



STANDING COMMISSION
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT
COMMISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT-ROUGE
COMISIÓN PERMANENTE
DE LA CRUZ ROJA Y DE LA MEDIA LUNA ROJA

CIRCULAR LETTER TO
THE PRESIDENTS AND/OR SECRETARIES GENERAL
OF ALL NATIONAL SOCIETIES, OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES AND OF THE ICRC

Geneva, 29 January, 2012

RE: PREPARATION OF THE 2013 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

Dear Friends,

The Standing Commission at its recent meeting in November discussed initial ideas and views on an agenda and programme for the Council of Delegates to be held in Sydney, Australia in November, 2013.

I am pleased to share with the members of the Council a summary of our initial thoughts and to invite their comments, suggestions and initiatives.

My colleagues and I in the Standing Commission are tasked to prepare for the Council but it is *your* meeting and your ideas are important in shaping the work of the Council. This is true both for issues of substance and for the way you would like to see the Council work.

Inevitably, we will have to deal with a number of follow-up reports from the previous Council in 2011, as called for in the resolutions adopted. We are looking to you also for new and innovative ideas to develop a structure and agenda that will allow for discussion of truly relevant issues for National Societies as well as for the Movement as a whole.

I would like to note that there are two important anniversaries approaching: The Fundamental Principles and the Henry Dunant Medal both turn 50 in 2015, and these events may benefit from a discussion already this autumn.

In that regard it would be most helpful if your feedback could reach the Secretariat of the Standing Commission before 28 February 2013, to allow it to be collated and analysed in good time before the next meeting of the Standing Commission in late March, when a draft agenda will be prepared for circulation along with the convocation of the Council.

We are looking to you for guidance and proposals to help us plan for a Council that is engaging, effective and inspiring both regarding the issues and the proceedings. A paper which expresses the thinking – but not yet conclusions – of the Standing Commission is attached.

We very much look forward to receiving your feedback and proposals regarding substance as well as how you want the Council to work in Sydney. You are welcome to send them to the Standing Commission Secretariat by using traditional mail, e mail (contact@standcom.ch) or fax (+41 22 730 20 27).

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Yours Sincerely,

Greg Vickery
Chairman

Towards a Provisional Agenda for the 2013 Council of Delegates

A. Introduction

The Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent has as one of its core functions¹ "preparing the provisional agenda for the Council".

At its meeting SC XVI-3 on 17-18 September 2012, and again at its meeting SC XVI-4 on 12 November 2012, the Standing Commission received a presentations of ideas around the provisional agenda for the 2013 Council of Delegates, and expressed its appreciation for the work carried out and the quality of the proposals and decided that

- All efforts should be made to make the Council of Delegates as celebratory, stimulating and inspiring as possible for the participants, while at the same time making sure that essential business is conducted and necessary decisions taken.
- The Council of Delegates should be the result of and reflect the dialogue between Movement components in advance of the meeting. This means that National Societies need to be consulted on proposed decisions and workshop projects well before the Council meets.
- All issues that are brought to the Council of Delegates should be ripe for decision (i.e., adoption of a resolution) or for an informed debate (in a workshop)
- This dialogue can include web platforms, social media; off-line communication and direct engagement between NS volunteers and staff, ICRC and Federation delegations. New technology should also be employed for enhancing the experience of being at the meeting through, for example, a twitter-wall, remote participation, and testimonials from overseas volunteers and delegates, and the like.
- The number of topics brought up for debate and decision should be minimized as far as possible, in order to concentrate debate on key themes and in order to allow a substantive and meaningful exchange.

With regard to topics that should be on the agenda, these fall into three categories:

- Items that have to be there either for formal reasons, or because it is required by previous decisions of the Council or the Conference
- Items that are included because one or more Components have requested it, and because a decision is required for the continued good functioning of the Movement
- Items that are dealt with because they are important to discuss over the coming two years, for their intrinsic importance or because it is foreseen that they will be placed before the International Conference foreseen for 2015.

The substance debate of the new items on the CoD agenda will be organised in workshops format (please, see page 3 below for more on structure as well as Statutes of the Movement and Rules of Procedure – chapter related to the Council of Delegates).

The debate may or may not result in a specific written outcome. However, participants may choose to come up with recommendations or exercise their statutory right to propose draft resolutions of the Council related to the subject-matter of the workshop. Such drafts then may be debated in the workshop and submitted to the plenary for adoption.

