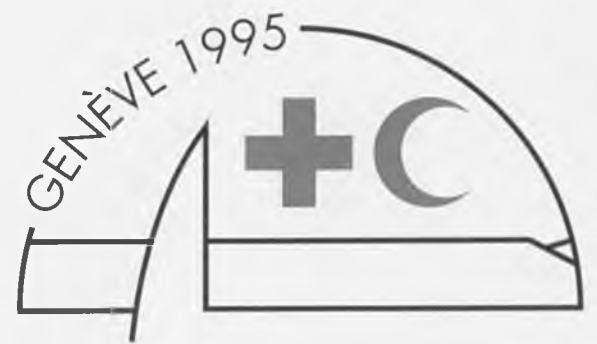


GENEVA 1995

26th  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
OF THE  
RED CROSS AND  
RED CRESCENT





362.791 / 1246  
(ENG)


**REPORT OF THE  
TWENTY-SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF  
THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

**INCLUDING THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 1995  
COUNCIL OF DELEGATES  
AND OF THE CONSTITUTIVE MEETING  
OF THE XIITH SESSION  
OF THE STANDING COMMISSION**

**Prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross  
and the  
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
under the authority of  
the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

**GENEVA, 1-7 DECEMBER 1995  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER**

BIBLIOTHEQUE - CICR  
19, AV. DE LA PAIX  
1202 GENEVE



The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the 1995 Council of Delegates were hosted by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Standing Commission was composed of the following members:

*Chairman*

Botho, Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein (German Red Cross)

*Vice-Chairman*

Dr B.R.M. Hove (Zimbabwe Red Cross Society)

*Members*

Mrs Mavy A.A. Harmon (Brazilian Red Cross)

Dr J. Hantos (Hungarian Red Cross)

Mrs V. Ahouanmenou (Red Cross of Benin)

*Representatives of the ICRC*

Mr C. Sommaruga, President

Mr Y. Sandoz, Director

*Representatives of the International Federation*

Mr M. Villarroel Lander, President

Mr G. Weber, Secretary-General

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**LETTER TO ALL  
NATIONAL SOCIETIES**

Geneva, 15 June 1995

**CONVOCAATION OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES**

Geneva, 1 and 2 December 1995

In conformity with Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and on the occasion of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Council of Delegates will meet on 1 and 2 December 1995 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva prior to the International Conference.

By virtue of Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure mentioned above, a provisional annotated agenda was prepared by the Standing Commission, copy of which please find herewith.

In due course we will send you documents relating to the Council.

Yours faithfully,

Cornelio Sommaruga  
President  
International Committee  
of the Red Cross

Mario Villarroel Lander  
President  
International Federation of  
Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



From left to right: Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Botho, Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Mr Mario Villarroel Lander, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

ICRC/T. Gassmann



## CONVOCAATION

### to the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Geneva (Switzerland), 3-7 December 1995

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Geneva, 31 May 1995

The Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent mandated the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to organize the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. It will be held in Geneva (Switzerland)

from 3 to 7 December 1995.

This Conference will be preceded by the 36th Session of the Executive Council and the 10th Session of the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and various other meetings of particular interest to the Movement.

This is the convocation for the members of the International Conference which, pursuant to Article 9 of the Statutes of the Movement, are:

- duly recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,
- the International Committee of the Red Cross,
- the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,
- the States parties to the Geneva Conventions.

Pursuant to Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement, this convocation is also being sent to observers to inform them that this Conference is going to be held.

Please find attached:

- the programme of the Conference,
- the provisional annotated agenda of the Conference,
- the registration and hotel registration form (to be duly filled in and returned within the indicated deadline), the list of hotel prices, a map of Geneva,
- a brochure on the 26th International Conference.

Rule 6 para. 2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement stipulates “observations, amendments or additions to the provisional agenda must be received by the Standing Commission at least sixty days before the opening of the Conference...”. All comments to this effect must thus be sent to the following address by 3 October 1995

Secretariat of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent  
C.P. 372  
1211 Geneva 19 (Switzerland)

Lastly, the Standing Commission has decided to nominate Ambassador Jean-Daniel Biéler, who has been put at its disposal by the Swiss Government, as Commissioner responsible for assisting the International Committee and the International Federation with respect to preparations for the Conference.

