

Background to the revision of the Principles and Rules for RCRC Disaster Relief

Principles and Rules for Disaster Relief - Revision / Geneva / January 2013

The Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Relief (P&R) was adopted by the International Conference in 1969 and later amended in 1973, 1977, 1981, 1986 and 1995. It regulates procedures, roles and responsibilities of the components of the Movement to cooperate, prepare for, and respond to disasters. The Statutes of the Movement as well as the Constitution of the Federation stipulate that international relief actions have to be conducted in accordance with these Principles and Rules.

In 2007, the Governing Board decided to review the P&R based on the learning from the Indian Ocean Tsunami which showed that the Movement was largely unprepared for the scale and complexity of the disaster and new approaches and mechanisms had to be considered.

The revision process of 2012 has built on the work that followed in 2008-2009. National Society consultations have taken place since April 2012 with nearly 250 participants in zonal and regional meetings, from 118 National Societies, IFRC and ICRC at the end of 2012. Discussions have focused on the following main objectives set by the Governing Board:

- The field of application of the P&R – and specifically the Movement status of the document;
- The operating and funding modalities that have emerged since 1995;
- Movement relations with external actors – specifically the opportunity to further strengthen NS auxiliary role towards public authorities and to articulate principles and rules on relations with civil protection, military, humanitarian agencies, private sector and media.

The revision timeline is based on the Governing Board's expectation to receive revised draft Principles and Rules for endorsement in May 2013, in lead up to the 2013 statutory meetings in Sydney. The P&R is expected to be presented to the States in the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2015 to be endorsed as the Movement standard to guide our internal work and our coordination with States and other actors.

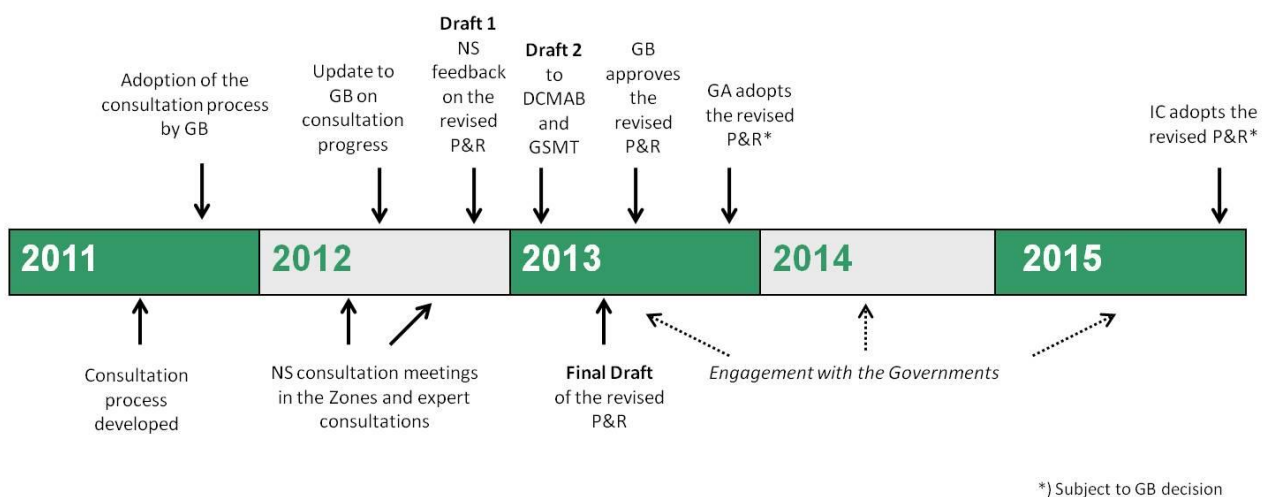


Figure: Timeline for the revision process.