

To the Presidents and Secretary Generals of all National Societies, the Vice-Presidents of the IFRC, the Chairs of the Commissions and Committees of the IFRC, the Chairs of the Governance Excellence and Financing IFRC Advisory Groups of the IFRC.

17 July 2023

Questionnaire – Constitutional Review

Dear Colleagues,

The Constitutional Review Advisory Group (“CRAG”) invites you to provide input on the CRAG’s review relating to the statutory texts and governance processes of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (“IFRC”) by responding to a questionnaire.

Background

The CRAG was formed at the 46th session of the Governing Board to lead the process of the review of the statutory texts (“constitutional review”). The CRAG’s principal objectives under its Terms of Reference are to:

- (1) Review the IFRC’s Constitution, Rules of Procedures, Financial Regulations, Staff Rules and Rules of Travel Assistance (“Statutory Texts) in particular, but not limited to, six areas¹ identified by the Governing Board;
- (2) Submit recommendations to the Governing Board on improving and strengthening governance processes;
- (3) Submit any proposed amendments to the Statutory Texts to the Governing Board in time for submission to the 24th Session of the General Assembly in 2024.

In addition, CRAG considers that further streamlining of the IFRC’s Statutory Texts may be beneficial. The principal objective of such work would be to make the Statutory Texts more user-friendly through the avoidance of inconsistencies, the clarification of certain language and the reflection of current practice. CRAG will consult further with the National Societies on statutory amendments it intends to recommend to the Governing Board in this regard.

To date, CRAG has received some preliminary input from the IFRC’s Committees and Commissions, with respect to their particular mandates, and from National Societies at the Americas Regional Conference. Some of this input has informed the content of the questionnaire.

¹ The areas identified by the Governing Board and included in the CRAG’s Terms of Reference are (a) Work of the Compliance and Mediation Committee; (b) Restriction of membership rights due to failure to pay statutory contributions; (c) Financial Regulations; (d) Appointment and election process for governance positions; (e) Compliance with the minimum requirements set by the IFRC and the Movement in terms of legal basis; (f) ethical considerations.

Invitation for Input

The purpose of this questionnaire is to identify areas, early on in the process, where improvements in the IFRC's Statutory Texts or governance processes would be beneficial so as to include them, where appropriate, in our proposals. In some cases, changes to the Statutory Texts may be necessary to address an issue. In other cases, it may be that the Statutory Texts are clear, and instead there is a need for improvements in governance processes or practices. Or, it may be that a combination of constitutional changes and governance reform is required.

We welcome your comments and encourage responses to the questions posed. In this respect, please feel free to reply only to those questions that you feel comfortable answering or that you have views on.

Your assistance is critical for the successful review of the statutory texts and governance process. It is extremely important to receive input from our Members so that we can consider the full spectrum of views and understand the priority areas before we formulate recommendations to the Governing Board. I look forward to receiving your comments by Friday 15 September 2023 by responding using the online questionnaire. All responses will be treated in confidence by CRAG and results will be compiled and conveyed without attribution or identification. A read only copy of the questionnaire is also attached for your reference. In case of any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on constitutional.review@ifrc.org.

Thank you very much for your assistance and time with this important project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kate Forbes'.

Ms Kate Forbes
Chair of the Constitutional Review Advisory Group