¹ Statutes of the Movement, Article 18, paragraph 4b; electronically available at <http://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/statutes-en-a5.pdf>

B. Theme and Topics

1. 2013 CoD theme: **"The Power of Humanity: 150 Years of Humanitarian Action"**

The Standing Commission approved **"The Power of Humanity: 150 Years of Humanitarian Action"**, as the overarching theme for the Council, taking advantage of 2013 being the 150th anniversary of the ICRC, the creation of the NS, and the creation of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Through the 150 Years of Humanitarian Action theme, the CoD will examine current humanitarian challenges and set orientations for the future work of the Movement. A Movement-wide dialogue on this theme will be initiated on World RC RC day on 8th May 2013.

The dialogue will reach out particularly to youth, to volunteers and staff of NS, the International Federation and ICRC. Supported by local events and meetings, and use of social media, the dialogue will culminate with the views of members of the Movement being reflected during the CoD and in its outcomes.

2. Obligatory Items: Elections, agenda and procedural matters

- Opening of the Council
- Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretaries of the Council
- Adoption of the agenda of the Council of Delegates

3. Agenda elements requested by the 2011 Council of Delegates

Strategy for the Movement:

- Report from the Standing Commission Working Group on Movement Fora
- Report on the replacement or renewal of the Strategy for the Movement

4. Items suggested for debate at the Council of Delegates

From the ICRC and the International Federation, as well as from its members, the Standing Commission was presented with a wide selection of ideas – some of which are listed below. This is not, however, a *proposal* – it is meant to stimulate further thinking, discussion and - perhaps strict – selection.

Issues listed could be for discussion at the plenary and/or in workshops and could involve panel discussions

4.1 Suggestions for workshop debates.

These overarching themes could incorporate elements listed under 4.2 below.

- The Fundamental Principles in action in the changing humanitarian environment
- Strengthening NS for the future
- Health Care and Volunteering in Danger:
- Modern methods for dissemination of International Humanitarian Law

4.2 Further suggestions for the CoD agenda, and which could be combined with those listed under 4.1:

Working with external humanitarian actors and other actors: opportunities, dilemmas and ways forward
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Working together on partnership and accountability: adaptability, quality, learning, training, technology, research,
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Looking forward to the 32 nd International Conference and looking back at the 31 st International Conference:.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 32nd IC: Establishing the Movement's agenda for debate with Governments for the next International Conference in 2015 - 31st IC: Successes, challenges and next steps in the implementation of pledges made and resolutions adopted in 2011. Mid-term review of the Movement's implementation of 31st IC outcomes. Working with Governments (auxiliary), co-operation, co-ordination, humanitarian diplomacy, donors and resource mobilisation
Red Cross and Red Crescent branding initiative
Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons

4.3 Agenda items for information (the following are regular reports to the Council of Delegates and they will only be introduced/discussed at the Council unless requested by a National Society)

- Report on the work of the Standing Commission
- Report on Empress Shôken Fund
- Report from the Independent Monitor on the MOU between Magen David Adom in Israel and Palestine Red Crescent Society
- Reports on implementation of decisions by previous Councils of Delegates, including on the Seville Agreement and Supplementary Measures

C. Opening Session

Prior to election of Officers of the Council

- Welcome by the Chairman of the Standing Commission
- Opening address by the President of the ICRC

D. Award ceremonies

Award ceremonies are not, in themselves, part of the agenda for the Council of Delegates but are included here as they will be incorporated in the overall programme for the meeting.

- Henry Dunant Medal
- Red Cross Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity

E. Outline Programme

Further work on the *programme* and *format* of the meeting will be undertaken in parallel with consultations with National Societies on the contents of the agenda, following the Standing Commission meeting and its decisions with regard to the present proposal. The following is a tentative outline that will be adapted to incorporate future decisions on the actual agenda.

COD 2013 – possible two-day outline

Day 1

Plenary 1 (Opens) - Opening obligations
Plenary 2 - Henry Dunant Medal award ceremony - 150 yrs humanitarian actions & way forward
Workshops (4 parallel workshops) 1 2 3 4
Workshops (4 parallel workshops) 1 2 3 4

Day 2

Workshops (4 parallel workshops) 1 2 3 4
Plenary 3 - Follow-up items
Plenary 4 (brings together/concludes) - Remaining resolutions presented - All resolutions adopted - Commissions' recommendations