoting international humanitarian law. It has participated

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extensively in peacekeeping operations and has adopted a number of laws to give domestic effect to its provisions, including one on the use and protection of the red cross emblem.

This commitment to the ideals of international humanitarian law means that we can never thank the Movement enough or forget its courageous actors, volunteers and humanitarian workers who, in silence and anonymity, give their all and, in some cases, sacrifice their lives to assist people living in chronic hardship.

A decent world is one that fosters social, physical and intellectual development, one that is worthy of its children and women. These are the priorities that we must continue to focus on and the benefits that humanitarian actors can provide for the most vulnerable sectors of society.

The Geneva Conventions have now been ratified by almost all the world's countries, and it is our duty to ensure that the obligations established in them are fully and conscientiously fulfilled by all. This will allow us to build a peaceful world together. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Hussam Edin Aala, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic in  
Geneva**

*(Original Arabic)*

Madam Vice-Chair, allow me to start by congratulating the presidency and confirming to you our commitment to strive to reach global consensus on the final decisions of this Conference.

Today humanity is facing growing challenges, including traditional challenges related to armed conflicts and the response to natural disasters, as well as emerging challenges such as terrorism. Today they constitute a serious threat to all our countries and are a major reason for the emerging humanitarian needs and the motive behind forced displacement and migration. Developments in my country, like those culminating in Iraq, have confirmed that terrorism is behind growing human suffering and related concerns, needs and challenges. Terrorist acts witnessed in Beirut, Paris, Sinai and Bamako recently corroborate the fact that the risk of the ever-spreading Takfiri (expiatory) terrorism extends to all nations. My country has been warning against this terrorist threat and the consequences of overlooking it for over four years now. Acts of terrorism are prohibited pursuant to IHL and binding resolutions adopted by the Security Council under Chapter VII.

However, we are witnessing a return to terrorism and being made to bear its consequences, since terrorism is used as a means to achieve political agendas, in spite of the prohibitive humanitarian consequences of such behaviour.

It is crucial for this Conference to express renewed commitment to IHL and to ensure its implementation. However, I would also like to draw your attention to the link between respecting the general framework of international law, particularly the United Nations Charter, as a regulatory tool for preventing wars, and the outbreak of wars and conflicts that require respect for IHL rules. In this sense, respect for the principles of non-interference in the affairs of States, respect for sovereignty and independence are bulwarks against the emergence of conflicts that require the application of IHL. It should equally be emphasized that strict adherence to the principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence is necessary to deal with conflicts, humanitarian situations and needs apart from political agendas that predominate our world today and which Mr Maurer referred to in his keynote speech yesterday.

We support along with others the endeavour to promote the application of IHL through the development of existing mechanisms, not through the establishment of new non-consensual mechanisms and an insistence on hastily imposing them on this Conference. This practice would only entrench further politicization and risks to compromise international consensus. In this context, we support the text submitted by the Russian Federation on behalf of a group of States. We believe that imposing a sole option, which consultations made clear lacked the necessary consensus, is inconsistent with the resolution of the 31st International Conference, one calling for seeking a range of options to promote compliance with IHL in order to facilitate the process of reaching consensus on desired options.

On the other hand, while we support the resolution of the 31st International Conference regarding the strengthening of respect for the situation of detainees in armed conflicts, we disagree with the selective trend of distinguishing between the situation of detainees in international and non-international armed conflicts, as does the draft resolution presented to the Conference. Therefore, we call for adherence to the implementation of the provisions of the resolution adopted at the 31st International Conference, without selectivity or distinction. Thank you.

**H.E. Ms Nazhat Shameem Khan,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji in  
Geneva**

*(Original English)*

This statement is delivered on behalf of the delegation of the Government of Fiji and the delegation of the Fiji Red Cross Society.

Whether during times of armed conflict or during a disaster, the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence is a critical humanitarian issue, and I would like to acknowledge that, for the first time in the history of the International Conference, a resolution on sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts and in disasters and other emergencies will be prepared. It is important to note that, when crisis strikes, women are disproportionately disadvantaged and less prepared or empowered to survive and recover. Every day, 507 women die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth in emergency situations. As noted in the State of World Population report released by UNFPA just last week, the risks of being subjected to rape, trafficking, transactional sex and forced pregnancies and marriage and of restricted access to health services multiply in times of crisis and disaster settings alike, and so do women's vulnerabilities. Failure to address gender-based violence provides a poor foundation for women's resilience and health in structuring the lives and livelihoods of individuals, families and communities. In Fiji, women play central roles in the household. They are responsible for shelter, food, the house and children – and children, are, of course, the future members of our society. When a disaster hits, it affects everyone, with women being affected the most, but supported the least.

In Fiji we have directed our efforts towards strengthening the resilience of the community to build adequate infrastructure for quick recovery and repair, yet geographical location remains the challenge. We are small and isolated, with a scattering of islands over a large expanse of ocean, with limited access to resources and limited capacity for financing. Fiji is prone to natural disasters. However, together with the Red Cross Society in our country, we are now focusing on disaster preparedness measures to lessen the potential impact of climate change.

Given this, I believe that all national and international policies should incorporate a gender perspective. Such policies should also be based on the human

rights of all affected and vulnerable members of society, especially the young, the disabled and the elderly. In working harder for effective law reform in Fiji to streamline preparation, to ensure a legislative status, for instance, for the Fiji Red Cross, to prevent an influx of aid that is unhelpful and a waste of valuable resources and to ensure an anti-discrimination basis for disaster resilience law, we welcome the partnership of development agencies and specifically of the ICRC and IFRC. We accept that we cannot transform our efforts for an equal and equitable legal foundation on our own. Thank you.

**Mgr. Richard Allen Gyhra, First Secretary,  
Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy  
See in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the Holy See delegation is pleased to participate in this 32nd International Conference. It recognizes the outstanding contribution of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in response to many human needs, especially in situations of humanitarian crisis and other emergencies.

In particular, we wish to acknowledge the efforts of the Movement in response to the Ebola epidemic, which caused very great suffering in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Many health-care, social service and pastoral care institutions related to the Catholic Church and other faith communities worked side by side with the national and local members of the Ebola response efforts. My delegation concurs with the decision of this Conference to grant an award to the volunteers.

The Holy See delegation shares the concern expressed in the concept document for this Conference that we are confronted today with a hugely complex humanitarian operating environment. The current series of never-ending conflicts is bringing about increasingly difficult and tragic consequences. In a way, we face a true world war being fought piecemeal, which affects numerous areas of our world in different forms and to varying degrees of intensity.

The respect for and promotion of international humanitarian law is increasingly ignored and violated, and may lead to more violence, misery and suffering. The Holy See delegation associates itself with the urgent warning launched recently by the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the

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ICRC to renew a contract for humanity which should benefit millions of people affected by armed conflicts.

All citizens of this world have a responsibility to care for their neighbours, since all persons are equal members of the same human family and should show mutual solidarity. They are all entitled to equal access to the goods of this world. Moreover, all persons should have an equal say in the formulation of policies and decisions that will affect their own lives and those of future generations.

Preventive and remedial measures should go hand in hand. All players must address the root causes of the many problems our globalized world is facing. Disarmament and nuclear disarmament in particular, migration, poverty, armed conflicts, respect for human rights and the rule of law, climate change and environmental problems, diseases, etc. are areas where States, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, international organizations and civil society should work together to secure a better future for coming generations. Thank you.

**Ms Intissar Ben Attitallah, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Tunisia in Geneva**

*(Original Arabic)*

Madam Vice-Chair, allow me at the outset to express my country's support for the statements made by the Islamic and African groups.

I would also like to express our appreciation for all the efforts made by the Swiss Government as part of its commitment to the promotion of IHL.

I would like to pay tribute also to the IFRC and the ICRC for their efforts toward achieving a sustainable response to growing humanitarian needs in all parts of the globe, despite the difficulties and enormous challenges faced by humanitarian workers in conflict zones and their direct targeting.

In this context, I would like to stress the importance of securing and ensuring the safety of humanitarian workers and refraining from involving them in bargaining and pushing them to the frontlines, while they only strongly believe in the power of humanity and its capacity to heal the wounds of the weary and wish to change the world into a better place.

The slogan of our Conference is "the Power of Humanity", at a time when humanity is undergoing

one of its most intricate periods and experiencing serious challenges in a world bearing the brunt of wars, conflicts, killings, destruction, slaughter, beheadings and death boats that send the bodies of migrants the deep bottoms of seas and oceans.

We are dealing with 87 million people in dire need of humanitarian assistance, 60 million internally displaced persons and refugees, who have left their homes in search of a safe haven away from the destruction and violence of war machines, and children whose innocence is violated day after day. When the United Nations report on Gaza mentions that it would not be viable by 2020 if the humanitarian situation persists as such, then and only then are we aware of how short of humanity our world is!

We have to assume our responsibility away from any kind of exploitation, because these tragedies are largely the outcome of wars and conflicts that are first and foremost manmade. Therefore, we must seek to defuse these conflicts and reach a peaceful settlement through dialogue in order to promote international peace and security and ensure the right of humanity to a decent life.

We must resist extremist ideology and terrorism through a comprehensive approach based on awareness-raising and on breeding the next generations the principles of tolerance and acceptance of diversity and difference, because humanity is, after all, a mentality and a lifestyle.

What we are witnessing today in terms of serious violations of humanity and breaches of IHL invites us to work harder than ever to promote the provisions of this law.

In this connection, I emphasize Tunisia's firm commitment to IHL provisions and its full involvement with international efforts geared toward strengthening compliance with IHL provisions under a new mechanism or through supporting the existing mechanisms on the basis of the principles of neutrality, independence, non-selectivity and non-politicization.

However, we stress that any course of action should be governed by consensus in order to ensure the involvement of all States, because promoting this law is a duty incumbent on all of us and a commitment we all share in a constructive and participatory spirit.

Finally, I would like to conclude with a quote from the spiritual leader Gandhi who said "You should not lose hope in humanity". Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Andre Pung, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, this year has continued to pose many challenges for the international community, including the more complex and mixed nature of humanitarian crises, especially on the migratory routes, and an increase in protracted situations that cannot be forgotten.

Estonia fully aligns itself with the pledges made by the European Union, its Member States and National Red Cross Societies at the 32nd International Conference, as well as with the statement delivered by the EU earlier today.

First allow me to thank the organizers of this Conference, which in its wide spectrum tackles the important issues of fundamental humanitarian principles, the need for greater compliance with international humanitarian law and the need to protect and take action on behalf of vulnerable people, most of whom live in contexts where the humanitarian presence ensures a safety net of last resort.

Estonia remains deeply concerned over the constantly increasing humanitarian needs and ongoing systematic violations of international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. Therefore, we strongly support the resolution on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law. While hoping for a bold outcome of the negotiations downstairs, I can assure you that Estonia is eager to reap the first fruits of the establishment of a regular, voluntary, non-politicized meeting of States, which will provide a forum for dialogue and voluntary national reports constituting the basis for a platform for exchange.

We note with serious concern that sexual and gender-based violence is used to force internal and cross-border displacement in many places around the world and that women and children are targeted both inside and outside refugee and IDP camps and settlements. Estonia confirms its commitment to ending impunity and fighting sexual violence through advocacy and contributions in this field.

Finally, as humanitarian needs are expected to continue to rise, we must keep an innovative mind on new partnerships. At the same time, it is important to ensure that principled humanitarian action is recognized in the frameworks of climate change, sustainable development, disaster risk management

and a broader political-military response to the crisis in order to ensure that humanitarian actors can be the first to respond, but not the last left behind. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Edmundo Alfonso Morales Suarez, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Ecuador in Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Vice-Chair, over the past four years, in Ecuador we have consolidated a new model for risk management, humanitarian assistance, international solidarity and human mobility, with the encouragement of the Government of President Rafael Correa Delgado from the first day he took office through to the present day.

The national report on the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 31st International Conference held in 2011 and the report of the National Commission for 2015 bear witness to our steadfast efforts to promote peace and the implementation of international humanitarian law, which condemns all forms of violence, the result of which is greater poverty.

We call on governments to include in their national pledges a commitment to ensure non-discrimination, reduce poverty and revitalize the principle of humanity that brings us together here today.

Madam Vice-Chair, it is an honour to inform you that in 2014 Ecuador adopted the Comprehensive Organic Penal Code. Section four of the code establishes the penalties for crimes committed against protected persons and property in accordance with international humanitarian law. It also gives domestic effect to the rules of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, their Additional Protocols and the Rome Statute, all of which have been ratified by Ecuador. Given the time constraints, my delegation will give a very brief account of Ecuador's most important legislative achievements.

One: inclusion of the definition of "crime against humanity" in domestic legislation. Ecuador's new Penal Code considers crimes against humanity to be all offences committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, including summary execution, enslavement, forced displacement of the population unless necessary to protect their rights, illegal or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, torture, rape, enforced prostitution, insemination without consent, enforced sterilization and enforced disappearance. They are punishable by imprisonment for 26 to 30 years.

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Two: the recruitment of children and adolescents. Anyone who on the occasion of or during the conduct of an armed conflict recruits or enlists children or adolescents into the armed forces or armed groups or uses them to take part in an armed conflict will be punished with a prison sentence of 10 to 13 years.

Three: sexual and reproductive rights of protected persons. The new Penal Code establishes that anyone who, on the occasion of or during the conduct of an armed conflict harms or affects the sexual or reproductive integrity of a protected person will be punished with a prison sentence as established for crimes against sexual and reproductive integrity increased by a third.

Four: Ecuador is party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. Plans are in place to destroy, by 2017, 14,305 mines known to be located in the border area with neighbouring Peru over an area of 339,214 m<sup>2</sup>. In February 2014, we hosted the third regional workshop on humanitarian demining organized by the International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and attended by delegations from Peru, Colombia, Nicaragua, Argentina, Chile and Ecuador.

Madam Vice-Chair, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to reiterate its position on some of the more sensitive issues to be addressed during this conference.

One: governments have the primary responsibility for protecting the population. The decisions adopted at this International Conference must therefore be the result of dialogue and not the imposition of criteria or specific ways of interpreting the scope of international humanitarian law, which is already clearly stipulated in the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Two: it is time to close the gap between the principle of banning the use of weapons of mass destruction and the continued existence of nuclear weapons. It is necessary to move forward with efforts to actively and progressively eliminate all stockpiles of nuclear weapons. This is the only way to prevent the unacceptable humanitarian consequences of a nuclear explosion and all the associated risks.

Three: we must not renounce the right to live a life free of violence at all times. However, in emergency situations, bearing in mind that anyone can become a victim of sexual or gender-based violence and that factors such as age, sex, capacities, deprivation of liberty and displacement increase the risk of suffering such aggressions, specific measures need

to be adopted for a global, multidisciplinary response commensurate with the gravity of the circumstances. The right to health is a basic human right which must be maintained throughout a person's life and in all circumstances. Thank you.

**Mr Elias Solis González, National Deputy Secretary, Red Cross Society of Panama**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Vice-Chair, on this occasion, we will address some of the specific issues being discussed at this conference.

The Red Cross Society of Panama welcomes the initiative to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law, particularly in view of the alarming increase in armed conflicts and serious violations of its provisions, by raising the awareness of States about their duties in relation to dissemination, implementation and observance.

The proposed forum of States could operate as a new system for monitoring compliance with international humanitarian law and as a mechanism to provide States with updated information on this body of law and violations of its provisions. However, we are concerned that it would be a forum with no coercive power and that its work would be confined to issuing reports and recommendations and possibly appealing to the conscience of the States, urging them to respect the rules governing the conduct of hostilities and to prosecute and punish serious violations of these rules.

We are therefore hopeful that in the future a mechanism can be established to enforce compliance with the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as is the case with other international humanitarian law instruments, for example the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court.

In relation to the question of compliance with international humanitarian law, we highlight the need for States to strengthen, promote and support the work carried out by national committees on the implementation of international humanitarian law domestically, as bodies specialized in this field with the expertise to advise them on the application and observance of this body of law. Political changes must not be allowed to hinder the work of these committees.



We would like to take this opportunity to note that the Red Cross Society of Panama shares current concerns about the danger and insecurity faced by the volunteers of our Movement and other humanitarian organizations, particularly those serving in areas affected by armed conflicts or other situations of violence, major pandemics, natural disasters and other types of emergency. Today's realities clearly place health care in danger.

We would therefore urge States to protect humanitarian volunteers, by taking action to ensure safe conditions for them, which would involve including measures to safeguard and protect them in domestic legislation, plans and programmes. We also call on States to promote greater acceptance of humanitarian volunteering among the general public and, in particular, in the private sector, raising the awareness of employees about the vital importance of the work carried out by volunteers, many of whom are prevented from doing as much as they would like because of a lack of understanding, sensitivity and tolerance on the part of their employers.

Humanitarian volunteers make an important contribution to implementing prevention and promotion activities that safeguard health, improve lives and enhance tolerance and to delivering humanitarian assistance. These are tasks for which, in principle, States are responsible.

National Societies also have the obligation to make every effort to ensure the safety of their volunteers.

It is important to bear in mind that involvement in voluntary service enhances the all-round development of children and young people. It keeps them safe from social risks and fosters a more caring and participatory society. Investing in volunteers therefore yields a high return.

Madam Vice-Chair, this conference is called on to adopt other fundamental decisions on the protection of people deprived of their liberty, sexual and gender-based violence in conflict situations and strengthening legal frameworks for first aid and disaster response. I will not go into any detail now given the time constraints, but we support these resolutions.

I would finally like to mention the Government of Panama's ongoing support for the Red Cross Society of Panama to assist it in fulfilling its humanitarian goals and to note that Panama has adopted all the international humanitarian law treaties.

Let us pledge to make humanitarian assistance safer and to ensure that all the parties to a conflict understand the importance of respecting and ensuring respect for international humanitarian law. Thank you very much.

**H.E. Ms Katarina Lalic Smajevic,  
Ambassador, Deputy Assistant Minister  
for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs of the Republic of Serbia**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, there is a growing sense in the world that global problems require global solutions. The humanitarian aspect of the challenges we are confronted with obliges us to commit ourselves to working together to confirm the slogan of this Conference – the Power of Humanity.

Serbia highly appreciates and commends the activities and commitment of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in addressing humanitarian problems and providing humanitarian assistance in accordance with its Fundamental Principles.

As a State party to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, Serbia is firmly committed to strengthening and promoting international humanitarian law. I wish to underline that, in carrying out its humanitarian activities, including the promotion of international humanitarian law, the National Society of the Red Cross of Serbia has proven to be among the most competent and reliable partners of my Government. I am proud to say that the Red Cross of Serbia is one of the oldest National Societies in the Movement and has been active for over 139 years. It has grown into a network of two provincial and 183 local organizations supported by the dedicated work of over 60,000 volunteers. Let me recall that the law on the Red Cross of Serbia, adopted in 2005, has been recognized by the International Federation and put on FedNet as a good example of partnership between the Government and the National Society.

Serbia is fully aware of the scope and complexity of the humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts. Even today, there are over 35,000 persons from Bosnia Herzegovina and Croatia with refugee status in Serbia, while around 300,000 former refugees are still in the process of local integration. Further to that, there are over 200,000 IDPs from Kosovo and Metohija who were forced to flee the province in 1999. The issue of missing persons in the region is

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also one of the painful consequences of the past. We are confident that resolving the issues of refugees, IDPs and missing persons is crucial for the process of reconciliation and the further progress of our region.

The floods that affected my country in May last year proved that the role of the humanitarian community, and the National Red Cross Society in particular, is of utmost importance.

Last, but certainly not least, I need to address one of the most challenging humanitarian issues on the international agenda today – the large and unprecedented mixed migration flows from the regions of the Middle East, Asia and Africa. Since the beginning of this year, more than 600,000 migrants have crossed the Serbian border. No country, Serbia included, can bear this huge burden alone. We have limited capacities for this in terms of human and financial resources and reception capacities. In cooperation with the Serbian Red Cross, our international partners (primarily UNHCR), non-governmental organizations, the Government and citizens of Serbia are making enormous efforts aimed at providing appropriate assistance to migrants while they are in Serbia. We consider that, in dealing with this complex challenge, there should be no partial or local steps, such as the closing of borders or building fences, but that a solution should be sought through cooperation between affected countries, a common response by the European Union as a whole and the engagement of the entire international community. I thank you.

**H.E. Ms Elayne Whyte, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Costa Rica in  
Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the Costa Rican delegation has high expectations of this important International Conference, which bears a great historic responsibility.

We are living in a new era in which the nature of conflicts has changed drastically. They tend to be more internal than international and cause deep suffering and appalling hardship.

In 2015, in addition to the shocking stream of manifestations of violence, which offend our human sensibilities because of the consequences for civilians and the growing disregard for the basic rules of warfare, events have also shown that the challenges faced in the humanitarian sphere are becoming even

more daunting, because of the increase in natural disasters and epidemics and an exponential surge in human mobility motivated by a variety of factors.

Costa Rica would like to take the opportunity provided by this forum to thank the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for their untiring humanitarian work spanning decades and, in particular, their constant readiness to cooperate with my country. Costa Rica also pays tribute to humanitarian workers around the world, particularly those who have given their lives in the service of humanity.

I cannot fail to mention the unwavering and unconditional support that the ICRC has provided to the Costa Rican Commission on International Humanitarian Law. This technical support has enabled our commission to develop ambitious programmes for action and successfully perform the tasks assigned to it. One of its achievements was making Costa Rica the first country in the Americas, in February 2012, to have ratified all the international humanitarian law instruments.

My delegation urges all the participants in this International Conference to take responsible decisions on the issues of crucial importance to peaceful coexistence in these difficult times and agree on concrete measures which will make a decisive contribution to strengthening international humanitarian law, such as the forum of States Parties and the establishment of monitoring mechanisms for periodic national reporting.

We call for the texts of the resolutions, which have been the subject of extensive consultations, to be strengthened, and not diluted, and for an unequivocal message to be adopted to restore respect for the rules that safeguard humanity in times of conflict. We welcome the decisions adopted by the Movement to improve internal coordination and cooperation.

