

Resolution 4

Revision of National Society statutes and legal base

The Council of Delegates,

reaffirming the objective of Action 3 of the Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement), which called upon all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) to examine their statutes and related legal texts and where necessary, to adopt new constitutional texts, in accordance with the “Guidance for National Societies Statutes” (Guidance document) and relevant resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference),

recalling Resolution 3 of the 2009 Council of Delegates urging National Societies to continue to work closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation), and to consult with the Joint ICRC/ International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes (Joint Statutes Commission) in order to ensure that all National Societies have examined and updated their statutes and related texts by the end of 2010,

welcoming the report of Joint Statutes Commission, which summarizes the progress achieved, the experience gained and the work still to be undertaken,

taking note with appreciation that close to 90 per cent of all National Societies have initiated a process of review of their statutes and related legal texts since the adoption of the 2001 Strategy for the Movement, while *acknowledging* however that significant work is still required by many National Societies in order to bring their constitutional and statutory base instruments in line with the minimum requirements of the Guidance document,

expressing its deep appreciation to those National Societies which have successfully completed a revision of their Statutes and related legal texts in accordance with the Guidance document,

noting that many National Societies continue to face challenges in their efforts to work in accordance with the Fundamental Principles in their respective operational contexts, and *reiterating* the crucial

importance of high-quality statutes, and the imperative of a strong legislative base for National Societies in domestic law in order to ensure their ability and capacity to deliver services to people in need effectively,

recognizing that the regular and periodical review of a National Society’s legal base instruments (e.g. every 10 years) is important in assisting National Societies to adapt to new challenges and circumstances,

recognizing the many challenges which National Societies may face in order to comply fully with the minimum requirements and recommendations defined in the Guidance document due to their respective contexts of operation,

reaffirming in this regard the primary responsibility of National Societies at the level of their leadership and management to ensure that adequate constitutional and statutory instruments are in place and duly implemented,

1. *congratulates* National Societies for their continuing and considerable efforts invested in the last decade in the revision of their statutes and related legal texts and in the strengthening of their legal base in domestic law;
2. *expresses its appreciation* to National Societies who have established a constructive dialogue with the ICRC and the International Federation, as well as with the Joint Statutes Commission, which has allowed the Movement to progress toward fulfilling the objective of strengthening National Societies’ legal base;
3. *recommends* that National Societies which have not yet initiated or successfully completed a statutes revision process undertake the necessary steps in order to update their statutory or constitutional base instruments in accordance with the Guidance document and relevant Council of Delegates and International Conference resolutions;
4. *invites* National Societies undertaking a revision of their statutes and related legal texts to pay special attention to the following questions

- with the geographic scope provisions of the MoU;
4. *requests* the ICRC and the International Federation to reaffirm the mandate of the monitoring process and to continue to support and strengthen the monitoring process of the implementation of the MoU;
 5. *decides* that the monitoring process will continue until such time as the MoU is implemented in full and requests that regular reports on the monitoring mechanism are issued as deemed necessary;
 6. *requests* National Societies to respond favourably to any request for assistance and support in the monitoring process;
 7. *requests* the ICRC and the International Federation to arrange for the provision of a report on implementation of the MoU to the next Council of Delegates and through it to the International Conference.