



## **32<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

### **PLEDGE GUIDELINES**

26 March 2015

*approved by the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent  
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Conference outcomes include the adopted resolutions and pledges made individually or jointly by Conference participants. The resolutions are the result of extensive consultations prior to the Conference and are then fine-tuned during the Conference by the Drafting Committee. They are generally adopted by consensus during the final plenary meeting of the Conference. Pledges are voluntary commitments to carry out measurable actions and activities in support of the Conference themes and the implementation of the Conference resolutions.

### **The benefits of pledges**

Pledges aim to enhance cooperation between the Conference participants on the range of topics addressed by the Conference. They are a powerful tool of humanitarian diplomacy and can be used to initiate or advance dialogue and discussions with public authorities on the humanitarian agenda before, during and after the Conference.

#### **1. For Movement components (National Societies, the International Federation and ICRC)**

The development and follow up of pledges can provide a useful platform for discussions with Governments on the successes and challenges of implementing specific activities.

#### **2. For Governments**

Through pledges Governments can plan specific activities they will undertake to implement the Conference resolutions. Pledges provide a way to demonstrate a Government's priorities and active engagement on specific topics.

#### **3. For Movement components and Governments together**

Joint pledges between a National Society and Government (or groups of Societies and Governments) provide a mechanism set out joint plans and commitments, through which they also demonstrate their special relationship.

Where a National Society and Government wish to develop a pledge together, it is recommended that they begin discussions well in advance of the Conference to identify topics of mutual interest and concern and agreed the specific commitment they will jointly undertake. Engaging in such a dialogue before the Conference can serve to highlight the practical benefits of co-operation. This dialogue continues during the Conference and beyond as the National Society and Government work

together to implement, monitor and review progress on the implementation of the pledge(s). The entire process facilitates increased cooperation and builds the existing relationship between the National Society and its public authorities.

## **Types of pledges**

Pledges reflect the individual commitments of the Conference participants, tailored to their particular national or regional contexts. They go beyond the consensus resolutions and should reflect the Conference overarching theme, the three aspirations or be linked to the resolutions.

There are two kinds of pledges:

- 1. Specific** – can be initiated by any Conference participant. These pledges should include commitments to concrete action tailored to the national/regional context. These pledges can be drafted and submitted individually by any Conference participant or jointly among them (between a National Society and Government, groups of National Societies and/or Governments, etc.). Implementation and monitoring of these pledges is the responsibility of the signatory/signatories.
- 2. Open** – can be developed by any Conference participant and has the character of a “petition”. These pledges cannot be modified individually. The initiator of an open pledge is responsible for monitoring its implementation.

Model/example pledge texts on the Conference topics will be available on the pledge database. These examples are provided as a basis for specific pledges and are intended to be modified according to the contexts, interests and capacities of pledge signatories.

## **Pledging process**

All Conference participants (members and observers) can submit individual or jointly prepared “specific” pledges and sign “open” pledges.

A new pledge database will be launched for this Conference (expected in June). The main new feature of the database will be that the pledging process moves ‘online’. All pledges – specific and open – will be submitted and registered on the database by the participants. More details on the new database and instructions will be provided in a user guide.

### **1. For “Specific pledges”**

Conference participants will submit their pledges online in any of the official working languages of the Conference (English, French, Spanish, Arabic). Model/example pledges on the Conference topics will be available on the pledge database in all four languages.

### **2. For “open pledges”**

Petition-style open pledges will also be initiated through the pledge database, where the initiator will indicate that the pledge is open for signature by any other Conference participant. In order to reach a wider audience, the co-organisers will translate open pledges from their original language (one of the four official working languages) to the other three. All open pledges ‘available’ for signature will be visible to all Conference participants on the pledge database, where they can also sign on..

Participants may register pledges at any time from the launch of the database (expected in June 2015) until the end of March 2016. A pledge stand will be open at the Conference venue from 5 to 10

December 2015 (throughout the Conference as well as the Council of Delegates and General Assembly of the International Federation).

For all inquiries on pledges before or after the Conference, please contact [pledge@rcrcconference.org](mailto:pledge@rcrcconference.org).

### **Results and follow-up**

Once submitted and validated, all pledges will be publicly visible and searchable via the pledge database. A summary of pledges registered before the final day of the Conference will be delivered during the closing plenary meeting.

As in previous years, all Conference participants will be asked to report on steps they have taken to implement the Conference resolutions and any pledges they have signed. To facilitate this reporting within the new pledge database, a contact person will be requested for each pledge registered.

The new pledge database will also include a reporting section – please note that this section will be restricted and information entered there will be published in the public section of the database only with the agreement of the reporting organisation/government.