We should also be aware of the need to step up efforts with regard to the use of explosive devices and weapons. A ban on the use of explosive devices in densely populated areas and strengthening instruments such as the Arms Trade Treaty and conventions regulating cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines form part of a comprehensive update plan. There is also a deep conviction that it is essential to prevent the mistakes made by political leaders when negotiating agreements from resulting in an increase in civilian victims. It is crucial to continue supporting efforts aimed at strengthening, promoting

and implementing international humanitarian law instruments. Thank you very much.

**Mr Jimmy Agongbonon, First Secretary,  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Benin  
in Geneva**

*(Original French)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the delegation of Benin would like to thank Switzerland for its contribution to building a world of peace, humanity and solidarity and congratulate the International Federation and the ICRC on the excellent preparation of the presentation.

My delegation subscribes to the Nansen Initiative and all actions aimed at preventing the suffering of people wherever they are in the world. Today, there are millions of men, women, children and vulnerable people facing great hardship in the absence of dialogue. Hatred, intolerance and violations of human rights and civil liberties are widespread. Crisis situations caused by climate change-induced events, such as droughts, desertification, floods, cold waves and hurricanes, force large numbers of people to leave their homes in search of more clement conditions, sometimes on board makeshift boats, exposing them to great hardship and huge risks. The Movement's work, guided by the Fundamental Principles – humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality – is vitally necessary in this complex situation. The Government of Benin and the Red Cross of Benin, whose president is here with us today, work tirelessly to fulfil the Red Cross mission and its objectives throughout the country. The Government of Benin urges its bilateral, regional and multilateral partners to continue to support the efforts undertaken to sustainably manage humanitarian crises. Lastly, my delegation would like to emphasize the need to enhance the synergy of action and to forge a partnership involving all the actors on the humanitarian scene. Thank you.

**H.R.H. Crown Princess Margareta of Romania,  
President of the Romanian Red Cross**

*(Original French)*

Madam Vice-Chair, it is an honour for me to be taking part in this International Conference for the first time as President of the Romanian Red Cross.

I would like to share with you our concerns and our projects at the start of my term as President. The involvement of the royal family in the Romanian Red Cross is a long and highly valued tradition which has recently been resumed.

Current developments highlight the importance of the activities carried out by the Red Cross and Red Crescent throughout the world. The numerous humanitarian crises and the suffering caused by war and natural and human-induced disasters across the globe lend our task a dimension of extraordinary significance. We are motivated by the solidarity that unites us and moved by the readiness of all our compatriots to help those who suffer.

The activity of the Romanian Red Cross focuses on rapid first aid response in the event of floods, landslides, avalanches and fires. Human resources, consisting mainly of volunteers, winter shelters, tents and basic food supplies have been mobilized to assist victims and ensure decent living conditions for them. We have helped all those who have called on us for assistance, in particular, vulnerable people and large, low-income families.

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, recently a fire during a concert in Bucharest turned into a tragedy. Sixty young people died and more than 100 were severely injured. The Romanian Red Cross supported the victims and their families and organized a fundraiser together with a TV company. In a short time, the amount collected was more than 1.5 million euros. Thus, we had the opportunity to complement the efforts of our public hospitals with equipment and medicines.

In recent years, we gave our support to people in need as a result of the severe floods in the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Montenegro. We were also able to offer some support to the victims of the recent terrorist attacks in Paris.

International cooperation helps the Romanian Red Cross to improve its capabilities and our knowledge. The First Aid Convention in Europe (FACE) competition

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for Red Cross National Society first-aid experts was organized this year in Bucharest for the first time. It was a wonderful success and a useful experience.

Currently, we are analysing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted at governmental level during the UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. This document is a complement to the prevention activities carried out by governments. Preparedness for disaster risk will help us better assist people in need. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Thomas Barankitse, Ambassador, Assistant of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi**

*(Original French)*

Madam Vice-Chair, Burundi welcomes the organization of this event, which gives us an opportunity to exchange and gather information and establish priorities, with a view to adopting resolutions and agreeing on concrete measures to promote humanitarian action.

Like all the other speakers, the Government of the Republic of Burundi is concerned about the considerably increased risks posed by disturbances, conflicts, natural disasters and epidemics. Humanitarian activities are now being carried out on a greater scale than ever before and in places where, in the past, victims received no assistance. It is therefore fair to say that significant advances have been made in the humanitarian system over the years, although there are still numerous challenges to be met.

The Government of Burundi therefore encourages efforts to improve the effectiveness of the existing system. In this regard, Burundi reaffirms the central role of the government in creating the conditions necessary to guarantee humanitarian effectiveness nationally, regionally and globally. The Government of Burundi is also convinced of the pressing need to strengthen the capacities of local communities. The Burundi Red Cross has already established local branches throughout the country, encouraging women and young people in particular to become involved as stakeholders in humanitarian action. In order to improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian system, the existing legal framework needs to be strengthened. Specifically, international humanitarian law needs to be updated to take into account the realities on the ground. The Government

of Burundi has already established a legal framework for its partnership with the National Red Cross Society, which defines the collaborative arrangements between them. It is important to press ahead with the establishment of a mechanism to implement humanitarian commitments and provide a mid-term assessment of progress made in fulfilling pledges, particularly those adopted at this conference.

Burundi undertakes to unconditionally support the implementation of relevant strategies and programmes for disaster risk reduction and improved humanitarian action. The Government of Burundi calls for the humanitarian system to take into account the inextricable link between humanitarian action and socioeconomic development and to translate this reality into concrete action. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Maurizio Enrico Serra, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Italy in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and wishes to highlight the following points.

Italy fully supports the resolution on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law. The establishment of the meeting of States provides us with a suitable opportunity to engage in a more systematic and regular dialogue, aimed at enhancing compliance with IHL, also in line with the efforts of the European Union in the humanitarian field. Italy commends the efforts made in order for this process to be of a voluntary, non-politicized, State-driven and consensus-based nature.

We would also like to emphasize that sexual and gender-based violence is a critical humanitarian issue that requires particular attention. This topic is one of the major areas of concern for my Government, and it was also a priority of the Italian presidency of the Council of Europe. Therefore, we recognize the total unacceptability of sexual and gender-based violence during times of humanitarian emergencies and fully support the related resolution. Italy is ready to make every effort to make the prohibition of sexual violence as widely known as possible.

Italy remains very concerned about violence against health-care personnel and patients in armed conflicts and other emergencies. Patients and health-care

personnel killed and health-care facilities subjected to attack are just one example of this major humanitarian problem. In these circumstances, we welcome the resolution and efforts to continue to protect the delivery of health care.

In 1859, on the battlefield of Solferino, Henry Dunant was overwhelmed by the impetus to respond to the suffering of wounded soldiers with compassion, on the basis of the values of non-discrimination and volunteerism. That act of humanity gave life to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. We strongly believe that those same values must continue today to enlighten our efforts to uphold human life and dignity even in armed conflict situations. Thank you for your attention.

**H.E. Mr Kouadio Adjoumani, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in  
Geneva**

*(Original French)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the proliferation of humanitarian emergencies and the ever greater challenge of providing protection have exposed certain shortcomings in our humanitarian crisis management mechanism. These include a lack of funding, difficulties in implementing a rapid and coordinated response to save lives and the lack of preparation for the delivery of an effective response, to name but a few.

These shortcomings highlight the need to rethink our humanitarian crisis management approach, with a focus on prevention rather than cure.

The international community needs to take more measures to effectively address the causes of forced displacement. My delegation therefore supports all measures and programmes aimed at strengthening the rule of law, good governance and social cohesion, which are indispensable prerequisites for ensuring national peace and stability and, by extension, for preventing forced displacement.

Côte d'Ivoire considers that strengthening the capacities of local agents in host countries and developing the overall resilience of the countries affected will contribute to improving the crisis management system. My delegation therefore welcomes and encourages all initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacities of local authorities and agents responsible for maintaining public order

and border control, with a view to improving the identification and protection of vulnerable people.

Côte d'Ivoire believes that a strengthened framework for the protection of vulnerable people is an essential component or even the bedrock of humanitarian crisis management. For this reason, we advocate and encourage adherence to the relevant conventions, specifically those concerning the rights of refugees, stateless persons and migrants.

Schools are repeatedly used for military purposes in armed conflicts. This is a serious problem because the use of such buildings makes them a legitimate target for attack and deprives thousands of children and young people of their fundamental right to education. In view of this, Côte d'Ivoire has been closely involved in the process to prepare and adopt guidelines on protecting schools and universities from military use during armed conflict.

In this regard, we welcome the transparent and open process that has resulted in a large number of States, including Côte d'Ivoire, adhering to these guidelines. For my delegation, the guidelines, although not legally binding, provide a practical guide, the implementation of which will undoubtedly ensure better protection for schools during armed conflicts.

Côte d'Ivoire would therefore like to take this opportunity to urge all the States that have not yet done so to adhere to the guidelines.

Madam Vice-Chair, I cannot end without paying a heartfelt tribute to all humanitarian workers for the courageous and commendable work they do all over the world, often putting their own lives at risk in the process. In this regard, Côte d'Ivoire laments and strongly condemns all attacks and threats against humanitarian workers. Such acts are totally unacceptable, and the perpetrators should be pursued, prosecuted and punished.

To finish, Côte d'Ivoire would like to reaffirm its commitment to humanitarian principles, particularly those of non-refoulement, solidarity, partnership and shared responsibility.

For my delegation, there is no question that upholding these values will allow us to save lives and mobilize all the resources required to assist and protect migrants in life-threatening situations. Thank you.

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**Ms Hasmik Tolmajyan, Minister Plenipotentiary,  
Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Armenia in Geneva**

*(Original French)*

Madam Vice-Chair, distinguished National Society representatives, I would like to join with the previous delegations in thanking the ICRC, the International Federation and the Swiss Confederation for the excellent organization of this 32nd International Conference.

Geneva, the city of Rousseau and Dunant, is the birthplace of the Red Cross, founded 150 years ago, and the capital of international humanitarian law.

For 150 years, Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers have been present everywhere in the world where peace is broken, where conflicts divide, where hardship exists, where disasters and pandemics strike, where violence and suffering persist, everywhere in the world where humanity is needed.

Today, 9 December, when the international community celebrates the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide for the first time, I would like to place special emphasis on the important role that the Red Cross and its volunteers play during genocides, including the Armenian genocide, saving lives and providing assistance to survivors and the many orphans left behind, helping them to survive and rebuild their lives and restoring their hope and faith in humanity.

For more than two decades now, the Red Cross, loyal to its mission and principles, has been working steadfastly in our region, where violations of international humanitarian law regrettably persist, particularly in border areas, where the civilian population, including women, children and the elderly, are regularly targeted. Here we witness what ICRC President Peter Maurer yesterday called the chronic dilemma of humanitarian action: the dependence on political solutions.

Armenia has ratified the Geneva Conventions and the three Additional Protocols. It also places special emphasis on the promotion of international humanitarian law in all sectors of society.

We greatly appreciate the work of the Armenian Red Cross Society and its tireless efforts particularly in the areas of natural disaster prevention, first aid and

social refugee assistance programmes. There are huge needs in this area, as Armenia, with more than 17,000 refugees from Syria, is the European country with the third largest number of Syrian refugees.

Today, we are facing humanitarian crises in different countries around the world, where Red Cross action is crucially important and indispensable. In order to deal with these situations, we need more effective implementation of international humanitarian law mechanisms, greater solidarity and closer coordination of the efforts of the international community.

My delegation therefore hopes that at the end of this conference, we will together reaffirm our common and unanimous commitment to stronger and more cohesive action and our loyalty to the Principles of the Movement – humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, universality – and all the values that have made the Red Cross a four-time recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

I would like to once again thank Switzerland and the Movement for the excellent organization of this conference and wish it every success. Thank you.

**Ms Silvia Cannas, Youth delegate, Italian  
Red Cross**

*(Original French)*

Madam Vice-Chair, ladies and gentlemen, we live in a time of diplomacy, when words are chosen with great care. I, however, am simply going to be young and not at all moderate. We need to be realistic, but we must also show courage and passion. These are the characteristics that prompted this International Conference to make migration one of its central themes and to strive to implement Resolution 3 on migration which was adopted in 2011.

Being passionate and optimistic does not necessarily mean being unrealistic. I know that when we talk about population movements and climate change, we are talking about money and international balances. Quite simply, we are talking about power.

I would therefore like, Madam Chair, to take this opportunity to thank my parents for my being born on the right side of the world, where we are not bombarded day after day, where we are not forced to cross the sea, risking our lives in the process, where

we do not think that it would be better to die than to stay, where we believe that others should worry about reducing emissions in the atmosphere. Thank you, mum. Thank you, dad.

But let us get down to the facts. We all know that the United Nations Climate Change Conference is taking place in Paris for six days. I hope that it will help us to understand once and for all that what we are doing has humanitarian consequences. Allow me to explain what I mean. Imagine that you live in a country affected by desertification. Imagine that you are forced to leave you home, your friends, everything. Then imagine that you have to be taken in by another country. Unfortunately, international humanitarian protection is envisaged for people in fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, etc. And yes, there is some temporary protection, but some of the consequences of what we have done to our planet are going to be permanent. How will you explain to your children that the world, after causing the destruction of your country, will clear its conscience of your death by keeping a minute's silence?

I therefore urge the Movement to formulate policies to take into account the link between climate change and migration and to carry out activities to raise the awareness of governments about providing protection nationally and internationally for people forced to leave their countries as a result of climate change.

I urge governments to take environmental migrants into consideration in their migration policy, to take effective action to prevent even more serious climate change impacts and, lastly and most importantly, to put humanity at the heart of all their actions. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Victor Moraru, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Moldova**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, against the backdrop of unprecedented levels of violence and humanitarian challenges, the overarching theme of this International Conference provides a timely focus for the hugely important discussions of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and participating States on strengthening international humanitarian law and humanitarian actions.

The Republic of Moldova shares the deep concerns expressed by many during this general debate with

regard to the widespread failure to respect, and to ensure respect for, international humanitarian law. It has already been noted that the flagrant violation of international humanitarian law has become not just the effect of war, but also almost the essence of it. It is highly disturbing that humanitarian assistance itself has become an instrument cynically destroyed by warring parties, as they seek to achieve military and political objectives by taking humanitarian workers hostage or by denying them access to a starving population.

As we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the seven Fundamental Principles, we should undertake joint commitments to advance humanitarian action and to ensure respect for humanitarian principles. It is imperative that States and the Movement take action to enhance compliance with international humanitarian law.

It is for this reason that the Republic of Moldova fully supports the draft resolution that provides for the establishment of an effective, voluntary and non-politicized institutional forum, the meeting of States parties, which will ensure the appropriate framework for national reporting on compliance with IHL and for thematic discussion on pertinent IHL issues. The Moldovan delegation is of the view that appropriate safeguards for preserving the genuine and non-politicized nature of such a mechanism have already been integrated into the resolution. Therefore, we believe that further attempts to dilute the text may prevent the traditional consensus that the International Conference seeks in relation to its decision on resolutions.

The Republic of Moldova favours the consensual adoption of all other resolutions before the International Conference. Apart from facilitating our discussions and underpinning the wider Conference themes, the proposed resolutions aim to support further specific objectives of international humanitarian action. In particular, we welcome the focus on actions to ensure the safety and security of Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers and health-care personnel, as well as their unhindered access to people in need of humanitarian assistance.

As a follow-up to the resolutions of previous International Conferences, we also support actions to prohibit, and our response to, sexual and gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies, as well as the protection of persons deprived of their liberty in situations of armed conflict and non-international conflict.

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Finally, let me thank the Swiss Government and the Joint Organizing Committee of the ICRC and IFRC for their excellent preparation of the International Conference. I thank you very much for your attention.

**Mr Tafue Lusama, President, Tuvalu Red Cross Society**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, on behalf of the Tuvalu Red Cross, I would like to reiterate our gratitude for the recognition we have received and, as the youngest member of the family, we would like to state at the outset our commitment to the humanitarian work and mission of the Movement. We would like join with previous speakers in expressing our gratitude to the organizers of this Conference.

I would like to table our first ever statement and intervention at this Conference as a member of the family. We are overwhelmed by the work that the Movement, especially National Societies, has been and is still undertaking today with regard to the migration of refugees to ensure that their dignity is maintained and/or restored. We have heard that the need for humanitarian services in relation to this problem has never been this severe and demanding. These demands on the Movement call for continued commitments.

However, I would like to align myself with the statements made with regard to migration and climate change. This is one aspect of migration that needs to be researched and included in our policies, because the movement of people due to the implications of climate change has already started, and people are being forced out of their comfortable space because of the effects of climate change and sea level rises. Although no international mechanism exists to protect their rights, these people need humanitarian services and, although today it is happening on a small scale, it will soon become the biggest force behind people on the move.

I believe that this aspect of migration and refugees needs to be seriously considered in our preparatory planning if we want to be prepared. This, we are sure, could be done through our approaches to disaster risk reduction, resilience and adaptation programmes, although efforts should not be limited or confined to these areas.

This is a priority not only for my country but also for the Pacific region, and we appreciate the space given to us to voice our concern here. Thank you.

**Mr Ebenezer Appreku, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Ghana in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the delegation of Ghana congratulates you and your bureau on your election and applauds the able manner with which you have conducted the affairs of this Conference so far. Ghana aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group.

As this Conference coincides with the 50th anniversary of the 1965 proclamation in Vienna, the delegation of Ghana wishes to use this occasion to reaffirm Ghana's commitment to the Fundamental Principles of the Movement. To these seven principles we wish to add one of the four principles enunciated by the co-founder, Gustave Moynier, namely "solidarity", as we also believe that local actions taken by National Societies will not be sustainable without global solidarity. In this regard, we thank the Federation and the ICRC for the logistical support given to the National Society of Ghana.

In keeping with the letter and spirit of these principles, Ghana agreed to host the first United Nations mission on Ebola authorized by the UN Security Council. The Ebola crisis underscored the importance of solidarity, but also of the imperative need to build resilient national health systems through international cooperation and the capacity of national institutions to respond adequately and effectively to situations of disaster and violence in order to save lives in times of both war and peace. To this end, Ghana, among other things, has pledged during this Conference to establish a national mechanism for the promotion of IHL and other humanitarian principles.

The Diplomatic Conference held in Geneva from 1974 to 1977, devoted to the preparation of the two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, was entitled the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts. At the time, the representative of the ICRC expressed the conviction that the Protocols "would in future determine the fate of the numbers of victims if the world was once again ravaged by armed conflicts, and therefore any abandonment of the Protocols or even one of them would be a serious setback to civilization and an abdication of the conscience of mankind".

At the time of the conference, it was reported that there had been more than 100 armed conflicts since



the world war that ended in 1945, all of them in developing countries. Accordingly, developing countries that participated in the conference, including many African countries such as Ghana, Sudan and Tunisia, were reported to have expressed the strong desire for the establishment of general principles.

Admittedly, some further progress has been made since 1977 to strengthen international legal regimes for the prevention and punishment of grave breaches of the rules of war and humanitarian principles, such as the establishment of the Rome Statute of the ICC to deter genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and the adoption of the Convention on Land Mines. Sadly, however, the world is today witnessing armed conflicts on a massive scale, characterized in some cases by increasing disregard for and deliberate attacks on humanitarian personnel, as well as sexual and other violence perpetrated against women and girls, not only by parties to armed conflicts, but also by some UN-backed civilian and military personnel. This situation should by all means awaken the conscience of humankind and empower us to act in the name of humanity, to redouble our efforts to promote universal respect for and the implementation of international humanitarian law and the humanitarian Fundamental Principles.

Madam Vice-Chair, many delegations have not failed to acknowledge, and rightly so, that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Fundamental Principles. However, we also wish to recall that this year marks the golden jubilee of the adoption in 1965 of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Application of International Law, which was initiated by Ghana and co-sponsored by Ireland and other delegations. Resolution 21 adopted at the 1977 Diplomatic Conference also called for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts as an essential factor for its effective application.

The call made by Resolution 21 for signatory States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that knowledge of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts and of the Fundamental Principles on which that law is based is effectively disseminated, has become even more urgent in light of the widespread violations of IHL in many theatres of conflict today.

In conclusion, States must intensify education on and raise awareness about the consequences of a failure to act in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols and promote mutual assistance in criminal matters. States must also

honour their obligation under article 89 of Additional Protocol I, which stipulates that, in the event of serious violations of the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols, the Contracting Parties undertake to act, jointly or individually, in cooperation with the United Nations and in conformity with the UN Charter, in order to deal with atrocities committed by both State agents and non-State actors.

Finally, Ghana is looking forward to playing a constructive role in the adoption of the various resolutions being negotiated during this Conference on the basis and in the spirit of consensus, bearing in mind our common humanity. I thank you.

**H.E. Ms Rebeca Sánchez Bello,  
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent  
Representative, Permanent Mission of the  
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

Madam Vice-Chair, distinguished heads of delegation, distinguished National Society members, ladies and gentlemen. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela would like to thank the organizers of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, a top-level forum for the promotion of humanitarian dialogue.

The Venezuelan Government reiterates its firm engagement and commitment to ensure strict compliance with international humanitarian law, the indispensable mainstay underpinning respect and solidarity among States and the peoples of the world, with a view to establishing and maintaining peace.

Governments must take a vigorous stand against violence and all forms of discrimination against women, both in their legal frameworks and through public policy, programmes and projects.

The armed conflicts that threaten world peace and security highlight the far-reaching importance of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In recent wars, we have witnessed the deaths of millions of victims and we have seen how a growing number of wounded and displaced people are forced to seek refuge and humanitarian assistance. With this overwhelming tragedy looming, we cannot remain silent; we must step up and contribute to eliminating the multiple causes of this catastrophic situation and mitigating the pain and suffering of victims.

