

## 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

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### 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 Shōken Fund

- Draft resolution on the revision of the Regulations for the Empress Shōken 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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