

GENEVA 1986

TWENTY-FIFTH
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
OF THE
RED CROSS



aware that the physical and mental health of victims is affected by any emergency,

recognizing that in relief operations health personnel must have the appropriate medicaments and medical supplies at their disposal when they are needed, in order to provide efficient assistance to victims,

recalling that, especially in relief operations, medicaments and medical supplies may be dangerous if used by other than qualified health personnel,

being anxious to avoid misuse of medicaments and to obtain the maximum results from relief operations with limited financial and manpower resources,

1. *recommends* that each National Society and government wishing to participate in ICRC or League relief operations requiring medical relief supplies should limit their gifts to the needs identified by the ICRC or League in prior consultation with those organizations,

2. *recommends* that any gift of medicaments or medical supplies to an ICRC or League relief operation should be in accordance with guidelines issued by the ICRC and the League, under the supervision of qualified health personnel and in conformity with the recipient country's drug policy, if any,

3. *recommends* that National Societies and governments participating in Red Cross and Red Crescent relief operations should use the *WHO Standard list of drugs and clinic equipment* for League operations and the *ICRC Standard list of medicaments and medical material* for ICRC operations,

4. *recommends* that all medicaments and medical supplies provided through the ICRC or the League should be packed and labelled in accordance with the guidelines issued by the ICRC or the League, depending upon the character of the operation.

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Assistance to children in emergency situations

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting with satisfaction the progress of the work of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the draft Convention on the Rights of the Child, while drawing governments' attention to the fact that it is essential for that work to result in provisions granting protection comparable to and, if possible, greater than existing international instruments,

being conscious of the major challenge that the plight of children in emergency situations, whether accompanied or not, represents to governments, National Societies and other relief agencies,

deeply worried about the security of unaccompanied children, especially in emergencies,

recognizing that children during emergency situations have the right of access to parental or family care to the greatest possible extent *and stressing* the need for governments,

National Societies and other relief agencies to take the necessary steps to ensure this,

1. *urges* governments, National Societies, the League, the ICRC and other relief agencies especially to take care of children when emergency situations occur and to protect them from all forms of physical and mental injury or abuse,

2. *urges* governments, National Societies, the League, the ICRC and other relief agencies to take appropriate measures to combat the illicit international transfer and non-return of children,

3. *urges* governments, National Societies, the League, the ICRC and other relief agencies to take appropriate measures to identify unaccompanied minors as soon as possible, establish and maintain an individual file and ensure that tracing efforts are made with a view to family reuniting,

4. *recommends* governments and National Societies to take appropriate steps for the successful rehabilitation of children who have been victims of emergencies,

5. *asks* governments and National Societies to report to the next International Conference on the measures taken to assist children in emergency situations.

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Disaster relief in case of technical and other disasters

The Twenty-fifth International Red Cross Conference,

recognizing that technological developments in many areas constantly progress and that many States carry out nuclear activities,

being aware that in the development and application of existing and new technologies it cannot be totally excluded that at any time technical incidents can turn suddenly into serious accidents and disasters, which directly endanger the health and life of a great number of people,

recognizing that damaging situations of this kind can also occur below the threshold of disaster, which require immediate and preventive action on the part of all agencies called upon to help,

knowing that the effects of such serious accidents and disasters can—independently of where they occurred in one State—spread to the territory of other States,

being aware that these kinds of accidents and disasters require special and additional measures of prevention, assistance and mutual information and support, which must be planned and carried out both by States and by international organizations,

expressing the wish that to this end international co-operation may be reinforced and intensified,

acknowledging the fact that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is more especially obliged to provide mutual assistance and support in any kind of disaster,