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Wars, which are the chief cause of contemporary humanitarian crises, are motivated by economic and political interests and are conducted in complete contravention of international law. Civilians are condemned to suffer the appalling consequences of armed conflicts. Humanitarian advocacy is needed to warn the international community of the terrible and tragic consequences of resorting to war to settle disputes instead of finding peaceful ways to do so.

Another cause of future crises is climate change, which will force millions of people to flee from their homes in search of refuge. It is essential to adopt concrete measures now to deal with this eventuality, which is not so far in the future.

In order to address these challenges, we need a clear definition of the term “humanitarian assistance”, wholly consistent with the rules and principles of international humanitarian law and respect for the sovereignty of States, non-interference and the self-determination of peoples. In this regard, it is necessary to strengthen the role of local agents, who have a deeper knowledge of the situation on the ground and the national landscape.

Lastly, Venezuela wishes to commend the remarkable work of the volunteers of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, who strive to alleviate the suffering of the victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters. Thank you very much.

**Ms Gréta Gunnarsdóttir, Ambassador on Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iceland**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, Iceland feels strongly about the importance of upholding respect for international humanitarian law and welcomes the numerous draft resolutions before us as an opportunity to fight the widespread violations we are witnessing. In this regard, we fully support establishing an annual meeting of States on international humanitarian law.

We also support measures to fight sexual and gender-based violence. As sexual and gender-based violence does not only happen in armed conflicts, but also in disasters and other emergency situations, we should focus not only on international humanitarian law, but also on international human rights law, especially as

the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies clearly have a role to play in all these situations.

We should also reaffirm existing obligations, including those of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The emphasis must be, first and foremost, on prevention, including the training of armed and security forces and applying zero-tolerance towards violators. When crimes of sexual and gender-based violence have been committed, the focus has to be on affording victims protection and ensuring the prosecution of those responsible.

Throughout history, sexual violence has often been regarded as an unavoidable corollary of armed conflicts. In 2015, we should all be able to agree that it should be a thing of the past. No government, military or, for that matter, international organization, should have the option to stand by and do nothing.

At the 31st International Conference, the Icelandic Government and the Icelandic Red Cross made a number of common pledges. I am happy to inform you that, in our common view, these pledges have been successfully implemented, and I would like to mention specially a cooperation agreement concluded between the Icelandic Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Icelandic Red Cross in 2012, a number of visits to Iceland by the ICRC to discuss various humanitarian issues and, finally, the fact that we now have a new bill before parliament to improve working procedures regarding asylum-seekers.

I am also pleased to inform you that my Government and the Icelandic Red Cross have agreed on a number of new pledges. These will be sent to the Conference database as requested. They concern, for example, respect for international humanitarian law, the protection of refugees coming from conflict areas, increased assistance for victims of human trafficking and measures to counter prejudice against foreigners. Thank you.

**Mr Francesco Rocca, Vice-President, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, it is an honour to address this 32nd International Conference on behalf of

the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent occupies a unique space within the ongoing humanitarian dialogue. For our Movement, it is an opportunity to come together, unite our voices and speak out on behalf of the most vulnerable, including those who have been forced to flee their homes in search of safety, peace and dignity.

For these reasons, I would like to take this opportunity to issue a call to action based on the statement that was adopted earlier this week by the Council of Delegates. In that statement, our Movement committed to increasing and sustaining our collective response to this crisis, providing assistance and protection to all migrants irrespective of their legal status and raising our voice against the cruel and inflammatory rhetoric that is becoming all too common in many countries. No human being should ever be labelled “illegal”.

Our Movement will play its part in responding to the needs of vulnerable migrants. I can say this with confidence, because we are already doing it every day. We are doing it at all points along the migration routes, in countries of origin, transit and destination. However, if we are to make a difference, if we are to prevent the world from becoming used to the suffering and deaths of vulnerable migrants, then we need States to meet their obligations under national and international laws to protect migrants and to treat them with dignity.

We also call on States to work with us to address the causes of forced displacement. The suffering of vulnerable migrants is inseparable from the crises and disasters that are becoming increasingly frequent, as a result of conflict and as a result of factors such as climate change, rapid, unplanned human globalization and growing economic inequalities.

This morning, we announced our One Billion Coalition for Resilience. Under this initiative, our goal is to have supported, by 2025, one billion people from different backgrounds, cultures and geographic locations in taking steps to strengthen resilience in the face of adversity. This is more than a Red Cross and Red Crescent programme. It is a platform for collaboration, within our Movement, with States, with partners from across the humanitarian community, as well with as the private sector and, most importantly, with communities themselves. It reflects our belief that humanitarian action should pre-empt and mitigate the consequences of suffering

and displacement, going beyond mere reaction and moving towards anticipation.

There is no other organization that can support communities in this way. Our Federation, nationally present and relevant to 190 National Societies, is backed by a network of resources, expertise and solidarity and is uniquely placed to accompany communities on the path to resilience, helping them to take action before a disaster hits. We hope you will join us in this ambition and help us put safety and dignity at the core of a truly global coalition. Thank you.

**Mr Joseph Dhuor Makwei Nyariel, President, South Sudan Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, I express particular appreciation to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for the broad consultations they conducted across the globe to make this important Conference happen. I also extend my gratitude to the Government of Switzerland for hosting this large international delegation.

I would like to align myself with the strengthening of international humanitarian law. During the onset of the crisis in South Sudan, we were destroyed and looted by unknown elements, and we lost one of our volunteers, one of the many in 2015. I call upon the States parties to the Geneva Conventions and the component of the Movement to ensure better implementation and effective compliance with international humanitarian law in action and in words.

My delegation from the South Sudan Red Cross strongly supports the resolution regarding sexual and gender-based violence. The implementation of this important resolution will not be achieved single-handedly, but will be the collective responsibility of National Societies and governments, not least by creating an initiative and conference.

Also this year, the National Society of the South Sudan Red Cross, together with the Government – the Government was recognized in 2011 and the National Society in 2013 – faced numerous challenges that date from before their inception, as both the National Society and the country are very young. The humanitarian needs across the country also date back further than the National Society and the country. Thank you.

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**Mr Markus Mader, Director General, Swiss Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Dear delegates, dear representatives of governments and National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, dear all. The Swiss Red Cross would like to stress two topics: migration and international humanitarian law.

With the growing plight of vulnerable migrants, it is essential for the Movement and States to continue to work on the implementation of Resolution 3 of the 31st International Conference of 2011. The progress report points out the achievements, but also the need to intensify our response in order to realize the challenging objectives and to concentrate on the most vulnerable of all migrants. We call upon States to fulfil their duties in line with relevant international laws and humanitarian values. States must maintain and increase their efforts to ensure the safety of all migrants and their access to relevant services, as well as to protect their dignity, both in their territory and along international borders.

The Movement is challenged too. Through our National Societies, we find ourselves in the unique position of being present all along the migration routes. As of today, we must focus on the coordinated planning and implementation of activities, ensuring that these activities are harmonized between the domestic and international levels, as well as between the different components of the Movement.

Furthermore, we should not shy away from addressing the root causes of migration. This leads us to other complex issues, such as conflict prevention, economic and social development, unfair trade treaties, bad governance and corruption, to name but a few. We call on States to recognize these pressing issues and to tackle them on the international and domestic levels. The Movement, as well, has its role to play in addressing those root causes and alleviating pressures that induce people to migrate against their will and desire. Through the presence of the National Societies in their respective communities, even remote ones, the Movement needs to enhance its programmes on resilience, disaster preparedness and sustainable development.

To be successful in tackling migrants' needs, States and the Movement need to work together – the perfect opportunity to remind all parties present of the auxiliary role of National Societies and the rights and duties it implies for both States and National Societies

respectively. We also call on all parties involved to guide their actions by the principle of humanity and respect for the individual circumstances, vulnerabilities and needs of each migrant.

Finally, we express our full support for Resolution 2 on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law. In order to alleviate the suffering of the millions of people affected by armed conflict, it is absolutely vital to reinforce compliance with IHL. Based on the process that started four years ago, this International Conference provides a unique opportunity that we must not miss. The Swiss Red Cross calls on all States to adopt the resolution as proposed and to work towards the establishment of the first meeting of States on IHL within one year. Thank you very much.

**Mr Bernhard Schneider, Head of Migration and Legal Affairs, Austrian Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to draw your attention to two very important issues which are even more relevant now in the currently rather unstable world situation.

The first issue is the dramatic humanitarian situation of vulnerable migrants all over the world. As you know, more people are being forced to leave their home countries or places of residence today than during the many decades since World War II. We are all aware of the reports of thousands of migrants dying on the perilous journeys they are forced to take, due to the absence of legal ways to travel to a place of safety. Unfortunately, solidarity in many of the rich and safe countries of the world is frighteningly scarce and decreasing further day by day. Many governments are even fighting migrants, denying them their right to ask for international protection and effectively preventing them from reaching safety. Victims of armed conflicts who ask for support and protection are sometimes even called terrorists or criminals by State officials.

Four years ago, the 31st International Conference adopted an ambitious resolution on migration. I am sorry to report that much remains to be done to fully implement this resolution. Let me just give you one example: in many countries, including Austria, the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies are still unable to effectively assist vulnerable migrants who do not have legal status. This is often due to very restrictive national laws that make it a crime or

an offence to help irregular migrants or to facilitate their stay in the country, even when it is done for humanitarian purposes. Penalizing the humanitarian aid of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and preventing its access to vulnerable migrants is the opposite of what Resolution 3 intended. I therefore call upon all States to fully respect their obligations under international law, specifically international refugee and human rights law, and to take all necessary steps, including legislative changes, to fully implement Resolution 3 of the 31st International Conference.

The second essential issue is the single most catastrophic threat to our entire world that still exists – nuclear weapons. Sadly, these terrible weapons of mass destruction are still allowed to exist, despite clear and binding international legal obligations to disarm and despite the many terrible and unacceptable humanitarian consequences. Over the past three years, the so-called “humanitarian initiative” has shown very clearly how urgent and necessary it is, for many reasons, to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, nuclear weapon States seem determined to keep their arsenals and are even modernizing their weapons at tremendous cost.

On behalf of the Austrian Red Cross, I call on States possessing such weapons to take credible and effective steps towards nuclear disarmament without further delay. I call on all States to continue the humanitarian initiative with determination and urgency and to ensure that nuclear weapons are outlawed and eliminated as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Mr Md. Nazrul Islam, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the Bangladeshi delegation, comprising both the Government and representatives from the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, wishes to express its deep appreciation to the Government of Switzerland, the ICRC and the International Federation for organizing the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Bangladesh attaches great importance to its obligations under the Geneva Conventions and, in particular, to implementing these obligations in line with the principle of legality under the national legal framework, while keeping in mind the normative dimension of IHL.

Bangladesh is a country that emerged from a particularly violent war of independence in 1971. It is difficult to find a single family in the country that did not suffer some kind of personal tragedy during the war. The father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of our independence, was also a formal supporter of observing IHL in armed conflicts. The present Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, remains fully committed to fulfilling its commitments with regard to IHL. Bangladesh has established an international crimes tribunal to try persons responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including genocide, arson and rape committed during the war of independence in 1971 and immediately thereafter. We are of the understanding that only justice can heal the unforgivable, deadly wounds of the past. Moreover, Bangladesh is one of the largest contributors to the United Nations peacekeeping mission, with its armed forces and law enforcement personnel deployed in conflict zones around the world. IHL is therefore important to Bangladesh, both as a means of understanding the consequences of armed conflict and as a basis for responding to its changing nature.

It is true that, at present, the world is experiencing an unprecedented level of humanitarian crisis. There are more conflicts that are lasting longer and new conflicts are emerging, while solutions for the existing ones are still not apparent. However, this is just one side of the story. In 2015, we also witnessed extraordinary qualitative efforts by the global community to address many such complex challenges. We saw our efforts in Sendai result in a global framework for disaster risk reduction, with seven global targets. We have also seen the same in New York, where our leaders agreed to the historic resolution transforming the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2016, we will again gather in Istanbul to look into all the important aspects of global humanitarian architecture.

It is against this backdrop that we would like to see this Conference, which is a unique opportunity to discuss and decide, on the basis of consensus, on matters that the governments, the ICRC, the International Federation and the National Societies can achieve to serve humanity within our relative mandates. On that note, let me highlight three points. First, we must uphold the role of States as the principal actor in all humanitarian work. Second, since the Geneva Conventions achieved universal consensus, our work here and beyond, particularly on the resolution, should also strive to achieve universal consensus. Third, the importance of the principles

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can never be overemphasized, and we should all make our best efforts to serve and live by them within our respective mandates. At the same time, we believe it is equally important to ensure respect for our national laws, culture and customs in all the humanitarian work that we undertake.

Lastly, the Bangladesh Government supports the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society as an auxiliary to the Government for humanitarian services and to promote knowledge of IHL through various programmes, including the educational institution-based Red Crescent programmes. For climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, the partnership rolled out with the ICS is well recognized through Standing Orders on Disaster and the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The Government is also working closely with the ICRC in Bangladesh and with the ICS towards achieving a more effective and people-centric approach to reaching the furthest and providing the best possible humanitarian services within our limited means. This approach is not an isolated effort, but emanates from our overall efforts to become a medium-income country by 2021.

All these efforts were achieved through cooperation with all partners, especially through working together with the ICS. We are ready to share our experience with others in our aim to create a better world. Thank you.

**Ms Karidiata Souaré, National President,  
Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire**

*(Original French)*

Madam Vice-Chair, the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire is pleased to be taking part in this important event for reflection on giving and knowledge and individual and collective commitments to prevention and assistance.

The humanitarian situation in our region highlights the fact that humanitarian needs are constantly increasing, with an ever-growing variety and number of challenges, including international humanitarian law issues, hygiene and health and the impact of environmental degradation.

The Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire solemnly proclaims its full support for the resolutions and recommendations on strengthening international humanitarian law through measures to better protect people deprived of their liberty and on improving protection for humanitarian workers through legislative measures that improve the perception and increase the safety of personnel on dangerous missions. In order to address problems relating to climate change and environmental degradation, we are working to strengthen legal frameworks for disaster management. We need to strengthen our position as privileged partners of the public authorities in our auxiliary role in the humanitarian field, creating more favourable conditions for volunteers and supporting local branches.

There has been no real change in recent years in the challenges we face. The effects of climate change include very irregular rainfall, unprecedented heat waves with devastating consequences and increasingly lethal floods. The impact of climate change is causing massive population movements, as people search for a safer place to live. We must take action with and for young people. It is essential to continue in this direction and raise awareness in all sectors of society. We must prevent violence in all its forms. We must strengthen the institutional and operational capacities of National Societies to enable them to implement violence prevention programmes based on the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, seeking to engage youth in particular, as young people are a source of hope for the future.

Our organization can build sustainability through young people who now have greater professional

competence and rally, shape and innovate according to the needs of communities.

Our priorities are also those of other countries. The challenges we face exceed the response capacity of our National Societies. The Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire therefore calls on States, the ICRC and the International Federation to provide support and follow-up for the implementation of the pledges made at this International Conference.

Thank you.

**Dr Hussein Abusalih, President,  
The Sudanese Red Crescent**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, I believe that right now we are living in a world that is becoming very turbulent and I believe that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is facing great challenges in such a turbulent world, where problems and disasters are increasing.

That is why I believe that we have reached a moment when there is a real need for the solidarity of all Movement partners and that we have to put to the forefront our mission as a Movement and be guided by the wonderful Fundamental Principles.

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I would like to be brief and stress certain points. Cooperation and coordination between the various components of the Movement are very important indeed but, to my mind, there is a real need for clarification with regard to the various roles of those different Movement components. I believe that there are numerous priorities that need to be stressed, for example, the problem of the disasters we are facing in various parts of the world. In Sudan, we are facing numerous disasters. This area of activity – whether aiming to reduce disaster risk or to manage disasters – is very important indeed.

The work should be carried out collectively or jointly by various groups, especially in the area of migration, a problem that the whole world is facing. Right now, migration is a humanitarian crisis, and we need to create a programme – I would not call it a “crash” programme, but a very “swift and rapid” programme – which should be undertaken by various States as a group. The Movement needs to work hard at this time to deal with the refugee problem.

Regarding international humanitarian law, I am aware of the importance of the implementation of and compliance with IHL and efforts to prevent violations of IHL. I think there is a real need for collaboration between National Societies and governments to try to work jointly, so that National Societies can encourage governments to implement and abide by IHL and endeavour to prevent violations, while at the same time disseminating IHL among society in general.

I believe that collaboration or cooperation between governments and National Societies is very important indeed. Everybody should be aware of the auxiliary role that National Societies have. I believe that we should also concentrate on the area of resilience and try to eliminate vulnerability if possible. Thank you very much.

**Mr Berk Baran, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Turkey in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Madam Vice-Chair, Turkey would like to exercise its right of reply in respect of the reference made to the events of 1915 by the delegation of Armenia this afternoon.

First of all, we find it unfortunate that this humanitarian meeting is being politicized. Turkey shares the sorrow of, and exerts efforts to empathize with, the Armenian people, who suffered under the conditions of the First World War. There is every reason to believe that these

two ancient nations can demonstrate the wisdom to understand each other and contemplate a future together. Fostering a sense of mutual trust and cooperation and promoting human interaction will be essential. Turkey closely follows and values all efforts for the prevention of genocide, which is an obligation of the international community. Nevertheless, I would like to recall that genocide is a very serious and distinct category of crime, clearly defined by international law. The 1948 Convention tells us what genocide is and how it can be ascertained. Furthermore, there is neither legal nor scholarly consensus as to the nature of the events of 1915. It is with these considerations that Turkey co-sponsored the UN General Assembly Resolution adopted on 15 September 2015, establishing the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime. This international day, also marking the adoption of the 1948 Convention, presents an opportunity to reflect on the forward-looking, future-oriented aim of the Convention. This Convention is an important, irreplaceable legal reference which provides guidance for efforts aiming to prevent genocide from happening in the future. I thank you.



**H.E. Ms Yvette Stevens, Vice-Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

I will have to consult with the bureau to see whether we can take another right of reply.

**H.E. Ms Yvette Stevens, Vice-Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

I am sorry that we have heard this intervention by Turkey and, at this point, I would like to end the discussion of this subject. I thank you very much. As there is no other speaker on the list for this afternoon, I would propose that we adjourn the plenary session until tomorrow morning, and I thank you all for coming.

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## 4.11

# FIFTH PLENARY MEETING: GENERAL DEBATE

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### Thursday, 10 December 2015

(10.00 a.m.)

#### Dr Tha Hla Shwe, Vice-Chair of the Conference

*(Original English)*

Good morning, ladies and gentleman, I think we can start now. This is already the last day of this 32nd International Conference! Ongoing in parallel with this session at this time we have the Drafting Committee and the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab. They will be finalizing their work, and then we also have two commissions ongoing – one on the Fundamental Principles and the second on challenges in IHL.

As in the previous sessions of this general debate, please let me remind you that no delegation will be allowed to engage in political, racial, religious or ideological controversies, as stated in Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Statutes. As you are probably aware, statements are limited to three minutes and up to five minutes if you speak on behalf of a group or as Head of State or at ministerial level. If that is the case, please say so before you make your statement. I will make sure that all delegates stick to their assigned time, and I hope that I will not need to come in and interrupt your statements because you have gone over the time limit.

According to the list, we currently have 15 delegations on the list of speakers. Looking through them, we have a Baroness from the United Kingdom, who will be given five minutes. All other delegations will be restricted to three minutes each, so please be aware of that.

#### H.E. Mr Nicolas Lang, Secretary General of the Conference

*(Original English)*

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Just a brief housekeeping announcement, but of major importance: be sure to pick up your electronic voting card and the envelope with your personal voting credentials. If you do not do that, then you will have a problem once we get to the election this afternoon, because you will simply not be able to vote. The heads of delegations may pick up these items at the registration desk at the entrance, and if the head of delegation cannot pick up the two items or cannot be present during the vote, he or she may designate someone else by completing and signing the proxy form that was distributed in the pigeon holes at the start of the Conference. Additional proxy forms are also available at the registration desk. Thank you for your attention.

#### Dr Tha Hla Shwe, Vice-Chair of the Conference

*(Original English)*

I will now be giving the floor to delegations in the order that they have registered. We start with Lebanon.

**H.E. Ms Najla Riachi Assaker, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Lebanese Republic in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Good morning everybody. As I am the first speaker, I would like to wish everybody a fruitful and successful day.

*(Original Arabic)*

Mr Vice-Chair, the 32nd International Conference coincides with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the International Movement's Fundamental Principles. These principles have always constituted the moral "compass" for the Movement's action, through which it has imposed itself as a neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian player. The Movement has been able, through the promotion of these principles, to alleviate the humanitarian consequences of military conflicts and natural disasters. What we are witnessing in the world today, including various extended and far-reaching crises, stands as clear evidence of the importance of promoting respect for these and other IHL-based principles and rules. IHL is currently facing tough challenges due to the fact that the international community is unable to collectively achieve respect for the legal rules governing the conduct of hostilities and aiming to reduce their impact on civilians. Hence, it becomes difficult to reach political solutions to both chronic and newly emerging issues.

The Government of Lebanon perseveres to respect the provisions of the core IHL treaties, including the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Mine Ban Convention, the Arms Trade Treaty and all other conventions relevant to weapons of mass destruction. The Lebanese Government also seeks to incorporate IHL rules into national legislation and endeavours to disseminate knowledge of IHL rules. The relationship between the Lebanese National Red Cross Society and the government is based on mutual respect and cooperation. Here I should note the efforts of our National Society and its leading role at different levels. We would also like to thank all the volunteers and pay tribute to all those who lost their lives while on humanitarian duty in Lebanon and elsewhere in the world.

We share the concern of our fellow companions, Mr Vice-Chair, for the suffering incurred by refugees and migrants in our world. We can attribute their increasing numbers to the expanded scope of armed

conflicts and to other relatively recent causes, including climate change and associated phenomena, such as desertification and drought, all of which require the international community to shift from mere response to prevention.

Despite the small geographical area and limited, albeit varied, resources of Lebanon, our country has opened its doors to one and a half million displaced Syrians driven out of their homes due to the aggravated conflict, in addition to the half a million Palestinians already present in Lebanon. Given the magnitude of the burden on both the Government and people of Lebanon in order to cope with the needs of the displaced, it is necessary to call here once again for the burden and number- sharing with Lebanon.

**H.E. Mr Hernan Estrada Román,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua in Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

Mr Vice-Chair, peace should be the highest aspiration of our peoples. Nicaragua's Government of Reconciliation and National Unity deeply regrets that we live in a world in which war, hate, extreme violence, destruction and the constant threat of terrorism seem to have taken over our civilization. It is a world in which there are indiscriminate weapons, weapons of mass destruction and new technological means of warfare that constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law and should be banned, destroyed and completely eradicated. The humanitarian crises flaring up in almost all the regions of the world today are more critical and numerous than ever.

Our aspirations to achieve new sustainable development targets can only be realized if we are truly committed to ensuring that peace and respect guide and rectify the course of humanity.

As countries, we have decided to join forces to address the challenges of our times together, adopting measures and actions that reflect the supreme interests of our peoples, namely peace, respect, the sustainability of our planet, justice and a focus on society.

It is necessary to put an end to war and the serious consequences it entails for humanity. International humanitarian law applicable in conflict situations, which seeks to limit the effects of armed conflicts and protect people, should not be regarded as a set of

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rules governing hostilities. As a matter of principle, it is necessary to adopt stronger measures that attack the root causes of conflicts. And as our President said on one occasion, “those with more power have greater means at their disposal to contribute to peace”.

Nicaragua therefore maintains its commitment to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law, by strengthening the mechanisms that already exist, as they are perfectly sufficient if used properly. It also recognizes the volunteer-based humanitarian work performed by the Red Cross to save lives and protect people, the activities it carries out in armed conflicts to help victims and the assistance it delivers to people in need in peacetime. Based on its partnership approach, Nicaragua works in collaboration with the Nicaraguan Red Cross, which provides support to the public authorities in matters of international humanitarian law, its incorporation into domestic legislation and the dissemination of its provisions.

Nicaragua ratifies the commitments acquired under the international humanitarian law and international human rights law instruments to which it is party. Nicaragua will strive with determination to preserve its culture of peace and express its political will, with a view to contributing to achieving the shared goals pursued by Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations in close consultation with the States. Thank you very much.

**Ms Tully Kellen Ndongo, Head of Delegation,  
Seychelles**

*(Original English)*

Mr Vice-Chair, Excellencies, good morning. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Seychelles. The Seychelles’ presence and active participation in this Conference is a statement of the central importance of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, both to the country’s foreign policy and its domestic agenda. In preparation for the Conference, the Seychelles took part in two events at the regional level: the Commonwealth Red Cross Red Crescent Conference in Australia in July, and the Annual Regional International Humanitarian Law Seminar in South Africa in August.

The Seychelles’ adherence to international humanitarian law is also advocated at home. This can be demonstrated by the efforts of the National Society, the Red Cross Society of Seychelles, in administering induction courses on humanitarian

law for new members of parliament and producing a guide book to this effect. This fruitful partnership between the Government and its National Society has come about because the Government has respect for the professionalism, integrity and independence of the Red Cross Society of Seychelles. The Government understands the role of the National Society as its auxiliary body, within which it carries out activities such as organizing first aid campaigns and training in the country and establishing a natural disaster committee, to name but a few.

The active role of the Seychelles in international fora of the Movement is reflective of the country’s active diplomacy. Not long ago, the Government formed the Seychelles Humanitarian Affairs Committee to spearhead activities on international humanitarian law in the country. This Committee, comprising different government bodies, civil society and the private sector, is headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this way, the Government is assured that progress in the field is also on the diplomatic agenda.

As a small island development State, the Seychelles is beset by challenges of vulnerability, whether it be in the form of maritime threats, such as piracy, or other phenomena, such as climate change. Taking part in conferences such as this enhances our preparedness in the way in which we handle disasters and mobilization in such times. By working hand in hand with the National Society, with more meaningful engagements by both parties, the Seychelles can face these challenges bravely. Thank you.

**H.E. Mr Andrew M. Kihurani, Ambassador,  
Deputy Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya  
in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Mr Vice-Chair, Kenya wishes to convey its appreciation to the leadership of the IFRC and ICRC, as well as to the Standing Commission and the respective teams of those organizations, for the substantive preparatory work they have undertaken in organizing this Conference. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement’s Fundamental Principles, we cannot help but appreciate how effectively those values have guided the Movement’s work around the globe since then and how enduring and relevant those principles remain today.

Today, we are witnessing multiple humanitarian emergencies. Armed conflicts in a number of countries have caused extensive casualties, which national governments have been unable to alleviate in terms of adequate provision of shelter, food and livelihood amenities for displaced communities. Natural, as well as man-made, disasters such as floods and droughts and slow-onset disasters, including climate change, have also played a part in prompting large-scale displacements, including cross-regional migration, occasioning need for emergency assistance.

We commend the role that the ICRC is continuing to play in providing humanitarian support to alleviate the immediate suffering. This includes helping the injured, delivering assistance to the displaced, restoring family links for refugees and visiting detainees, while ensuring respect for the human rights and dignity of those they are assisting.

In Kenya, the Government supports the work of the ICRC, which has been very active in humanitarian work in the country, either directly or through the National Society, the Kenya Red Cross Society. They have played a sterling role in providing emergency assistance, as well as ameliorating challenges faced by various communities as a result of drought.

The work in Kenya undertaken by the Movement calls for the dedication of scarce resources and closer collaboration with government and other stakeholders. This would help to build resilience in the recipient communities to prevent armed conflicts and promote food security and delivery of health care. It is therefore important to develop and nurture local and international partnerships to strengthen the capacity and provision of adequate funding to National Red Cross Societies, as well as national institutions in the security and justice sectors, in support of these objectives.

Kenya is committed to respecting IHL. Looking at the current IHL system, it is our considered opinion that its compliance mechanisms are self-contained instruments and not embedded in a coherent system. The current system was specifically designed for international armed conflicts and applies, legally speaking, to those situations only. The foregoing is, however, grossly at odds with the reality of contemporary armed conflicts that are predominantly of a non-international nature. This forms the greatest challenge in IHL compliance for many States. A meeting of States parties would be a suitable forum for cooperation and for dialogue on IHL. Such meetings would be an institutional anchor for future IHL compliance and serve as a dedicated

venue for discussions on the same. However, its features, functions and reporting warrant careful consideration and reflection.

Kenya recognizes violence against women and girls as one of the most pervasive human rights violations the world over. Sexual and gender-based violence, whether in conflict situations or rape or defilement in disasters or other emergencies must be dealt with in the same manner as during non-emergency situations. Action must be taken as promptly as possible, through the lawfully established procedures, and the culprits brought to book. Every effort must be made to end impunity, protect the victims and respond to and support their needs in a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary manner. Thank you, Mr Vice-Chair.

**Mr Daniel Kull, Humanitarian and Development Attaché, World Bank Group**

*(Original English)*

I would like to congratulate the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement on its successful and critical role, in particular its dedication to serving the most vulnerable, its unparalleled reach, unflagging dedication and professionalism, and unwavering promotion of humanity through staunch defence of the Fundamental Principles and international humanitarian law.

As the world becomes more interconnected and mobile, it appears to also be becoming more fragile. Seemingly minor shocks can lead to national, regional and eventually global instability. While the spirit of the Movement and the Fundamental Principles have always and will continue to provide the moral certainty to engage, we see an emerging economic rationale that forces us to reassess our risk aversion in fragile contexts. The reality that the plight of the most vulnerable affects all of us provides a socioeconomic argument and call to action aligned with many of the Fundamental Principles.

Since 2012, the World Bank Group has committed itself to the twin goals of eliminating extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. For the first time, we are estimating that extreme poverty will fall below 10 per cent of global population. While this is good news, the remaining extreme poverty is increasingly concentrated in areas affected by conflict and hard-to-reach, marginalized populations.

Recognizing that achieving our goals will take a joint humanitarian, development and peace-building

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effort, we are pleased to be working with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, whether by setting a global agenda for change, for example through the World Humanitarian Summit, or aligning operations on the ground. For example, the World Bank Group's new strategy for the Middle East North Africa Region is built on the pillars of the "four Rs": renewing the social contract between governments and citizens; regional cooperation; resilience to and for IDPs and refugees; and recovery and reconstruction.

As we expand our work, for example on durable solutions for the forcibly displaced and their host communities and on developing social protection systems to better reach the most vulnerable, it is essential that it be rapidly scalable to respond to shocks, the local reach, contextual and local expertise and the auxiliary role to government of the Movement.

The World Bank Group therefore expresses its highest appreciation and admiration for the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and looks forward to collaborating more closely in pursuit of a shared commitment to support the most vulnerable. Thank you.

**Mr Damjan Denkovski, Human Rights Officer, Permanent Mission of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Mr Vice-Chair, at the outset, I would like to express my pleasure to be addressing this august forum on behalf of the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. We are at a very complex time, when the world is faced with one of the largest challenges in modern history. This year, the situation with the refugee and migrant crises became dramatic. The protracted and new conflicts around the world, causing enormous humanitarian emergencies, combined with development fatigue in some countries, are now the main trigger for migration waves of millions of people. Negative security developments continue to intensify displacement and massive exoduses of people, thus contributing to the increased flows of illegal migration.

On this occasion, I would also like to address the issue of violent extremism. The brutal atrocities and malicious activities of extremists around the globe have been fuelling the inflows of refugees and forced migration. Violent extremism is a direct contributor to the worsening of the situation, causing forced

displacement. We also have to remind ourselves about the Syrian conflict, which has entered its fifth year and continues to cause horrific loss of life and appalling displacement, making it one of the largest humanitarian emergencies ever. Unfortunately, this is not the only humanitarian crisis we are witnessing; yet, given its consequences, the Syrian crisis currently tops the global and regional agenda. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia plays a constructive role and makes strong efforts to manage the mixed refugee and migrant flow. All relevant national institutions are mobilized in providing help to the migrants and refugees. In cooperation with the ICRC, UNHCR, IOM and other humanitarian non-governmental organizations active on the ground, they have been doing their utmost to handle the rising inflows of refugees and treat them in the most humane and appropriate manner, respecting all international legal obligations. However, our resources and capacities are too exhausted to deal with the mass influx and address related challenges.

Despite negative trends, solidarity and generosity have been demonstrated. We are particularly grateful to the work of the National Society and the ICRC for their tireless efforts to cope with all challenges related to the crisis situation. The international community must continue to ensure a secure and stable environment. Respect for the Fundamental Principles underpinning our policies and action, in particular respect for human rights and humanitarian principles, is of utmost importance in order to ensure that displaced persons, regardless of status, have their rights respected. It is clear that we need a new approach and strategies, followed by comprehensive and coordinated actions by all stakeholders at the international and regional levels. Full respect and compliance with IHL is essential. In that regard, we support the adoption of the resolution on strengthening compliance with IHL. More importantly, the international community must urgently address the root causes of insecurity. This is a huge challenge in front of us, which has tragically been reinforced with the recent terrorist attacks. We also have to undertake more comprehensive actions against irregular migration and human trafficking. We have to redouble our efforts to bring to justice the criminals involved in illegal migration and human trafficking.

In conclusion, next year in Turkey we are going to have the first ever humanitarian summit. In view of the timely holding of this meeting, we should not miss the opportunity to forge our efforts for success in the critical importance of humanitarian affairs. Thank you.

**Mr Thierry Venty, Executive Secretary,  
National Bureau of Risk and Disaster  
Management (BNGRC), Madagascar**

*(Original French)*

Mr Vice-Chair, Madagascar takes this opportunity to encourage and support the Movement in reaffirming its fundamental values. Madagascar has participated in the consultations organized by the ICRC and Switzerland on the implementation of the resolution concerning legal protection for victims of armed conflict.

The complexity and changing nature of contemporary armed conflicts poses daunting challenges in terms of humanitarian commitments. The provisions of international humanitarian law, which seek to strike a balance between military necessity and humanitarian imperatives, need to be strengthened and adapted according to the prevailing context.

Madagascar is strongly in favour of establishing a mechanism to coordinate and facilitate the discussion of international humanitarian law. Bearing in mind the changing nature of conflicts, holding regular meetings of States on international humanitarian law is a means of improving the implementation of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

The Government of Madagascar works actively with the Red Cross to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, with a focus on risk reduction, disaster management and the protection of human dignity.

The large number of Malagasy Red Cross Society volunteers, their skills and their distribution across the entire country mean that they are key partners of the public authorities in assessing emergency situations. Madagascar adopted a law on volunteering this year.

Disaster risk reduction and resilience building are part of the commitments undertaken by the Malagasy Government at the national and international level. The focus of efforts to mitigate the global impact of disasters should be on prevention rather than emergency response. To this end, a disaster risk management law and strategy were recently adopted by Parliament. An action and implementation plan will be formulated in the near future, and the government invites all its humanitarian partners to take part in the process. Disaster prevention and response are particularly important for Madagascar. We therefore lend our full support to the resolutions submitted to this Conference. Thank you.

**H.E. Ms Carole Lanteri, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Principality of Monaco in  
Geneva**

*(Original French)*

Mr Vice-Chair, my delegation is very happy to be taking part in the work of this 32nd International Conference, which has established as its overarching theme, and deservedly so, the Movement's Fundamental Principles, which must be constantly reaffirmed and upheld.

The ten resolutions submitted to the Conference are particularly relevant and come in response to the pressing need to restore respect for the humanitarian space, which is being continually breached.

The reduction of the humanitarian space makes the situation of civilians and humanitarian workers increasingly dangerous. In view of this, I pledge our unstinting support for the resolutions on Health Care in Danger and on sexual and gender-based violence. In both cases, victims must be guaranteed safe access to proper health care not only in armed conflicts, but also in disaster situations and other emergencies.

Among the items on the agenda, the Principality of Monaco attaches special importance to compliance with international humanitarian law. At the 31st International Conference, we all agreed that monitoring compliance with this body of law remains one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges, and we all pledged to find ways to strengthen compliance. The Principality of Monaco has been fully involved in the consultations carried out on this subject over the past four years.

In this regard, I would like to commend the excellent work carried out by Switzerland and the ICRC as co-facilitators of this process and thank them for their report, which accurately reflects the substance of our exchanges and the considerable progress we made in the course of the nine meetings held.

It is now up to us to ensure that this work bears fruit. My country hopes that the Conference will take this opportunity to establish a forum of States, which will serve as a crucible of constructive, non-politicized, open and voluntary dialogue on the challenges relating to compliance with international humanitarian law.

We would have preferred much stronger wording, but we understand that what we have there was still under discussion and the result of compromise. We

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hope that the text can be adopted by consensus, so that this tool is finally in place for us to use.

We believe that it is a duty we have towards victims in particular.

Although we are now coming to the end of our work here, I would like to assure you of the support of the Principality of Monaco for the successful completion of the work of the Conference. Thank you.

**H.E. Ms Saja Majali, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative, Permanent  
Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of  
Jordan in Geneva**

*(Original Arabic)*

Mr Vice-Chair, ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies, I would like to thank the Swiss Federal Government for sponsoring this Conference and for promoting IHL. We also extend our thanks to the IFRC and ICRC for their outstanding efforts and pioneering humanitarian role, which is highly esteemed by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The slogan of the 32nd International Conference is “The Power of Humanity” at a time when the global humanitarian situation is at its most difficult, when humanity is in dire need of this power, due to prevailing tragedies and challenges, the lack of peace and security in many parts of the world suffering from unrest, crises and conflicts which deprive them and their peoples of stability and prosperity. As now more than ever before, in such difficult global conditions, we need to ponder and agree on the most effective ways to address humanitarian challenges and to reach appropriate solutions, the topics listed on the Conference agenda, whether in the plenary sessions, the committee meetings or within the framework of the Humanitarian Dialogue – Vision Lab, are highly crucial. Deliberations on such topics will undoubtedly contribute to enhancing both respect for and compliance with IHL and common humanitarian action supported by Jordan.

As we hold our Conference while the Syrian crisis approaches its fifth year, with continued and escalated violence, destruction, displacement, terrorism and insecurity imposing a harsh exodus on millions of Syrians, Jordan continues to provide a safe haven to refugees fleeing the violence in the region. We are currently hosting 1.4 million Syrians, the equivalent of 20% of the population, making Jordan the second largest host of refugees in the world

compared to its population. Jordan has taken upon itself, since the beginning of the violence, a sizeable part of the burden of this humanitarian disaster on behalf of the international community. It is however incumbent upon the world to find solutions to this disaster and provide relief to the millions of refugees in the Middle East.

In this context, Jordan stresses that the international community needs to collectively cope with this unprecedented humanitarian crisis and to support host countries which bear a huge burden in receiving refugees. Jordan seizes the opportunity to express deep gratitude to all Movement representatives for their efforts. Thank you.

**Baroness Joyce Anelay, Minister of State  
of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office,  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland**

*(Original English)*

Mr Vice-Chair, I would like to begin by paying tribute to the courage and dedication of all those in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The British Government is extremely grateful for the extraordinary contribution they make, under the most difficult of circumstances, in alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable, particularly in armed conflict. Their vital work complements that of States, as we work to build and maintain peace around the world.

We in the United Kingdom are clear that international humanitarian law remains the most effective framework for regulating armed conflicts. That is even more the case as the nature of war changes, as we see new tactics emerge and new groups take part. Tragically, the laws of war are being increasingly ignored by State and non-State groups alike. Therefore, the need for an effective system to minimize the damage of war is greater today than it has ever been.

My message today is that we already have that effective system. What we need is not new laws, but better implementation of, and better compliance with, the existing framework. If everyone complied, international humanitarian law would prevent harm to civilians, just as it was designed to do, and that is the immediate challenge.

However, it is also remarkable that, unlike other bodies of law, there are no dedicated fora where States can



discuss international humanitarian law, where they can meet and take stock of its developments and challenges. While the Human Rights Council has a wealth of expertise to discuss matters of human rights law, it sometimes lacks expertise on international humanitarian law. This has led to confusion and conflation of the two, undermining their integrity and implementation. That is why the United Kingdom has actively participated in the four-year consultation process to establish a new meeting of States, dedicated to international humanitarian law. The United Kingdom strongly believes that this new forum should become the primary focus for all future discussions of international humanitarian law amongst States. This is essential to ensure that these two important areas of international law remain valid and relevant.

To conclude, we remain convinced that international humanitarian law remains the most effective way to protect innocent civilians from the devastating impact of armed conflict and, whilst during the course of the negotiations at this Conference over Resolution 2 on IHL compliance there were divergent views, of course, we do hope that, despite those divergent views expressed during this Conference, States can continue discussions on this important matter to ensure a new meeting of States can be established along acceptable lines. The United Kingdom remains fully committed to international humanitarian law, to ensure that it is enforced and its principles are protected. Thank you.

**Mr Michael Adamson, Chief Executive,  
British Red Cross Society**

*(Original English)*

Thank you, Mr Vice-Chair, for the opportunity to address the Conference. The British Red Cross welcomes the theme and emphasis on the Movement's Fundamental Principles. These principles continue to provide the framework and inspiration for humanitarian action and for our efforts to respond to people in need, but we need to walk the talk consistently and continuously. Actions speak louder than words. Neutrality is one of the Movement's defining features and, combined with our special role in international humanitarian law, this provides us with a distinct voice and credibility to support the significant efforts to establish improved IHL compliance mechanisms.

States have the primary role in the implementation and development of IHL, and we share the view held by many that the absence of a dedicated platform for

regular dialogue and cooperation among governments on IHL issues is a significant gap. We urge all members of this International Conference to take advantage of this historic opportunity to establish a voluntary meeting of States on international humanitarian law. Such a forum will serve to improve the protection of those affected by armed conflicts. We especially encourage States to consider involving their National Societies, in their special auxiliary and IHL roles, to support their work on improving compliance.

We also believe that the compliance initiative and the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent should be complementary and mutually supportive meetings, and support for the compliance initiative is a demonstration of the Movement working together and with governments to find practical ways to fulfil its humanitarian mission. In meeting our shared responsibilities, the Movement must both be an effective national humanitarian actor and keep improving the efficiency and timeliness of our response in large-scale emergencies.

The Movement's coordination and cooperation is based on a well-established regulatory framework. The Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance is the most recent example. But, just as with IHL, the challenge is not the quality or relevance of the rules, but rather the will to observe them. We must show that will. We are confident that our operational effectiveness can be strengthened by stronger cooperation between Movement components, but to be effective, the framework needs to be better known, and collaboration needs to occur at all times, not just in times of crisis, and we will play our part in this. Governments can help the Movement achieve these aims.

National Societies are the backbone of the Movement, and States can support them as national humanitarian actors and auxiliaries. Governments can do this both within their own countries and, as appropriate, regionally and internationally. The British Red Cross, while keeping its autonomy in line with the Fundamental Principles, is fortunate to have a balanced partnership with our own Government, and we are working together to strengthen the collective impact of the Movement.

Mr Vice-Chair, trust, mutual understanding and respect are the foundations of coordination and cooperation. They are also the basis of productive collaboration among all States and peoples. The Movement's steadfast respect for the Fundamental Principles and support for all this is more than vital today.

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**Ms Thet Thinzar Tun, First Secretary,  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the  
Union of Myanmar in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Mr Vice-Chair, first of all, my delegation would like to thank the ICRC and the IFRC for their endeavours around the world and also for providing assistance to Myanmar in the past, as well as at the present time.

It has come to our attention that there is no clear answer as yet with regard to the question of whether the International Conference has the legal authority to decide the establishment of the future meetings of States. Therefore, it seems that the trust of the many member States in the resolution on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law is undermined from the very beginning. We believe that any outcome adopted by this Conference should respect the sovereignty of the States concerned. The States should always remain in the driving seat in all aspects.

We would like to observe that, in the draft resolutions, some issues are related to national sovereignties, security, solidarity, harmony and peaceful coexistence of the people in the States concerned.

Finally, my delegation would like to register our view that the elements that are contained in the outcome documents are voluntary and legally non-binding; they are to be considered and undertaken with the discretion of the sovereign States. I thank you, Mr Vice-Chair.

**Ms Delia Margaret Chatoor, Director,  
International Relations, Trinidad and Tobago  
Red Cross Society**

*(Original English)*

Fifty years ago, our Movement took the bold step to adopt its seven Fundamental Principles. These have served us well and enhanced our position in the humanitarian field.

At the 50th anniversary commemoration event in Vienna, there was much introspection and what emerged was a realistic approach which examined where we, as a Movement, should be heading to insure that the Fundamental Principles remain relevant.

Even as we see in certain circumstances, the Fundamental Principles are “under pressure”, we must

believe in them, and ensure that they are clearly understood with detailed explanations. Our volunteers and stakeholders must recognize that through an appreciation of them, we are better positioned to help those who turn to us for succour and comfort.

In an era where there are many more non-traditional conflicts, increased natural disasters and many more actors, the reality is a complex one. It must, therefore, be better co-ordination with all, and other actors must acknowledge and absorb our Fundamental Principles as well as our values.

We have learnt much through our own programmes but also through our role as auxiliary to the public authorities. This relationship must be unambiguous. Even though there may be pressures there must be resisted. Dialogue should be the order of the day.

In this regard it is to be noted that the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society has enjoyed a cordial relationship with its public authorities and has been seen as an active collaborator in various social programmes. This is indeed tangible evidence of the auxiliary role and the Fundamental Principles in action.

Additionally, as a member of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and from a small island developing state, we are committed to general and complete disarmament and a peaceful world, one without nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We, therefore, see the application of all of the Fundamental Principles and in particular that of humanity, as extremely relevant. There are also emerging challenges, such as migration and the impact of climate change which we must be addressed in order to secure a future for the next generation.

This is our vision and we are confident that it is one that is achievable.

**Dr Tha Hla Shwe, Vice-Chair of the  
Conference**

*(Original English)*

Thank you, Madam, and let me congratulate you on being the shortest intervention that we have seen this morning. Thank you so much. We have now completed the list of registered speakers. Thank you so much for coming and listening to their presentations; we will now adjourn the meeting. Thank you.

## 4.12 CLOSING PLENARY MEETING

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### Thursday, 10 December 2015

(2.45 p.m.)

#### Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference

(Original English)

Welcome to the last plenary session of the 32nd International Conference. We will now proceed with the election of the Standing Commission. I give the floor to Ambassador Lang to explain to you how the whole procedure will be carried out.

#### 4.12.1 Standing Commission elections

##### H.E. Mr Nicolas Lang, Secretary-General of the Conference

(Original French) (explains the voting procedure)

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Ladies and gentlemen,

For the election of the new members of the Standing Commission, we will proceed with the electronic roll call to determine the absolute majority required in the first round of voting. Volunteers are distributing or have distributed keypads for this purpose. Does everyone have a keypad? Please raise your hand if you do not have one, so that a volunteer can bring one to you.

As you doubtless know, the voting to elect the new members of the Standing Commission will be done electronically. Please make sure that you have your user name and password ready.

If you do not have your voting card or your user name or password, please make your way immediately to the person in charge of this, who is over on the left-hand side of the room.

With regard to the voting procedure, if five or more candidates obtain an absolute majority after the first round of voting, the five with the highest number of votes will be elected to the Standing Commission. If not all the seats are filled, we will proceed to a second round of voting, after which the candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected. As we must elect five members to the Standing Commission, you can only choose five names.

Please bear in mind, when you vote, that it is important to have a balanced geographical and gender representation.

Before beginning the roll call, I am going to read the names of the ten candidates standing for election in alphabetical order, indicating the region they belong to.

- Mr Ahmed Algomaly, Yemen – Asia-Pacific
- Dr Mohamed Al-Hadid, Jordan – Asia-Pacific
- Dr Massimo Barra, Italy – Europe
- Mr Chrystold Chetty, Seychelles – Africa
- Ms Eva von Oelreich, Sweden – Europe
- Mr Ibrahim Osman, Sudan – Africa
- Mr José Benjamin Ruiz Rodas, El Salvador – Americas
- Ms Fine Tu'itupou-Arnold, Cook Islands – Asia-Pacific
- Mr Greg Vickery, Australia – Asia-Pacific
- Mr George Weber, Canada – Americas

We will now proceed with the roll call of National Societies, States party to the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC and the International Federation. We will start with the National Societies. Will the National Societies please insert their voting card in the keypad and press button 1 to confirm attendance. You will see the National Societies present on the screen at the front.

Will the States party to the Geneva Conventions now please insert their voting card in the keypad and press button 1 to confirm attendance. You will see the States party to the Geneva Conventions present on the screen at the front.

Lastly, will the ICRC and the International Federation please insert their voting card in the keypad and press button 1 to confirm attendance.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The roll call has now been completed. There are 177 National Societies, 162 States party to the Geneva Conventions and the ICRC and the International Federation represented here today, making a total of 341 voters. The absolute majority is therefore 171 votes.

You will vote for the new members of the Standing Commission using your smartphone, tablet or laptop. If you do not have access to any such device, we have tablets available for you at the election stands located on each level on either side of the room.

You can now vote by accessing the secure platform and entering your user name and password. I would remind you that you can choose up to a maximum of five candidates.

As a large number of voters will be accessing the system at the same time, it may take a little time to record your choices.

The voting session, which will last 15 minutes, is now open. It can be extended, if need be, by a few minutes.

#### **H.E. Mr Nicolas Lang, Secretary-General of the Conference**

*(Original French) (closes the first ballot)*

The vote has now finished. The results will be announced in about twenty minutes. In the meantime, I give the floor to the Chair.

#### **4.12.2 Follow up items**

- Report on the implementation of 4-year Action Plan for the implementation of international humanitarian law

- Report on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding of 28 November 2005 between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in Israel

#### **Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Thank you, Ambassador Lang. Let me now turn to the progress report on the four-year action plan for the implementation of IHL. I would like to acknowledge the Report on the implementation of the four-year action plan for the implementation of IHL. The Conference takes note of this report on the record. [Applause]

Thank you. I would like to acknowledge the report of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the Magen David Adom (MDA) in Israel. This report was placed in your pigeon holes yesterday and copies are available on your desk today. On behalf of the Movement and government delegates, I would like to extend sincere words of appreciation to Minister Pär Stenbäck and to Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid – members of the Standing Commission – for the report and for their constructive engagement with the PRCS and the MDA in Israel. I invite Ambassador Marta Maurás, one of the Vice-Chairs of this Conference, to present the resolution on “Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in Israel”.

#### **H.E. Ms Marta Maurás, Vice-Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, delegates to the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, ladies and gentlemen. As Vice-Chair of this Conference, I have the pleasure of introducing the resolution on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in

Israel. I am pleased to inform you that the Council of Delegates of the Red Cross and Red Crescent meeting on 7 December adopted by consensus a resolution on the MoU. Let me share a few words on the process.

The MoU resolution placed in your pigeon-holes yesterday and on your table this afternoon was drafted by a working group composed of National Societies and the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization and facilitated by the ICRC and the IFRC. The group initiated its work during the IFRC General Assembly two days prior to the meeting of the Council. I would like to acknowledge and thank Dr Moamena Kamel, Secretary General of the Egyptian Red Crescent, for having chaired the working group. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Bahrain, Colombia, Egypt, Guyana, Kenya, Norway, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The resolution reproduces, in its entirety, the text of the resolution adopted earlier this week at the Council of Delegates. The members of the working group were motivated to draft a resolution that is representative of the views of Movement members, the Fundamental Principles that guide National Societies in their work and the responsibility felt towards the wider Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In the course of its drafting work, the working group heard from Minister Pär Stenbäck and Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid on the results of their monitoring of the implementation of the MoU. The working group also heard from Dr Noam Yifrach, Chairman of the Magen David Adom in Israel, and Dr Younis Al-Khatib, President of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. It was important to the working group that both the MDA and the PRCS were associated with the drafting process and agreed on the resolution and the modalities for the next steps, described therein. I am happy to report that this was achieved.

I would like to recognize the fact that the two National Societies have shown a solid commitment to continue providing help to Israelis and to Palestinians, as they always have done, with impartiality, professionalism and without hesitation. This resolution before you recognizes the challenges attached to the implementation of the MoU and reaffirms the commitment of all parties, inspired by the humanitarian imperative to save lives and preserve human dignity.

Delegates of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and governments, ladies and gentlemen, Madam Chair, thank you.

### **Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Thank you, Ambassador. As the Chair of the Conference and on behalf of the Bureau, let me express our appreciation of the efforts undertaken by all parties to achieve agreement on this very important item on the agenda. I will make sure that this acknowledgement is reflected in the proceedings of the International Conference. After a wide consultation, we have in front of us a draft resolution that is the result of a consensus, and I propose that we adopt it by acclamation. [Applause] I thank you all very much for your support.

### **H.E. Mr Hussam Edin Aala, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic in Geneva**

*(Original Arabic)*

The resolution, which has just been adopted, has not been made available to the State delegations before this meeting. Thus it has not undergone a consultation process among States. Given the fact that it contains sensitive political and legal aspects that would have required more time to be studied thoroughly and adequately, we would like to place on record our reservations on this resolution. Thank you.

### **H.E. Dr Mohsen Naziri Asl, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Thank you so much, Madam Chair, and thank you for all your efforts. I also thank the Vice-Chair for her report. Madam Chair, as has been said by our distinguished Ambassador of Syria, we have certain reservations to some parts of this MoU, which we will duly reflect to this Conference in due time. At this juncture, we would therefore like to register our

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reservations to some parts of this document that has been distributed to the Conference. Thank you.

### **Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Both reservations have been noted. I just wanted to assure you of that. As we have to wait for the result of the vote, we will proceed with our work. We will now report on the work of the Conference. I invite the Rapporteur of the Conference, Ambassador Saja Majali, to report on the work of the Conference.

#### **4.12.3 Report on the work of the 32nd International Conference**

##### **H.E. Ms Saja Majali, Rapporteur of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Thank you, Madam Chair. Commissioner, fellow delegates, ladies and gentlemen, friends of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, it gives me great pleasure to present this report on the 32nd International Conference to the plenary. This has been an exceptional Conference – exciting, extremely relevant in its choice of topics and full of energy. The Conference has also had a new format, with many more things happening at the same time and a more informal atmosphere to some of the proceedings. We have also had new guests with us throughout, including people from the UN, non-governmental organizations, business, academia and the media. The great majority of people with whom I have spoken have enjoyed the new format.

As always, friendship and internationalism have been at the heart of it all. It is very challenging to do justice to the wide range of topics and different points of view in a brief statement. Nevertheless, I will humbly try to capture the process, spirit and key points of discussions. This report details, in brief, the overall choreography of the Conference, the plenary sessions, the five commissions, side events, the Drafting Committee, the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab, and the general debate.

I imagine that all of you had the same sense that I did of the sheer number of people committed to engaging and shaping the discussions, a registered total of

2,284 delegates, which included 169 Governments, 185 National Societies and 101 observers. I cannot enter into substance, but I recommend that you consult the full written reports, which will be made available after the Conference, and use them as a basis for future discussions and follow-up.

Our Conference was opened on Tuesday by the Chair of the Standing Commission. The overarching theme of the Conference was the Fundamental Principles in Action. Next were the volunteer awards. These strongly demonstrated our principles in action. The tireless work of volunteers from the Red Cross Societies of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone involved in the Ebola response was recognized by a special humanitarian award. The President of the Swiss Confederation then gave a powerful address on the legacy of Solferino, placing the 32nd International Conference firmly within this 150 year history. For many of our peers from now on, every time we look out of our windows, we will never see the world in the same way.

Then, we attended to procedure. The Conference officers were elected upon the nominations made by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, followed by a presentation on the organization of the work to come. The elected Chair of the 32nd International Conference, Ms Fatima Gailani, gave remarks on behalf of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and keynote addresses by the President of the IFRC and the President of the ICRC were followed by three special messages of support delivered via video link. Each of these speeches made clear that the times in which we live require Conference members to redouble efforts to resolve issues of humanitarian concern.

We then had a panel debate on the power of humanity moderated by Hala Gorani of CNN. This explored the concept of humanity from different perspectives. Each participant reaffirmed the principles that drive humanitarian action, recognizing that different actors contribute to our shared humanity by playing different roles and responsibilities and treating each other with mutual respect and complementarity.

A special plenary session called “Focus on Migration” put the spotlight on our shared humanitarian concerns for the situation of vulnerable migrants throughout migration routes. Testimony was given in videos and evocative statements from six diverse panel members, chaired by Madam Gailani, who herself added a moving personal tone. Conference members were invited to take note of the progress report on the implementation of Resolution 3 of the

31st International Conference. Other speakers were encouraged to give their input via statements in the general debate.

Let me now move on to the main body of this report: the work of the five commissions, which functioned as thematic workshops. All the commissions were extremely well-attended, and the guiding questions provoked lively debate on the central themes. One main point was made by all commissions, which I would like to raise before entering into the substance of each commission. There is a real need for members of this Conference to work in partnership, both with the Red Cross and Red Crescent and with external actors, to address issues of humanitarian concern. No single organization or sector can meet these challenges on their own. The commission rapporteurs will consolidate the final reports for the commissions within the next two weeks, and then these will be available on the Conference website.

Let me now move on to Commission A: “The Fundamental Principles in Action”. The commission reaffirmed the continued relevance of the Fundamental Principles for effective humanitarian action, including the safety of volunteers and staff. Tailoring the principles to every situation is crucial and requires a careful analysis of the context. Consistency, perseverance, courage and creativity were mentioned as key attributes to putting the principles into action. The principles have a universal appeal and influence that extends beyond the Movement, including to local and international organizations alike, who have adopted the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

Yet participants pointed out that there is still a gap between rhetoric and practice, which at times fuels suspicion, hence the importance of demonstrating the principles through our actions and having a nuanced understanding of their operational utility. Embedding these principles in institutional culture is important, and participants also emphasized the importance of internalizing the principles in the personal values and behaviours of leaders, staff and volunteers. Every humanitarian worker needs a principled disposition that guides her or him at every moment.

Participants welcomed the opportunity to share experiences and examples of good practice by Movement components. This included dissemination to internal and external audiences, humanitarian education programmes and initiatives such as the safer access framework and agents of behavioural change. It was emphasized that States play a key role

in ensuring respect for the Fundamental Principles and creating a conducive environment for National Societies to carry out their auxiliary role in the humanitarian field. Some States pointed out that a healthy tension can and should exist between National Societies and governments, in which they can agree to disagree, keeping the Fundamental Principles in mind. Constant dialogue is vital. The Chair of the Commission encouraged participants to seize this opportunity to take concrete steps to strengthen the application of respect for the principles by considering proposing pledges.

Commission B: “Contemporary Challenges in International Humanitarian Law”. This commission discussed the contemporary challenges in IHL and how to address them. It served as an interactive forum for the participants of the International Conference. There was broad agreement on the challenges as identified in the concept note and the ICRC’s report on international humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts. Among the main challenges discussed were the increasing complexity of armed conflicts, notably due to the proliferation and fragmentation of non-State armed groups, the expanding geographical scope of the battlefield, the interplay between IHL and international human rights law and generating respect for international humanitarian law.

The importance of ensuring the protection of humanitarian actors was discussed. The need to ensure respect for and compliance with IHL was seen by many as the main challenge in contemporary armed conflicts. Other important issues identified were challenges posed by urban warfare, including the practice of some parties of deliberately hiding among the civilian population, and the humanitarian impact of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The commission also touched upon a number of other IHL challenges, and participants exchanged information on their own experiences and actions to promote international humanitarian law.

Commission C: “Action and prevention on the response to sexual and gender-based violence”. The Chair drew out the following points from this commission: It has taken time to develop a sense of proactivity with regards to prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict and in natural disasters. Victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence are still hidden and face bias when speaking up about violations. Due to existing taboos, culture and tradition, a lack of outcomes was reported. This applies to women

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and girls, but also to boys and men of different ages and backgrounds.

Important practical solutions were discussed, including the need to ensure free access to legal aid for victims, financial support and physical structures to receive victims and provide care, as well as simplified legal procedures with compensation laws. Ensuring that civil society can represent or replace victims before tribunals and reinforcing the complementarity and collaboration between different international and national actors with a common plan of action were also noted as key. The importance of better coordinating and collaborating within the Movement, as well as together with States and international, regional and national organizations was duly noted. Additionally, the participants urged practical steps by domestic disaster management authorities and local actors, including National Societies, on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in disasters. This includes disaster law and regulatory policies, as well as ensuring continuity of health and policing services in the aftermath of disasters.

Commission D: “Health Care in Danger: Continuing to protect the delivery of health care together”. The two commissions more than reinforced that the issue is still of major humanitarian concern. A number of moving interventions spoke of the deaths of health-care staff and volunteers, as striking examples of the urgency of the issue, and of the need for all parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian law. While significant progress has been made since the last International Conference, speakers made a concerted call for further action, particularly at the local level and by all stakeholders, including States, Movement components, health-care organizations, armed actors, community leaders and civil society.

A total of 37 interventions spoke powerfully of a wide range of measures that are being undertaken or planned. Many of these are now at the heart of pledges coming out of this very Conference. Major points from this commission addressed prevention, community ownership and response. Providing high quality health services is an important factor in ensuring safety. Gender diversity and cultural awareness need to be better understood and considered, as they have an impact on access to and provision of health care. Everyone stressed the importance of adhering to the Fundamental Principles and of health-care personnel adhering to the ethical principles of health care, equally applicable in times of peace and in times of conflict. This is also powerful in making things public, in having good data collection, and in having observations or other mechanisms to monitor attacks

on health care, so that proper responses can be put in place.

Speakers emphasized the urgency of the demand for safe access to health care, and it is a call for all of us, the poor and rich nations, those who live in conflict and those who are fortunate to live in peace. We all have a role to play. There is no one solution that fits all contexts or issues; the interventions showed that the most effective measures are those that are locally adapted. The challenge ahead is to move from a community of concern to a community of action.

Commission E: “Building Resilience by Scaling Up Local Action and Strengthening Legal Frameworks”. The Chair led a lively discussion on a range of resilience issues and presented an open invitation to join the One Billion Coalition for Resilience, which is committed to building the resilience of people in communities in line with the post-2015 agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals and the outcomes of Paris COP21 and the World Humanitarian Summit. By 2025, this new initiative aims to engage and inspire one billion vulnerable people in high, middle and low income countries to take active steps to enhance their resilience. Participants in the session welcomed the One Billion Coalition for Resilience initiative and agreed to work together to engage not only the Red Cross and Red Crescent, but also governments, the United Nations, civil society, the private sector and academia in creating a world where people in every community can survive and thrive in the face of increasing risks and vulnerability.

Session 2 of the commission focused on the progress achieved by States, with the support of relevant stakeholders, such as the IFRC, the UNDP and the Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies, in strengthening legal frameworks for disasters and emergencies and identified further opportunities. Three main topics were discussed by the panellists. First, the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and the implementation of international disaster response law guidelines. Second, the role of domestic law in promoting disaster risk reduction, particularly with regard to relevant commitments in the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, and the relevance of international instruments such as the Check List on the Law and Disaster Risk Reduction and its handbook, developed to support States in assessing and strengthening their domestic law. Third, findings about gaps in domestic law related to the promotion of training and delivery of first aid by lay persons. Participants were asked for their views on how to measure and rate global



progress in these topics and what to expect from States and National Societies in the next four years.

The scale and dynamism of this Conference were impressive. Thirty-five side events supplemented the official proceedings of the Conference, providing opportunities for further discussion and reflection on critical humanitarian issues related to the Conference themes and objectives. To further complement the inspiration, the humanitarian village on the ground floor had several interactive exhibitions and stands, and participants could learn how humanitarian action is being conducted around the world and from the direct testimonies given by volunteers.

I will not actually report back to you on the reporting of the Drafting Committee itself, as this will be handled in a separate report. By midday today, 137 pledges had been received. Of these, 86 are specific pledges, and 51 open pledges. Pledges can be submitted until March 2016, and I would like to use this opportunity to encourage you all here to sign as many pledges as you can.

The humanitarian dialogue sessions gave participants the opportunity to discuss current and future humanitarian challenges and to work towards collaborative solutions. Drawing on input from vulnerable populations, staff, volunteers and policy makers under the Voices to Action initiative, people looked at disaster risk and climate change, risk in urban settings, community-centred resilient health systems, migration and insecure environments.

Two work streams ran continuously during the Conference. During the Vision Lab, a select group of participants took a longer-term view of humanitarian action and the Red Cross and Red Crescent's distinctive modes of operation. The thematic sessions attracted great interest. The general debate, which ran throughout the three days, was very well attended. One hundred and seventy-nine speakers signed up to make a statement, which will be included in the official records of this Conference. This year, the Conference has also drawn the attention of the media, who have been very interested in the substance we have been addressing. The hashtag "#powerofhumanity" drew attention on social media and brought some of the debate to a wider audience.

I would like to end by thanking you all, the officers of the Conference, the different chairs of the commissions, panellists, the delegates, and, of course, the volunteers. Each one of you has worked so hard organizing, leading and participating in the commissions, committees, side events and

receptions. Thank you. Every one of you has brought great personal energy, commitment, and expertise to make this Conference so impressive. I would like to thank the rapporteurs from each commission for their comprehensive written reports. Finally, I think we must all acknowledge the extraordinary hard work and patience of those involved and engaged in the Drafting Committee.

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed delegates and friends, I trust that you found all these sessions as informative and as engaging as I did. I would like to leave echoing the powerful and simple message expressed by our Conference Chair: "What we do alone is not as important as what we do together". And I would like to add that, with the power of humanity, everything is possible. Thank you.

#### **4.12.4 Results of the Standing Commission elections**

**Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Thank you very much, Ambassador Majali. Before moving on to the rest of the report, we have here the results of the elections. The number of delegations present: 341; absolute majority: 171. George Weber: 229; Eva von Oelreich: 224; Chrystold Chetty: 176; Greg Vickery: 175; Massimo Barra: 172. Our congratulations to all of you. There is therefore no need for a second round of voting, and we can resume the reports of the reports. I now invite the Chair of the collaborative workspace, Ms Ashanta Osborne, to report on the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab.

#### **4.12.5 Report on the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab**

**Ms Ashanta Osborne-Moses, Chair of the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Ladies and gentlemen, today I am going to tell you a story about how we, the humanitarian community, can become as expert in accountability as we are in building water pumps. Holding each other

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accountable means taking risks, facing fear and being bold and open with each other. Today, I am here to take a risk in openly and honestly sharing with you our voices. They are the voices of almost 200 people who have spent the last three days in the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab exploring a new collaborative way of thinking, but also the voices of more than 7,000 people in the Voices to Action initiative. We have given our time, opinion, feedback and aspirations to try collectively to connect the discussions taking place at the Conference to the reality on the ground. In that space, we dare to dream, we dare to explore, challenge and disagree as people on what changes we need to make to be more impactful as humanitarian actors. I can assure you that these conversations made us uncomfortable at times and caused us to question the influence of our values on the way we work and interact in the humanitarian space.

In this laboratory of voices, from a princess to a volunteer, from a Secretary General to UN and government representatives, we identified key elements that have to inspire our actions. Our accountability to communities should be guided by the extent to which we respond to their needs and the honesty with which this is done. Dignity comes from the conversations and dialogue with communities. As humanitarian actors, what are the filters we use when listening to communities? Are we listening to learn? Or do we listen to validate what we have already decided? How do we learn to listen better? Do we ask the right questions? How do we do this systematically? Are we ready to accept that the next humanitarian kit might not be a hygiene kit and may very well be a smart phone? We have choices. Either we evolve as a humanitarian community and truly listen to the needs of the people, or we become irrelevant. Communities' voices give us the power and the legitimacy to transform the humanitarian agenda.

Let us talk about power then. What is our distinctive power? Do we have the power we need as humanitarian actors to influence the bigger decision makers? We need to be empowered to drive the humanitarian agenda. As humanitarian actors, our

power today is about influencing decision-making about our collective future, informed by the voices of the communities. In order to do this, we need to turn our values into actions and not hide behind them. We need to engage new, and sometimes unpopular, stakeholders. We need to have uncomfortable conversations, we need to step into unfamiliar territory. Being accountable means using our power to influence, as a humanitarian community, the decisions that are made on the lives and livelihoods of people.

Over the last three days, we have defined our collective obligations towards humanity for the next four years. We will soon pass eight resolutions. This begs the question: what is our collective accountability to the people for the decisions we have adopted or will adopt in these spaces as a humanitarian community? Who is accountable to whom? What is the point of spending so many hours negotiating a text, spending time debating the substance and context, if we have no mechanism for ensuring that these promises will be delivered where it really matters? There are things we can easily do, but are not doing. We need to explore why. How do we follow up to support compliance, to conduct 360-degree monitoring? Ultimately, this is about fulfilling our collective obligations and being accountable to the people we serve. We have started a humanitarian dialogue, having new and different conversations about old challenges. This is about changing the way we do things, rather than focusing only on what we do. We have to continue this humanitarian dialogue and turn it into concrete and innovative actions to address the challenges. Thank you.

### **Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Thank you very much, Ashanta. Now, I invite Ambassador Staur to report on the work of the Drafting Committee.

## 4.12.6 Report of the Drafting Committee

### H.E. Mr Carsten Staur, Chair of the Drafting Committee of the Conference

*(Original English)*

Madam Chair, it is my great pleasure to report to the plenary of the 32nd International Conference on the work of the Drafting Committee. I have to say that the work of the committee has, as always, been undertaken in a very collective way, and I am thankful to all the delegations for their cooperation. I owe a special thanks to those who agreed to facilitate the negotiation on outstanding issues, especially to Ambassador Carole Lanteri of Monaco and Chief Legal Advisor Liesbeth Lijnzaad of the Netherlands, who did invaluable work during the discussions within the Drafting Committee. Before the convening of the Conference, both the ICRC and the IFRC launched open-ended consultations, first on elements and later on drafts and final drafts of the various resolutions. The openness and transparency of these processes, led by the ICRC and the IFRC, was a great basis for our deliberations.

Madam Chair, the Drafting Committee was tasked to reach consensus on nine resolutions, and those we have before us today. They are, as you will recall from the material you have in front of you, as diverse as Health Care in Danger, the Movement, disaster law, a resolution on volunteers, on sexual and gender-based violence, a small resolution on the dissolution of a small fund, another very important resolution on detention, a short resolution on the power of humanity and, finally, a resolution on compliance with IHL. All the resolutions have been adopted by the committee by consensus, the last probably only a little more than two hours ago. For that reason, there will be a need, after you adopt these resolutions, to correct editorially some of the mistakes that you will see both in the English version and in the various language versions. We hope that you accept that this kind of operation will have to take place afterwards.

The time pressure in the Drafting Committee has been considerable. As I already informed the Drafting Committee, the nine resolutions that we have adopted contain almost 240 paragraphs. That is basically the adoption of a new paragraph around every 11 minutes during the 45 hours that the committee was in session. Of all the nine resolutions, the most important may turn out to be the one on compliance; it was also the most difficult resolution to negotiate.

The resolution is both a continuation and a new beginning. It is a continuation because Switzerland in cooperation with the ICRC will continue to facilitate the process. It is a new beginning because of the challenges of the next four years, until the 33rd International Conference, to build on this and to move forward.

Madam Chair, I have the pleasure of presenting to you the nine resolutions for adoption by consensus. Thank you.

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## 4.12.7 Adoption of resolutions

### Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference

*(Original English)*

Thank you, Ambassador. I just wanted to thank everyone for giving the reports and to thank the Ambassadors. Before going on to the adoption of the resolutions, there are a few mistakes and in Arabic – there is some text missing. All this is going to be corrected. In resolution 2 in Arabic, the last two sentences are missing, and they are going to be added. There are also a few mistakes in the translation, which are going to be corrected. Now, I invite you all to adopt the resolutions by strong acclamation.

*[Applause]*

The bulk of the work has been completed. The resolutions have been adopted, and it is now time for the panel debate. Ashanta will take over from me.

Azerbaijan has asked for the floor.

### Mr Elchin Guliyev, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Geneva

*(Original English)*

Thank you, Madam Chair, for giving me the floor. Azerbaijan commends the adoption of all the resolutions by consensus, and with regard to the resolution on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law and the resolution on strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty, we join the consensus with the following position: the Republic of Azerbaijan disassociates itself from any provisions of this resolution which could entail an incorporation with non-State actors of armed conflict. At the same time, we kindly request that the national position of the Republic of Azerbaijan be included in the official records of the meeting. Thank you.

### Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference

*(Original English)*

Thank you. It is duly noted.

Syria would also like to take the floor.

### H.E. Mr Hussam Edin Aala, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic in Geneva

*(Original Arabic)*

Madam Chair, since we have reached the stage of elucidating State positions regarding the endorsement of resolutions that have been just adopted, please allow us to explain our position with respect to the resolution entitled "Strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty".

The delegation of my country would like to thank the ICRC for the great efforts it has made in an attempt to bring together different viewpoints in order to reach consensus on the draft resolution. My delegation has been actively involved in all the deliberations and consultations on the said resolution, and we stressed at an early stage of the discussions that the text of Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference does not distinguish between international and non-international armed conflicts. Thus, the follow-up to the implementation of this resolution should not be characterized by selectivity. Consequently, my delegation joins the consensus on the proposed draft resolution on the basis that the distinction contained in some paragraphs will not in any way be construed to mean a derogation from the importance of addressing the protection of detainees in international and non-international armed conflicts on an equal footing.

We hope our position is placed on record in the minutes of the meeting. Thank you.

### Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference

*(Original English)*

Thank you very much. It is also noted.

## 4.13

# HIGH LEVEL PANEL DEBATE ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE CONFERENCE

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### **Ms Ashanta Osborne-Moses, Chair of the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab of the Conference, moderator of the high level panel debate on the outcomes of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

Welcome to the closing panel of the 32nd International Conference “Committed to our Shared Humanity”. We hope to gather all the threads of our negotiations and outcomes from the past few days, as we consider how to take home the commitments made here and turn them into reality. Throughout the meetings, there has been a rallying and recurring theme: we must do better in our humanitarian response if we are to meet ever-growing needs. And that is what we have been here for, to map the mechanisms that will enable us to do it better, establish more effective partnerships and respond with more agility to the needs of our communities, identified by the communities themselves.

From the safety and security of our volunteers and joint action on sexual and gender-based violence to strengthening IHL and enhancing legal frameworks for disaster response, risk reduction and first aid, our main purpose has been to identify concrete ways for local, national and global actors to collaborate on humanitarian solutions that contribute to people’s resilience and protect life and dignity. But we cannot do this alone. Effective humanitarian response requires collaboration, clear governance and shared resources. We have a record number of States joining us at this Conference. Your participation and input are critical to strengthening our Movement’s ability to reach communities and respond to crisis, and the participation of our partner organizations has also been crucial to a frank and broad-ranging review of what the gaps are and how we need to work together as a global community to cover them.

You may have been curious about the growing ambition of the Humanitarian Dialogue: a Vision Lab in the entrance as you arrived each morning. Alongside the Conference, we have had people from outside the Movement and inside the Movement, putting their heads together in our Vision Lab. As Chair, I have been inspired by this humanitarian dialogue, the creative ideas and solutions and outside-the-box thinking on critical humanitarian concerns. The task of our panel today is to reflect on what the outcomes of the International Conference mean for the humanitarian action we take from here on. What will the impact be? What does success look like?

I will now introduce our panellists to you. I welcome as part of the panel Ms Fatima Gailani, President of the Afghanistan Red Crescent and Chair of this Conference, Mr Yves Daccord, Director-General of the ICRC, Mr Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General of the IFRC, Mr Stephen O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator of UNOCHA, and Dr Mustafa Souag, Acting Director-General of Al Jazeera Media Network. Welcome. I will begin with some reflections from a Red Cross Red Crescent perspective, inviting first Ms Gailani, Yves Daccord and As Sy to quickly give us their top three takeaways from these days and their take on how these will impact on their individual organizations.

### **Mr Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General, IFRC**

*(Original French)*

Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The day is coming to an end, and I think that it is time for us to simply focus on these points that have been the subject of very vague discussions. They are priority points in their own right, but also the expression of all the other aspects, paving the way for progress along our humanitarian path.

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Sexual and gender-based violence against women in armed conflicts and natural disasters is unacceptable.

The role of volunteers, as if we needed reminding, is extremely important, and we pledge to strengthen it. We pledge, along with you, to continue to support people who are forced to migrate, because of the distressing situation they find themselves in. We also together pledge to support our initiative to lift a billion people out of situations of vulnerability, by strengthening their resilience.

That is part of our humanitarian work which, from the perspective of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, boils down to being there, to being present at all times for those in need, supporting them and helping them to meet the challenges they face. This is what we pledge to do, and we want to do it by working in a collaborative and complementary way with you and with the ICRC, because, as you said, we are in a situation in which it is good to be a humanitarian, it is good to be an idealist and it is good to be a pacifist. And this contrasts with the dominant discourse of our times, which is a warmongering discourse, one that divides, one that puts people in opposing camps. We will leave this Conference hopefully strengthened in our commitment to work together, to live up to what we say we are and to convey the power of humanity, which will be our compass or, in these modern times, our GPS. Thank you.

### **Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

What I take away from here could be very personal. First of all, there is this fantastic honour bestowed upon me, although it is not just because of me. Whenever I return from a major conference, especially an International Conference, everyone in the Red Crescent is waiting to see what I have to tell them. The first thing I would like to tell them is that it is because of the wonderful work of our volunteers and of our staff, our doctors and our nurses that I became worthy of this very important role that I have played over these past three days. I would also like to tell them that it was because of this fantastic work that our volunteers and our staff have carried out that we convinced the Government, our own Government, that it is important to recognize our Fundamental Principles.

If I compare the Afghanistan Red Crescent of today with that of 11 years ago, there is no comparison. I

want everyone to see, as I see here, the importance of working together with the Movement components, with our sister National Societies, and most importantly, of staying the course. As our Secretary General says, it is wonderful to be humanitarians and take pride in every village; it is a worthy effort. They are celebrated here, every last one of them; together we celebrate their lives and mourn those who have died. What our Secretary General says about being proud is of great importance; we should be strong in our being passive. This is the most important message that I will take from here.

### **Mr Yves Daccord, Director-General, ICRC**

*(Original English)*

Thank you very much, and thanks to all of you for being here with us these past three days. I take away the fact that, despite that we live in a world – which frankly is sometimes difficult to deal with, a world that sometimes makes us think in terms of “other” instead of “we”, a world that is very polarized – what I would take away is how much we have tried constantly to find collective solutions, in spite of all the difficulties and with all the differences. I must say that I am deeply convinced that we need to be able to bring together Red Cross and Red Crescent colleagues, and State colleagues too, and to put people at the centre of our discussions, thinking, understanding and resolutions.

I feel deeply that we managed to have a people-centred Conference; I really value that. And I must say that the ten resolutions don't have the sense that these are just papers. Look at these resolutions – they propose concrete actions – collective actions, which are small steps, but small steps together, with a clear understanding of what each of us can do. This is something that is very important.

I am also very happy to have Stephen O'Brien here with us, because, as we all know, we have to connect the dots. Things are not only happening here in Geneva; things are also happening in Paris where climate change is being discussed and things will also happen tomorrow in Istanbul. Things are happening everywhere in the world, and we need to be able to bring it all together, because when we think about people affected by war, by violence, by natural disaster or by poverty, we know that their problems are multiple and complex. We, the Red Cross Red Crescent, and also of course the States, therefore have a responsibility to connect the dots, to propose the best possible options to people.

My sense is that we have worked well. There may be a lack of energy right now, because it has been a long three days, but tomorrow is starting today; that is what I feel deeply. And we will also be able, Stephen, to bring the voice of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent to Istanbul. What is this voice? This is the voice that places people at the centre. We are looking at vulnerability, wherever it is. We must take the risk of changing, maybe adapting and modifying our practices, if necessary. We are all of us, really moving and willing to push for principled humanitarian action, because that, we still believe, is our responsibility. Thanks very much to all of you.

**Ms Ashanta Osborne-Moses, Chair of the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab of the Conference, moderator**

*(Original English)*

Yves, I think you have seen my notes! Stephen, you know we always talk about the red pillar and the blue pillar in representing our different organizations, how do you see these systems working better together and how do we make that happen? How do we, going forward into the World Humanitarian Summit, turn up the volume of local voices on this mega, global platform?

**Mr Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, United Nations**

*(Original English)*

Thank you very much indeed. Before I answer those questions directly, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of you. I can see the enormous amount of dedication and commitment, the energy and the hard work and, above all, the sense of, ultimately, rising to our common values, a sense of urgency to protect the dignity of all affected people and to improve access in order to help those who are vulnerable and those who have need. I think the Movement's message has come through loud and clear, and I really picked it up. As the UN's humanitarian chief, I have an accountability in my role to the member States of whom I am a representative. Here, I see in the ICRC, the IFRC and the Movement no better and no greater a partner for humanity than you represented here.

That is underpinned by the sense of how you are volunteering to do this, in partnership with many people who are perhaps not volunteers, but are actually doing this – delivering humanity – for a living. I think that combination of volunteerism and values is the enormous inspiration that I take from my experience of these few days here. I see that we have a really great platform to help, to rise above conflicts and to put humanity back at the centre – just as this Conference has been focusing on the power of humanity. It is a big phrase, but I think that it is a big claim that you have demonstrated can be supported if we are informed by those values.

I am absolutely clear that this is something within the overarching World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul on 23 and 24 May next year that we will be able to ensure is, again, underpinned. I know that there will be a really strong consensus amongst the people who attend that conference, as there has been here, on the importance of international humanitarian law. It is a question of building on this where we will be able to make progress, and we are making progress. I say this not just for those of us who are practitioners of humanitarian action, but also for those representing member States at the Conference, who have all signed up through the UN Charter, through their presence here today, to exactly those values. I therefore think that it is an extremely encouraging and inspiring experience.

I am certainly also very clear that there is an appetite and a need for change, that what has been done in the past has been a remarkable, amazing commitment. Bravery has meant that many millions of lives have been saved and protected in crises, whether in natural disasters, climate-affected disasters, conflicts or protracted conflicts, where we have got a lot of pressures, such as increasing urbanization, densely populated areas and people on the move. I am absolutely clear that we also need to recognize the amount of change that we all need to make in order to address those complexities. That is going to underpin, again, what the world signed up to as recently as September in the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

This calls on all of us, locally, nationally and internationally to not only work differently with one another, but to make sure the whole essence of what we do is “we” and “with”; this partnership approach which ensures that, with complementarity and recognizing the competitive advantages of the strengths that we all have, we deliver the very best of our humanity to our fellow men and women who are most vulnerable and in need.

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I think that the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement during these few days has made a phenomenal contribution. I can also see, with my Emergency Relief Coordinator's hat on, as we bring the humanitarian family together, including Yves, who sits on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, which is the one area where we formally bring together the ICRC, the IFRC, that we have a real opportunity to build our partnership and to deliver even better on our common values. Thank you.

**Ms Ashanta Osborne-Moses, Chair of the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab of the Conference, moderator**

*(Original English)*

Dr Souag, could you talk to us about what you see as the role of the media in portraying humanitarian challenges and, more importantly, the people who are behind the statistics, the sensationalized events. What is the role of the media in bringing that awareness to the world?

**Dr Mostefa Souag, Acting Director-General, Al Jazeera**

*(Original English)*

As-Salaam-Alaikum. Thank you very much for inviting me and the media, not just to report on what is happening, but also to take part in some of the discussions of relevance. I believe that there are so many things in common between the media and the work of humanitarian organizations. First of all, we are among the first, if not the first, on the scene where help is needed: you and the media. When disaster strikes in a certain place, you find the media there, and you find organizations like yours on the ground, trying to help.

How do we work together and how do we help? What is the role of the media? I believe you go to the place to help people who are going through a very hard time, and you focus on the place. And we go there to report on what is going on there to the rest of the world, so that we can create awareness amongst people of the plight of the people who need help and awareness of common humanity, in that wherever we are, we suffer in the same way, as we feel happy in the same way.

That is why I believe that coordination and partnership between the media and humanitarian

organizations and working together is so important. There are so many things for which we need the help of this organization in the media. If we have time, I can give many examples. At the same time, these organizations need our help, the help of the media, because without the media covering what you are doing, why you are doing it and the situation in which you are doing that work, people around the world will not know exactly why and what you are doing, why you are meeting here in Geneva, that you have offices in certain places, etc. This is one of the most important ways to communicate your work to the rest of the world.

Also, like you, the media covers news regardless of who is involved. If there is a catastrophe, the media must not take into account ethnicity, nationality, religion or political orientation; we just go there and cover what is going on, because we provide information and knowledge to our audience and explain why you are providing support to people who need it. In both cases, you provide that support to everybody. You do not ask people who they are or what they are; as long as they are in need, you support them.

There are so many things, so many elements on which the media and humanitarian organizations can work together. I think it is actually a must; if that is the case and if we all believe that, then we really need to enhance the relationship between the media and humanitarian organizations and not just wait for the media to cover the work or for the media to wait until they are in the field and then ask for the help of your organizations because, in certain places, the media cannot get to where they want and do what they want to do without help from different organizations. Humanitarian organizations are very important in providing them with the means to report and show what is going on.

I believe that these are some of the guiding principles, but there are many other things that could be said about the relationship between the two. When I was talking to people here the day before yesterday, somebody came up to me and said, "You're from Al Jazeera?". When I said yes, she said, "When we had a natural disaster in our country, Al Jazeera was the first media network to be there, covering the story and staying with us, even after the disaster was over and people were no longer thinking about it". Al Jazeera went there and tried to report on what happened afterwards, because there are sometimes many promises made and not enough implementation.



These are the kinds of things that I believe motivate Al Jazeera to do more, because we are not driven by commerce or by ratings, like some commercial networks. We are actually working in order to provide for people, to communicate people's concerns to the rest of the world. That is why one of our major slogans is "We are with the people". Thank you.

**Ms Ashanta Osborne-Moses, Chair of the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab of the Conference, moderator**

*(Original English)*

Thank you, Dr Souag. Coming to the final statements, I return now to our Movement people at the table. It is Monday morning – where do we start getting to work?

**Mr Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General, IFRC**

*(Original English)*

Monday morning will come and find us where we should be. Let us meet after this Conference, back where it all happens, in the communities. Let us go back and provide assistance, provide protection. Let us go back and carry the torch of the power of humanity. So, see you on Monday!

**Mr Yves Daccord, Director-General, ICRC**

*(Original English)*

I would just add that there is no such thing as Monday morning in the Red Cross Red Crescent. It does not exist – we work every day; our colleagues are there doing the work right now. I think what is maybe important is that we will give more. We should take back our collective energy and give it to our colleagues where they need to have it – in the field, wherever they are, on all the continents, helping. I think they need to understand that all of us, along with the governments, tried here to build something together. I also think a more robust way forward and a more robust plan of action should help us to do our job better. So, Monday morning is starting right now. Thank you.

**Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

We do not start on Monday; we start on Saturday, but I will have a lot on my mind. It will not be the same as last Saturday; it will not be like it used to be. I will have so much on my mind and so much to think about – how to improve the National Society, how to change minds according to the decisions that we have made here, according to difficult days and happy days, and how to improve more, how to do more, how to reach further.

**Ms Ashanta Osborne-Moses, Chair of the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab of the Conference, moderator**

*(Original English)*

Dr Souag, from the external perspective, in one phrase, what would your message be to the humanitarian community?

**Dr Mostefa Souag, Acting Director-General, Al Jazeera**

*(Original English)*

One phrase? That is a difficult thing to do. I think working together for humanity is what is important.

**Ms Ashanta Osborne-Moses, Chair of the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab of the Conference, moderator**

*(Original English)*

Stephen, we will see you at the World Humanitarian Summit. Until we get there, what are the key things we need to be doing together to better prepare?

**Mr Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, United Nations**

*(Original English)*

I take such inspiration from all of you in the Movement, whose members are the first responders, who are the ones who work in the communities,

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making efforts as locally relevant as possible. I think you are the potential model for the way that the trends of delivering humanitarian action on the ground are going, so we need to learn a lot from you as the humanitarian family. But above all, in working with each other, coordinating, making sure we respect our different identities and mandates, but at the same time playing to our strengths, we need to work together and to make sure we deliver, through all the various channels that we can, these amazing international public goods, which are life-saving protection, dignity and hope.

As we work our way towards being able to celebrate the ability to re-inspire the world's motivation to really deliver on this at the World Humanitarian Summit and to get the huge buy-in of the succeeding generations of political leaders from around the world and all the world, I am absolutely sure that the best way to ensure that we deliver that success is for us, between now and then, to all continue to work together to deliver those amazing international public goods and to do so with the values that have been demonstrated here and, above all, in the name of, and for, the people we all serve. Thank you.

**Ms Ashanta Osborne-Moses, Chair of the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab of the Conference, moderator**

*(Original English)*

Thank you, Stephen. A final word from Ms Gailani. Can you tell us, as you resume the Chair and close the International Conference, who is accountable for accomplishing all that we have said on this panel that we are going to be doing?

**Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

I am sure all of us have made lots of promises here. I think we should stick to those and really fulfil them. We are all responsible for that.

**Ms Ashanta Osborne-Moses, Chair of the Humanitarian Dialogue: A Vision Lab of the Conference, moderator**

*(Original English)*

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you and over to Fatima to close the International Conference. Thank you so much.

## 4.14

# CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

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### Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference

*(Original English)*

We are closing our International Conference now, but before I do and we all go, I would like to thank all of you; you have all put so much into the work, personally and on behalf of your States and your National Societies, to make this Conference such a success.

On behalf of all of you, I would like to thank the interpreters; I could see that some of you think so fast and I do not know how they managed it, but I really want to thank them. The translators and the support staff were really fantastic – and of course, our wonderful volunteers.

*[Applause]*

### H.E. Mr Nicolas Lang, Secretary-General of the Conference

*(Original English)*

It is my pleasure to invite you to give a great round of applause to our Chair, Fatima Gailani, for the wonderful job she has done in presiding over this 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

### Ms Fatima Gailani, Chair of the Conference

*(Original English)*

Thank you so much. I cannot express what a great honour this was. I thank you all, not just for this, but for all the encouragement I have received from all of you over the last 11 years. I will never forget that. What we are in our National Society and what

## 4.15

# REPORTS OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSIONS

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### 4.15.1 Commission A: The Fundamental Principles in action

9 December 2015, 3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.  
and 10 December 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

#### Chair:

- Dr Werner Kerschbaum, Secretary-General, Austrian Red Cross

#### Rapporteurs:

- Ms Rebecca Dodd, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Mr Jérémie Labbé, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

#### Panellists:

- Mr Yusuf Hassan Mohammed, President, Somali Red Crescent Society
- Dr Amal Emam, volunteer, Egyptian Red Crescent Society
- Ms Nan Buzard, Executive Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
- Dr José Benjamín Ruiz Rodas, President, Salvadorean Red Cross Society
- H.E. Mr Carlos Alfredo Castaneda Magaña, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, El Salvador
- H.E. Mr Thomas Hajnoczi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Austrian Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office at Geneva

#### Panel discussion

**Dr Kerschbaum** introduced the commission by presenting the Reaffirming the Fundamental Principles initiative by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and some of the initiative's key findings, as described in the background report to the commission. He then outlined the commission's three

objectives: (1) demonstrate that the Fundamental Principles contribute to effective humanitarian action, (2) highlight the ongoing initiatives and good practices related to the application of the Principles, and (3) explore States' perspectives and the critical role they play in ensuring greater respect for the Principles.

In his presentation, **Mr Yusuf Hassan Mohammed** demonstrated how the Principles, in particular neutrality and independence, had proved instrumental in enabling the Somali Red Crescent Society to operate continuously throughout more than two decades of conflict. Using the example of the Keysaney Hospital in Mogadishu, he described how consistent application of the Principles had allowed his National Society to be accepted by warring parties and the communities. Abiding by the Principles – including by implementing the Safer Access Framework, a structured approach to fully applying the Principles – also significantly improved the safety and security of staff and volunteers. **Dr Amal Emam** strongly echoed these points by sharing the experience of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society during the demonstrations in Egypt in 2011. She insisted on the importance of internalizing the values underpinning the Principles, not just institutionally but also individually. She also stressed the value of the International Federation's Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change initiative. Although being neutral was key to gaining trust and being accepted by all during the demonstrations, it did not come naturally, because it could go against one's personal values and beliefs. The objective and neutral mindset needed to be nurtured, including through training.

**Ms Nan Buzard** highlighted the powerful influence of the Fundamental Principles – especially humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence – on the broader humanitarian sector. Workshops on humanitarian principles and the *Code of Conduct for*

the *International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief* carried out by the ICVA in cooperation with the ICRC had demonstrated the principles' universal appeal and relevance. She pointed out, however, that the humanitarian principles continue to be perceived as Western, not least due to the gap in some humanitarian organizations between rhetoric and practice, which at times fuels suspicions. Looking at current and future challenges to principled humanitarian action, **Ms Buzard** insisted on the importance of demonstrating the humanitarian principles through our acts and engaging all actors in a dialogue on the principles to foster ownership and a deeper understanding of their operational usefulness.

Finally, **Dr José Benjamín Ruiz Rodas** and His Excellency **Mr Carlos Alfredo Castaneda Magaña** discussed the privileged partnership between governments and their National Societies, which is built on a common understanding of the Fundamental Principles developed through constant and consistent dialogue. Again during the conversation between **Dr Kerschbaum** and **Mr Thomas Hajnoczi**, the added value that National Societies can bring to governments was highlighted. Even when States have a well-developed emergency-response system, they cannot always meet needs, as illustrated by the migration crisis that affected Austria in 2015. Having an auxiliary but autonomous nation-wide organization in the humanitarian sector helps governments meet their responsibilities vis-à-vis their population. Yet this autonomy must be nurtured through continuous dialogue, which is necessary to create the space and understanding for the organization to act in accordance with the Fundamental Principles.

## Discussion highlights

Approximately 30 participants representing a variety of States, National Societies and a few observers took the floor during the discussion. The key takeaways were:

- Participants strongly reaffirmed the continued relevance of the Fundamental Principles for effective humanitarian action, including for the safety of volunteers and staff.
- Tailoring the Principles to each and every situation is crucial and requires careful analysis of the context. Consistency, perseverance, courage and creativity were mentioned as key attributes for putting the Principles into action.
- The Principles have a universal appeal and influence that extends beyond the Movement, including to local and international organizations that have adopted the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.
- Embedding the Principles and the humanitarian values underpinning them into the institutional culture is important but participants also emphasized the importance of leaders, staff and volunteers internalizing the principles – incorporating them into their personal values and behaviour in their daily lives.
- Participants welcomed the opportunity to share experiences and exchange examples of good practice between Movement components. Good practices included activities that raise awareness of the Principles to people within the Movement and outside it, as well as initiatives such as the Safer Access Framework and Agents of Behavioural Change.
- Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of humanitarian education programs that include the Fundamental Principles. For some participants this was particularly relevant in light of rising xenophobia and racism in their countries.
- The importance of strong and values-based leadership was emphasized.
- The Principles have a role to play in bringing people together in the name of humanity, as something that can bind people regardless of race or religion.
- Emphasis was put on States' key role in ensuring respect for the Fundamental Principles: raising awareness of the Principles outside the Movement so that they are familiar, understood and respected by all, and creating an environment conducive for National Societies to carry out their auxiliary role in the humanitarian field.
- Some States pointed out that a healthy tension can and should exist between National Societies and governments, in which they can agree to disagree, keeping the Fundamental Principles in mind. In that respect, constant dialogue is vital.
- States identified various areas where National Societies add value, from disaster preparedness and emergency response to raising awareness of international humanitarian law and contributing to policy-making through their field experience and expertise.
- The chair of the commission encouraged participants to seize the opportunity to take concrete steps to strengthen the application of and respect for the Principles, in particular by considering proposed pledges on:
  - o humanitarian education
  - o enhancing the dialogue between States and National Societies and
  - o strengthening the legal and statutory basis of National Societies, which was brought up

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during the commission by the chair of the Joint ICRC/International Federation commission on National Societies' statutes.

- Several participants mentioned specific ongoing commitments and pledges made in this regard.

## Conclusion

The commission unequivocally reaffirmed the importance of the Fundamental Principles to gain trust, acceptance and safe access, which are necessary to work in proximity with affected communities and to deliver effective humanitarian action. The Principles must be well understood and embedded at both the institutional and individual levels so that they can be applied consistently and persistently and be tailored to each context. In that respect, experience-sharing and training on the Principles and the humanitarian values underpinning them is crucial, as is raising awareness of them among a broader outside audience, including through humanitarian education programs. Finally, States have a crucial role to play in promoting respect for the Principles and enabling their National Societies and other humanitarian organizations to act in accordance with the Principles. Constant and consistent dialogue is essential in that regard, and States are also responsible for creating a space for such dialogue to happen.

### 4.15.2 Commission B: Contemporary challenges in international humanitarian law

9 December 2015, 3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.  
and 10 December 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

#### Chair:

- Mr Richard Rowe, Australian Red Cross

#### Rapporteur:

- Mr Thomas de Saint Maurice, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

#### Note-taking:

- Ms Öykü Irmakkesen, ICRC

#### Panellists:

- Dr Cordula Droege, ICRC
- Dr Heike Spieker, German Red Cross
- Prof. Sandesh Sivakumaran, University of Nottingham

## Summary

The commission served as an interactive forum for participants at the International Conference to discuss the contemporary challenges in IHL and how to address these challenges. There was broad agreement on the challenges and their underlying factors, as identified in the concept note for the commission and the ICRC's report *International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts*. Among the main challenges discussed were: the increasing complexity of armed conflicts, notably due to the proliferation and fragmentation of non-State armed groups; the expanding geographical scope of the battlefield; the interplay between international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law; and generating respect for IHL. The need to ensure respect for and compliance with IHL was seen by many as the main challenge in contemporary armed conflicts. The importance of ensuring the protection of humanitarian actors was also referred to. Other important issues identified were: the challenges posed by urban warfare – including the practice by some parties of deliberately hiding among the civilian population – and the impact in humanitarian terms of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The commission also touched upon a number of other IHL challenges, and participants exchanged information on their own experiences and actions to promote IHL. The need for creative thinking to find new methods to address these issues, particularly relating to non-State armed groups, was emphasized, as was the need for concerted efforts to disseminate and implement IHL in the various contexts.

## Panel presentations

The chairman opened the commission by highlighting the main challenges set forth by the ICRC in the concept note prepared for the Commission<sup>1</sup> and by referring to the objectives and guiding questions for the discussions: identifying the factors that most affect IHL application and the greatest challenges posed by contemporary conflicts, determining

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1 The concept note was based on the ICRC's report entitled *International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts*, October 2015, doc. 32IC/15/11.

whether there are important challenges not identified in the concept note, and coming up with ways States and components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement can address such challenges. The chairman emphasized the importance of using the commission as a forum for dialogue between the participants in the International Conference. The panellists laid the groundwork for this dialogue. Their presentations focused on a selection of contemporary challenges and how to address them.

**Dr Cordula Droege** spoke about the regionalization of conflicts and foreign interventions, including the possible consequences for the geographical scope of application of IHL. She referred to the problem of certain parties to armed conflicts – either States or non-States – denying the applicability of IHL. She then addressed the challenge of the interplay between IHL and international human rights law, notably in relation to the use of force. New technologies of warfare were also mentioned, not only as presenting legal challenges but also as raising ethical and political issues.

**Dr Heike Spieker** addressed the challenges that practitioners and decision-makers encounter on the ground due to the growing complexity of legal concepts, including the interplay between IHL and international human rights law. She remarked on the difficulties, given the contemporary international situation, of envisaging treaty-making approaches to addressing these challenges. It is therefore important to continue applying and consolidating customary international law and the general principles of the law. That, however, raises interpretation challenges. She emphasized the need for new thinking in order to generate respect for IHL, particularly by non-State armed groups. She also mentioned the impact of hostilities on the natural environment, particularly in relation to aggravating the scarcity of resources.

**Professor Sandesh Sivakumaran** focused his contribution on the issues raised by the increasing complexity of armed conflicts, in particular due to the multiplication and fragmentation of armed groups and increased foreign interventions. Some of the concrete consequences are difficulties in determining when IHL applies and, at a practical level, in concluding truces or humanitarian agreements on evacuating wounded people. He referred to the challenges posed by issues of applicable law for territory under the control of non-State armed groups, the potential difficulty of engaging with certain non-State armed groups in light of counterterrorism legislation, and the need to engage with a wide variety of actors, such

as diasporas and religious leaders who have influence over non-State armed groups.

All panellists commended the quality and focus of the concept note and the ICRC's report *International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts*. All agreed that the main overarching challenge to IHL is the lack of compliance and of an adequate enforcement mechanism.

### Discussion highlights

Most of the contributions by participants in the commission focused on the challenge of generating respect for IHL. Lack of compliance with IHL, including, notably, by non-State armed groups, was a central theme. The absence of accountability and the sense of impunity that armed groups and others seemed to have were often mentioned as factors contributing to the erosion of support for and application of IHL. Participants also mentioned the increasing reluctance in contemporary international relations to engage in or comply with regulatory processes. There were exchanges on whether we might be entering a new era in which power supremacy overrides support for and adherence to legal regulation.

It was noted that some armed groups that are parties to armed conflict blatantly reject the rules of IHL. But it was also emphasized that there is a very wide variety in the types of armed groups and that it is possible to engage with some of them and undertake dissemination efforts in order to foster better compliance with IHL.

Urban warfare was mentioned as an important challenge in contemporary armed conflicts. One major issue in relation to urban warfare is that some parties use populated areas to deliberately shield their military activities, thereby attracting hostilities to areas with concentrations of civilians and exposing the civilians to the effects of combat. The issue of using explosive weapons that have a wide area effect in populated areas was also mentioned as being of particular humanitarian concern in contemporary armed conflicts. Other weapons issues were also addressed by the participants, in particular the challenges raised by autonomous weapon systems.

During the discussions other challenges were referred to, such as the importance of ensuring the protection of people providing humanitarian assistance in situations of armed conflict, and the challenges posed by the interplay between IHL and international human rights law.

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In addition, other specific challenges not explicitly included in the concept note were also mentioned, such as the importance of giving effect to the obligation to respect and ensure respect for IHL, including by States not parties to armed conflicts; protecting the natural environment in armed conflicts; and promoting IHL education in relation to situations of armed conflict.

As for ways to address these challenges, most contributions insisted on the importance of IHL training and dissemination. Some participants shared their practices in this regard, in particular in emphasizing the importance of more training for armed forces and dissemination of IHL among parties to armed conflicts. Dissemination can be carried out by States, but also in cooperation with National Societies and the ICRC. In addition to training and dissemination, it is also crucial that IHL be incorporated into the policies and practices of the armed forces and into academic curricula, and that it be implemented by States through domestic legislation. It was recognized that efforts should continue in that direction, and some States and National Societies submitted pledges to that end.

In order to be more efficient in these efforts, it was also emphasized that the methods dissemination and training should not only be adapted to the local cultures and the specific audience, but that new methods should also be explored, including the use of new technologies.

The commission confirmed that the challenges and their underlying factors, as identified in the concept note were, indeed, the most salient in the current global IHL context.

### **4.15.3 Commission C: Joint action on the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence**

8 December 2015, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. and  
9 December 2015, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Chair:**

- Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan, Permanent Mission of Fiji to the UN in Geneva

**Rapporteurs:**

- Coline Rapneau, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Siobhán Foran, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation)

### **Summary**

#### *Invisibility of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)*

- Victims/survivors of SGBV are still invisible and face barriers to speaking up about their experiences owing to taboos/stigma/shame, culture and tradition, and the lack of an adequate and appropriate response when incidences are reported.
- It has taken a long time to develop a sense that SGBV prevention and response in armed conflict and disaster should be proactive and a priority; progress has been made but it needs to be accelerated.
- Collecting and analysing sex- and age-disaggregated data and information regarding risks and needs are of critical importance.
- Although SGBV increases during and/or following disasters, there is little recognition and awareness of this and little proactivity in the collection and analysis of data.

#### *Intersecting forms of discrimination*

Groups that are subject to more than one form of discrimination are particularly vulnerable to SGBV. Forms of discrimination that could intersect include gender and age (both young people – male and female – and elderly people) and gender and minority status. Analysing vulnerability factors to determine who is most at risk is critically important.

*Gender inequality and discrimination* underpin SGBV and are exacerbated during emergencies. Solutions must therefore address gender equality, women's empowerment and enlisting men and boys as agents of change.

#### *Support services*

The availability of appropriate and comprehensive health services, including mental-health and sexual- and reproductive-health services and other essential support services (e.g. legal, physical-rehabilitation, economic and social support) is critical. The challenge is how to keep facilities and services open and available without disruption and indeed strengthen them in emergencies.



### *Legal frameworks*

In many cases, appropriate legal frameworks do exist, but significant barriers to their implementation remain. The focus on awareness-raising and implementation must continue.

### **Panel presentations**

#### **Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan, Permanent Mission of Fiji to the UN in Geneva**

Ambassador Khan introduced the topic. She emphasized that the specific vulnerabilities of women and children in times of peace are exacerbated in crises, in particular because support systems are jeopardized. The Ambassador also noted the importance of recognizing men and boys as victims/survivors of sexual violence, particularly as a form of torture and humiliation. She stressed the importance of ensuring that existing legal frameworks are implemented and cultural, institutional and regional barriers are broken down so that victims/survivors can report cases of SGBV and get access to care.

#### **Ambassador Vesna Batistic Kos, Permanent Mission of Croatia to the UN in Geneva**

In her presentation, Ambassador Kos focused on sexual violence in armed conflict, which remains a feature – often characterized by its invisibility – of many conflicts, despite increasing awareness and advancements through UN resolutions, International Criminal Court judgments and legal frameworks. Conviction also remains difficult. The Ambassador expressed the Croatian government's support for the International Conference resolution on SGBV. She then focused on Croatia's approach to redress for survivors. Following a study carried out to better understand the needs of victims/survivors, Croatia now focuses on three forms of redress: rehabilitation programmes (physical and mental health and legal aid), satisfaction (recognition of the status of victim and prosecution of perpetrators) and material/financial compensation. Not requiring a criminal conviction and simplified legal procedures have encouraged victims/survivors to speak up. Such measures will help the society as a whole to learn and to reconcile effectively.

#### **Professor Moamena Kamel, Secretary- General, Egyptian Red Crescent Society**

Professor Kamel recalled that SGBV occurs against women, girls, men and boys everywhere (poor and wealthy countries, during peacetime, armed conflict, and disaster) and takes various forms. She described the development of the Egyptian legal framework on sexual violence since 2011 (sentencing for perpetrators, compensation for victims/survivors), which has helped with the recognition of the issue of SGBV. She also emphasized the Egyptian Red Crescent's collaboration with the Egyptian government (e.g. the ministries of education and health) and detailed the National Society's ongoing programmes/training sessions (e.g. first-aid training, programmes for emergency and rescue services), which all include components on SGBV. Professor Kamel also emphasized the importance of impact assessment and of addressing child protection issues.

#### **Ms Soyata Maïga, Special Rapporteur on Rights of Women in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (9 December only)**

After briefly highlighting the factors that contribute to SGBV (e.g. low social status and discrimination against women in times of peace, breakdown of institutions in times of war, insufficient political will and action, legal vacuums, etc.), Ms Maïga listed concrete solutions for States, NGOs and UN agencies and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Further details under guiding question 1 below.

### **Discussion highlights**

**Guiding question 1:** How can we further improve victims'/survivors' access to services, and the quality of those services? How can we provide a holistic response, while also crafting effective prevention strategies to combat SGBV in situations such as armed conflicts and disasters?

- There is growing evidence of SGBV in humanitarian crises, but barriers remain to investigation and prosecution. There is a disconnect between the legislation on the books and implementation.
- There is still a need to break down structural, institutional and cultural barriers.
- It is important to identify the distinct needs of different groups of victims/survivors (women, girls, boys and men of different ages and backgrounds).
- Prevention is essential to ending SGBV.

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- Concrete solutions were provided by Special Rapporteur Maïga and echoed by others: ensuring access to free legal aid for victims/survivors; financial support; facilities to receive victims/survivors and provide them with care; simplified legal procedures with compensation/redress laws; ensuring civil society can represent victims/survivors before tribunals; reinforcing the complementary roles and collaboration between NGOs, UN agencies, the Movement and the African Union by having a common plan of action; and involving influential people and organizations (e.g. traditional/religious leaders, local media).

**Guiding question 2:** How can we better harness the complementarity of the Movement components and partnerships with States and other stakeholders?

- Some National Societies and States noted the importance of better coordination and collaboration within the Movement and between the Movement, States, and international, regional and national organizations.
- The recent International Federation study on SGBV in disasters was welcomed and commended.
- The Canadian and Kenyan Red Cross Societies shared good practices and encouraged International Federation, the ICRC and other National Societies to share good practices across the Movement and with States.

**Guiding question 3:** How can we ensure better implementation of the existing international legal frameworks prohibiting acts of sexual and gender-based violence by, for example, strengthening domestic legal frameworks?

- There is an abundance of international treaties and local legal frameworks, but the challenge lies in implementation; it is important that the international community does not just pay lip service to the issue.
- The Italian delegation shared its experience of including a gender perspective in national policies and in IHL training for peacekeeping forces and national military missions.
- The Kenyan Red Cross Society highlighted the newly adopted Sexual Offences Act, which should help prevent sexual violence in Kenya; its “gender desks” and those at police stations to assist victims/survivors; and the training of law enforcement with support from the ICRC.
- The Croatian Ambassador officially offered support to other States willing to develop their domestic legal frameworks on the basis of Croatia’s new legislation on sexual violence.

## Conclusions and recommendations

- It is important to make the occurrence of SGBV more visible while also respecting the “do no harm” principle.
- Given that gender inequality and discrimination are root causes of SGBV, gender equality and women’s empowerment should underpin all SGBV prevention and response initiatives.
- Victims/survivors must have access to care (health care and psychosocial support) at all times and be aware of their rights so as to be encouraged to come forward.
- Prevention activities should be reinforced, including improving access to the justice system to deter perpetrators and putting in place comprehensive legal systems to enable reporting and compensation for victims/survivors.
- Education, awareness-raising and training aimed at young people, the authorities, national disaster-management authorities, armed and security forces, and communities must be put in place or, where they already exist, strengthened.
- SGBV prevention and response should be mainstreamed as much as possible through multiple forums, in order to find synergies and complementarities and break down taboos.
- Global coordination and collaboration (among actors of influence, UN agencies, NGOs, States, and the Movement) should be systematically strengthened.
- Many participants supported the initiative launched by the UK in 2013 – the Call to Action for Protection of Women and Girls against GBV (now the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies) – and recommended further mobilization and increased commitment to its action plans and objectives.
- Many also supported the International Conference resolution, the pledges and the commission, and encouraged the International Federation and the ICRC to continue their work on SGBV in disasters and armed conflict.

#### 4.15.4 Commission D: Health Care in Danger: Continuing to protect the delivery of health care together

8 December 2015, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and  
9 December 2015, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

##### Chair:

- Ambassador Nthutang Khumoetsile Martin Seleka, Director of Humanitarian Affairs for the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa

##### Rapporteurs:

- Louise McCosker, Movement Adviser, Health Care in Danger project, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

##### Panellists:

- H.E. Steffen Kongstad, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, Norwegian Permanent Mission (session 1)
- Dr Luis Fernando Correa, Director of Territorial Management, Emergency and Disasters, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Republic of Colombia (session 2)
- Dr Hazem Bakleh, Medical Director, Syrian Arab Red Crescent (session 1)
- Ulrika Årehed Kågström, Secretary-General, Swedish Red Cross (session 2)
- Dr Xavier Deau, Immediate Past President, World Medical Association (session 1)
- Dr Otmar Kloiber, Secretary-General, World Medical Association (session 2)
- Pascale Meige, Deputy Director of Operations, ICRC (sessions 1 and 2)

##### Panel discussion

- A continued focus on this issue is vital: people in urgent need of medical care need assistance, and patients and health-care workers, facilities and transports continue to be subjected to violence.
- The issue is relevant in all contexts: emergency health-care workers operating in peaceful contexts are also exposed to violence and abuse, often coming from patients and their families.
- Significant progress has been made since the last International Conference, in 2011, with the development of a wide range of recommendations generated from experts' workshops on a number of issues. Good practices are starting to emerge

and are being shared with relevant stakeholders; the focus now needs to be on implementation at the local, national and regional levels. This Conference is important for generating action and commitments in this regard.

- Implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) in general, and States' commitment to IHL enforcement in particular, are of paramount importance.
- It is important to continue coordinating responses on the ground with a wide range of people and organizations across the different sectors.
- The need for health-care workers to maintain their independence, neutrality and impartiality and perform their duties in line with the ethical principles of their profession was highlighted.
- Establishing mechanisms to monitor and analyse incidents of violence against patients and personnel, facilities and transport involved in providing medical care is crucial to be able to design better and culturally sensitive responses to violence. Gender and diversity are important considerations, as is the role of the community.
- National implementation needs to be mindful of local contexts; no one solution fits all.
- The community of concern – a loose association of States, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, professional health-care associations, and civil society – needs to become a community of action, because coordinating and sharing information on good practices, approaches and lessons learnt will be key in the coming years.
- The ICRC's leadership on the Movement-wide Health Care in Danger project has been crucial in bringing together a wide range of people and organizations and getting them to work together. Sustained efforts should continue in the years to come so that violence against healthcare can be addressed collectively as an issue of grave concern.

##### Discussion highlights

- A number of participants spoke of the casualties among health-care workers and volunteers and of the attack on the MSF hospital in Kunduz as striking examples of the urgency of the issue and the need for all parties to conflicts to respect IHL.
- While significant progress has been made since the last International Conference, in 2011, there was a concerted call for further action, particularly at the local level, and by all stakeholders, including States, Movement components, health-care organizations, armed actors, community leaders and civil society.

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- The 37 contributions, including from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, States, National Societies and health-care organizations, spoke strongly of a wide range of measures that are being undertaken or planned. Many of the future actions are set out in pledges coming out of this International Conference.
- These contributions highlighted a number of key points:
  - Preventive measures are essential.
  - Community ownership and providing high-quality health services are important factors in ensuring the safe delivery of health care.
  - Gender, diversity and cultural awareness need to be considered as they have an impact on safe access to and provision of health care.
  - It is important to adhere to the Fundamental Principles and, for health-care personnel, to strictly abide by ethical principles of health care, which apply equally in times of peace and in times of conflict.
  - It is crucial to have good data collection and establish observatories or put in place other mechanisms to monitor attacks on health care delivery, in order to ensure the proper responses and interventions are carried out.
  - There is no expiration date on the demand for safe access to health care and it is a call directed to all and sundry – the poor and rich nations, those who live in conflict and those who are fortunate to live in peace – as we all have a role to play.
  - There is also no one solution that fits all contexts or issues; the contributions indicated that the most effective measures are those that are locally adapted.
  - The challenge ahead is to move from a community of concern to a community of action.

#### **4.15.5 Commission E: Building resilience by scaling up local action and strengthening legal frameworks**

##### **Session 1: Building resilience: Launch of the One Billion Coalition for Resilience**

9 December 2015, 10:00 – 12:00

##### **Chair:**

- Dr Seyed Amir Mohsen Ziaee, President, Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran

##### **Rapporteur:**

- Mr Harold Brooks, Senior Vice President for International Operations, American Red Cross

##### **Panellists:**

- Ms Sung-Joo Kim, President of the Republic of Korea National Red Cross
- H.E. Ambassador Thani Thongphakdi, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva and Co-Chair of the Main Committee of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
- Mr Abbas Gullet, Secretary General of the Kenya Red Cross Society
- Mr Neil McFarlane, Chief of Regional Coordination and National Implementation Unit, UNISDR
- Ms Natasha Issa, Group Head of Corporate Responsibility, Zurich Insurance Company

##### **Panel discussion**

The session began with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (International Federation) invitation to join the One Billion Coalition for Resilience (1BC). Robert Tickner, International Federation Acting USG for Partnerships, reminded the participants of the objective of the 1BC and emphasized what could be achieved through collective efforts for the 1BC, as strengthening resilience is the right thing to do from both a humanitarian and an economic perspective. Elhadj As Sy, International Federation Secretary General, then highlighted the fundamentals and importance of the 1BC and invited all like-minded stakeholders to join the 1BC to “walk the talk” in acting and investing in prevention which is better and cheaper than cure.

In their presentations the five panellists welcomed the International Federation's 1BC initiative and expressed their commitment to support it, detailing:

- community resilience work in their organizations/ countries;
- opportunities created through the 1BC;
- their commitment for engagement with the 1BC;
- recommendations on how to advance the 1BC;
- types of support to the 1BC.

Twelve members of the audience took the floor, putting forward ideas and recommendations and pledging support and commitments to advance the 1BC.

## Summary

The session addressed the resilience agenda and presented an open invitation to join the One Billion Coalition for Resilience (1BC). It provided an opportunity for participants to discuss a range of resilience issues and make pledges to support the 1BC. Convening and facilitating the 1BC is the voluntary commitment of the International Federation to building the resilience of people and communities in line with the post-2015 global agendas, namely the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the World Humanitarian Summit. By 2025 this new initiative aims to have engaged and inspired one billion vulnerable people – in high, middle and low income countries – to take active steps to enhance their resilience. Participants in the session welcomed the 1BC initiative and agreed to work together to engage not only the Red Cross Red Crescent, but also governments, the United Nations, civil society, the private sector and academia, in creating a world where people in every community can survive and thrive in the face of increasing risks and vulnerability.

## Discussion highlights

**“Prevention is better and cheaper than cure”.** DRR and resilience save not only people’s lives but development gains and investment made by individuals, families, communities, governments and the private sector as well. Resilience-building is the right thing to do from both a humanitarian and an economic perspective. It protects human dignity in a fundamental way. It is time to take our understanding of vulnerability, risks and resilience and move towards doing something practical and meaningful on a significant scale. We have to work together to improve capacity to reduce risks, bounce back and advance forward to protect development progress and well-being. Resilience is a way of bridging the gap between

the needs and expectations of our communities and our response to those needs. Resilience is a journey in which we accompany communities as they grapple with the challenges they face. Building resilience is about decreasing risk with preparedness and mitigation measures and decreasing vulnerability by increasing human, social and economic capital.

**“Partnerships”** are crucial for resilience. The objectives of the 1BC can only be achieved through effective and true partnerships. Through the 1BC, the International Federation aims to join forces with 20,000 institutional partners worldwide from the corporate sector, academia, civil society and national and local governments. Together with these partners, we will work to strengthen grassroots organizations and support community-led activities that empower individuals and build capacity for self-organization. We invite each and every one of you, national and local governments, the United Nations, civil society organizations, academia and the business community, to join us in the 1BC to optimize efforts to achieve a shared vision of local action for individual and community resilience.

**Resilience “is about self-awareness, self-reliance and self-organizing”.** The 1BC will contribute to empowering vulnerable communities and strengthening local actions for resilience. Governments need to create an effective enabling environment for these local actions by adopting and implementing relevant legislation. Strengthening resilience requires multi-sectoral and “all of society” approaches and the shared responsibility of stakeholders at all levels. Understanding risks and spreading risk awareness are a key foundation to designing simple and practical local and self-driven solutions.

**“Effective communication and advocacy”**, as well as public awareness and public education, play an important role in engaging stakeholders in strengthening resilience.

**“Innovative solutions”**, in an increasingly interconnected and inter-dependent world, should be sought to reach out and engage people and communities at risk. As shown by the examples of the Kenya Red Cross Society and the Republic of Korea National Red Cross, IT solutions help engage and connect people in much wider ways to address our resilience challenges through improved efficiency, effectiveness, capacity building, outreach, resource mobilization, etc.

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**“The 1BC is about utilizing the International Federation’s convening and mobilizing power and actions for change”** to achieve resilience outcomes.

The 1BC is the International Federation’s commitment to remain relevant in the light of the changing faces of vulnerability and risks across the globe. It is about putting the safety and prosperity of the world’s most vulnerable at the heart of all that we do. It is about one billion people, from different backgrounds, cultures and geographic locations, taking active steps to reduce their vulnerability and strengthen their resilience in the face of adversity. We will work with our 190 National Societies, who together have 160,000 local branches and 17 million volunteers working with communities, and the partners who join us in the 1BC to advance our commitment to “protect dignity and improve the lives of the most vulnerable by mobilizing the power of humanity”.

\* A detailed session report is available upon request.

**Session 2: Strengthening legal frameworks for disasters and emergencies**

9 December 2015, 13:30 – 15:30

**Chair:**

- Fabrizio Curcio, Head of the Department of Civil Protection, Italy

**Rapporteur:**

- Robert Kwesige, Secretary-General, Uganda Red Cross Society

**Panellists:**

- Fine Tuitupou-Arnold, Secretary-General, Cook Islands Red Cross
- Bernardo Castro, Chief of Staff, National Emergencies Office, Chile
- Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director of Strategy, Policy and International Co-operation, ECHO
- Izumi Nakamitsu, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Crisis Response Unit, UNDP
- Pascal Cassan, Head, Red Cross Red Crescent First Aid Reference Centre

**Panel discussion**

Session 2 started with a brief ceremony for the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Federation and the UNDP. The representatives of the two organizations signing the MoU, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu for UNDP and Mr. Robert Tickner, International Federation Acting USG for Partnerships, for the International Federation, each recognized the MoU as an important milestone for their ongoing partnership. The signing of the MoU was recognized as an opportunity to reflect on what the organizations had already achieved by working together in the area of law and disaster risk reduction, as well as an opportunity to scale up, broaden and strengthen their ways of working together in the future.

The Chair, Mr Fabrizio Curcio, set the scene for the panel discussion by explaining the background to the three topics of focus for the session: strengthening legal frameworks for international disaster response; law and disaster risk reduction; and law and first aid. He then handed over to the speakers who shared their experience and insight in these areas, as set out below:

- Ms Fine Tuitupou-Arnold noted that while most would agree on the importance of strengthening national legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction, the real challenge lies in how that can actually be done in practice. In that respect, she shared her experience in using the Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction to analyse the legal framework for DRR in the Cook Islands and explained how they discovered a need to bring a stronger legal backing to many policies and plans.
- Mr Bernardo Castro shared the legal developments in Chile to better manage international support in disasters. He referred to previous disaster situations in his country in which unnecessary relief items were sent by international actors and highlighted the usefulness of the IDRL Guidelines and cooperation at a bilateral and regional level to address these kinds of issues.
- Ms Florika Fink-Hooijer welcomed the launch of the Checklist and the Handbook on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the One Billion Coalition, and emphasized how we can all learn from the experiences of other countries in preparedness and legislative advancements. She noted that hazards in Europe also cause economic and life losses and referred to the European Union’s experience in developing guidelines for States on risk assessment and planning.

- Ms Izumi Nakamitsu explained how legal frameworks are essential to achieving the objectives of understanding, reducing and managing risk, referring to the findings of the multi-country research undertaken by the International Federation and UNDP. To guide the process of review or revision of legislation, she introduced the Checklist and the Handbook on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction as key new resources.
- Mr Pascal Cassan focused his intervention on the lack of legal protections for first aiders, the need to legally mandate first aid training in certain circumstances and the need to improve the standard of first aid training. In particular, he spoke of the reluctance of citizens to provide first aid in part due to fears of liability if their efforts are unsuccessful.

Following the panel interventions, the Chair asked the members of the panel to reflect on global progress in these areas and how we should both measure achievements and plan for the future. The panel members noted that progress is often slow when it comes to legislative changes, but there has still been significant movement to date. In moving forward, it will be essential to properly understand risk and vulnerabilities, involve communities, in particular youth, in the development and implementation of legislation and partner more widely with private-sector and other stakeholders. In addition to the panellists, the International Federation, National Societies and States – including Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Ethiopia, The Netherlands, Japan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran and Brazil – participated in the discussion.

## Summary

Session 2 addressed the progress achieved by States with the support of partners – such as National Red Societies, the International Federation and UNDP – in strengthening legal frameworks for disasters and emergencies and explored ways in which to accelerate progress in the future. The discussions were focused on three main topics: (1) a reflection on the progress of the IDRL Guidelines since 2007 and the need for more countries to strengthen their rules and procedures to regulate international disaster relief; (2) the role of domestic law in promoting disaster risk reduction and how the Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction and its Handbook can provide guidance in assessing and strengthening domestic

legal frameworks; and (3) existing gaps in domestic law related to the training and delivery of first aid by laypersons. Following the sharing of country and institutional experiences and perspectives on these topics, the Chair concluded by summarizing that a comprehensive approach is needed to strengthen legislation for disasters and emergencies, involving many different stakeholders and taking into account existing policy, culture, community voices and available resources.

## Discussion highlights

The discussion between the members of the panel and representatives from the audience reinforced a number of key points:

- Partnerships between different actors at the international and national levels are necessary to ensure a coherent and consistent approach to legal issues, especially when international disaster relief and cross-border assistance is required.
- In order to promote more effective legal frameworks, it is important to engage with a wide range of stakeholders in development and review processes, in particular community members, youth, the private sector and politicians.
- There is a widespread need to enhance awareness and promote a culture of understanding for the regulation of disasters and emergencies.
- National laws have an important role in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction through different sectors, and legal gaps can have a negative impact on the resilience of communities.
- To be effective, legislative developments need to be backed by the necessary resources for their implementation.
- All National Societies and countries should be prepared for the influx of people and goods that can arrive following a disaster and cause unforeseen problems. Learning from the experience of other countries and putting in place rules and procedures to regulate international aid will ultimately benefit affected communities.
- States and National Societies should work together to develop enabling legal frameworks for the delivery of first aid training and assistance.

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## 4.16 PLEDGES

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This is an overview of pledges as of 31 March 2016. The pledges submitted and signed up after this date are not reflected in the figures below. The pledges can be consulted on the pledge section of the conference website<sup>1</sup>.

- Total number of pledges submitted: **243**
- Total number of signatures on pledges: **894**

### Pledgers and co-signatories:

- Number of National Societies which submitted and signed on pledges: **112**
- Number of States which submitted and signed on pledges: **67**
- Number of observers which submitted and signed on pledges: **14**
- Number of pledges submitted and signed by the ICRC: **3**
- Number of pledges submitted and signed by the IFRC: **6**

### Specific pledges

Submitted by any member and observer of the Conference, these pledges should include commitments to concrete action tailored to the national/regional context. The pledge can be submitted individually or jointly between a National Society and a State member (mostly their respective government) or other organization that is an observer to the Conference. The implementation of these pledges is the responsibility of the signatory/signatories.

- Total number of specific pledges: **184**  
(Including **111** individual specific pledges and **73** jointly submitted specific pledges)
- Total signatures on specific pledges: **272**

Number of specific pledges submitted by:

- The States: **69**
- The National Societies: **35**
- The ICRC: **2**
- The IFRC and the ICRC jointly: **1**
- The observers: **6**
- The National Societies and the States jointly: **71**

### Open pledges

Initiated by any member of the Conference and opened for signature by any members and observers of the conference, these pledges have the character of a petition. They cannot be modified individually. The initiator of an open pledge is responsible for monitoring its implementation.

- Total number of open pledges: **59**
- Total signatures on open pledges: **622**

Number of open pledges submitted by:

- The Governments: **17**
- The National Societies: **21**
- The IFRC: **4**
- The observers: **10**
- The National Societies and the States jointly: **5**
- The States jointly: **1**
- The National Societies and the ICRC jointly: **1**

<sup>1</sup> <http://rcrcconference.org/international-conference/pledges/>



## 4.17

# LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE

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### Item 6 – Organization of work

- Provisional agenda and programme of the 32nd International Conference (CD/15/12.1DR and 32IC/15/6)
- Conference architecture
- List of side events
- Concept note of the Humanitarian Dialogue – A Vision Lab

### Item 9 – Outcomes of the 31st International Conference

- Overview report on the implementation of the resolutions and pledges of the 31st International Conference (32IC/15/19)

### Item 10 – Commission A: The Fundamental Principles in action: A unique, ethical, operational and institutional framework

- Background report (32IC/15/10)

### Item 11 – Commission B: International humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflict

- Background report (32IC/15/11)

### Item 15 – Focus on migration

- Progress report on the implementation of the Resolution 3 “Migration: Ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion 2011-2015 (32IC/15/15)

### Item 17 - Follow-up to the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

- Progress report on the 4-year action plan for the implementation of international humanitarian law (32IC/15/17.1)
- Report on the implementation of Resolution 8 on “Follow-up to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding of 28 November 2005 between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom” (32IC/15/17.2)

### Item 19 – Adoption of resolutions

- Draft resolution and concluding report on Strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty (32IC/15/19.1)
- Draft resolution and concluding report on Strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law (32IC/15/19.2)
- Draft resolution and background report on Sexual and gender-based violence: Joint action on prevention and response (32IC/15/19.3)
- Draft resolution and background report on Health Care in Danger: Continuing to protect the delivery of health care together (32IC/15/19.4)

- Draft resolution and background document on The safety and security of humanitarian volunteers (32IC/15/19.5)
- Draft resolution including adoption of the Checklist on law and disaster risk reduction and background report on Strengthening legal frameworks for disaster response, risk reduction and first aid (32IC/15/19.6)
- Draft resolution and background note on Strengthening the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement response to growing humanitarian needs (32IC/15/19.7)
- Draft resolution on the Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and Magen David Adom in Israel
- Draft resolution and report on the dissolution of the Augusta Fund (32IC/15/19.9)
- Draft resolution on “Power of Humanity. The Fundamental Principles in Action” (follow up to the 32nd International Conference)

# SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

“Constitutive Meeting”

## GENEVA, 10 DECEMBER 2015

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### Present

#### Chair of the 32nd International Conference

Ms Fatima Gailani

#### Elected Members Members

Dr Massimo Barra

Mr Chrystold Chetty

Ms Eva von Oelreich

Mr Greg Vickery

Mr George Weber

#### Members, Representatives of the ICRC

Mr Peter Maurer

Mr Balthasar Staehelin

#### Members, Representatives of the International Federation

Mr Tadateru Konoé

Mr Elhadj As Sy

#### Secretariat

Mr Tore Svenning

Ms Erica Tong Junod

### 1. Election of the Chair of the Commission

The Standing Commission elected, unanimously,  
Ms Eva von Oelreich of Sweden as its Chair.

### 2. Election of the Vice-Chair of the Commission

The Standing Commission elected, unanimously,  
Mr George Weber of Canada as its Vice-Chair.

### 3. Departing Members

The Standing Commission expressed its appreciation  
of the contributions of the departing members:

H.E. Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid

Mr Steve Carr

Min (Hon) Pär Stenbäck

and thanked them for their unstinting efforts and  
devotion to the ideals and principles of the Movement.

### 4. Next Meeting

The Commission requested the Secretariat to arrange  
for an electronic consultation on the date of its first  
meeting.

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