Mario Villarroel Lander  
President  
International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Cornelio Sommaruga  
President  
International Committee  
of the Red Cross



*Plenary Session of the 26<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.*

*ICRC/T. Gassmann*

**PROGRAMME OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS  
AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT MEETINGS**

**Geneva, 27 November — 7 December 1995**

**International Conference Center**

**MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER**

09:00 and 10th Session of the General Assembly  
14:30 of the International Federation

**TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER**

09:00 and 10th Session of the General Assembly  
14:30 of the International Federation

**WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER**

09:00 and 10th Session of the General Assembly  
14:30 of the International Federation

12:30 to 14:00 Commission for the financing of the  
ICRC

18:00 10th Session of the General Assembly of  
the International Federation

**THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER**

09:00 and 10th Session of the General Assembly  
14:30 of the International Federation

**FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER**

09:00 and Council of Delegates  
14:00

**SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER**

09:00 and Council of Delegates  
14:00

**SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER**

17:00 Inaugural ceremony of the 26th Interna-  
tional Conference of the Red Cross and  
Red Crescent

18:30 Reception given by the Swiss and  
Geneva authorities

**MONDAY 4 DECEMBER**

09:00 — 12:30 First plenary meeting

14:30 — 18:00 Commission I: War victims and respect  
for International Humanitarian Law

14:30 — 19:00 Commission II: Humanitarian values and  
response to crisis

16:00 — 19:00 Drafting Committee

**TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER**

09:00 — 12:30 Commission I: War victims and respect  
14:30 — 18:00 for International Humanitarian Law

09:00 — 12:30 Commission II: Humanitarian values and  
14:30 — 18:00 response to crisis

09:00 — 12:30 Drafting Committee  
14:30 — 18:00

19:00 Reception given by the ICRC and the  
International Federation

**WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER**

09:00 — 12:30 Commission I: War victims and respect  
for International Humanitarian Law

09:00 — 12:30 Commission II: Humanitarian values and  
response to crisis

09:00 — 12:30 Drafting Committee  
14:30 — 18:00

14:30 Preparation of the reports of Commis-  
sions I and II

17:00 Second plenary meeting (Election of the  
Members of the Standing Commission)

**THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER**

09:00 — 12:30 Third plenary meeting

14:30 — 18:00 Final plenary meeting and Closing  
Ceremony



**LIST OF DELEGATES  
MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE**

\* National Society's representative participating only in the meetings of the Council of Delegates

**AFGHANISTAN**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Mohammed Haider Reza  
President
- Mr Gul Alam Wahdatyar  
First Vice-President
- Mr Mohamed Yunus Azizi  
President, Mazar Branch & Northern Provinces
- Mr Said Ahmad Abdul Ghafoori  
President, Qandahar Branch & S.W. Provinces
- Mr Abdullah Baharistani  
Head, International Relations Dept.

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- M. Humayun Tandar  
Chargé d'affaires, Mission permanente, Genève
- Mlle Anita Maiwand-Olumi  
Deuxième Secrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève

**ALBANIA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Shyqyri Subashi  
Président

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- M. Andi Gjonej  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève
- M. Viktor Kabili  
Premier Secrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève
- M. Khafer Shatri

**ALGERIA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- M. Abdelhamid Benabderrahmane  
Vice-Président
- M. Messaouda Chader  
Secrétaire général
- M. Elfachouch Baroudi  
Membre du Comité directeur
- M. Abdelhader Abid  
Conseiller
- M. Said Benhabdallah  
Membre, Président de la Commission du droit  
humanitaire

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- M. Hocine Meghlaoui  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève
- M. Abdelkrim Benchiah  
Ministre plénipotentiaire
- M. Abdelhamid Bendaoud  
Conseiller

Mme Anissa Bouabdellah  
Conseiller

**ANDORRA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- M. Serafi Miro  
Président
- M. William M. Danjon Dieudonné  
Secrétaire général

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- M. Casimir Arajol  
Représentant et mandataire du Gouvernement de la  
Principauté d'Andorre
- Mme Marie-Lourdes Gasset  
Directrice des affaires sociales

**ANGOLA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Aleixo Gonçalves  
Secretary-General
- Dr Carlos Alberto Mac Mahon  
Member of Executive Committee

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- M. Mario de Azevedo Constantino  
Deuxième Secrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève
- M. Paulino Junior Lutumba  
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**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Ms Ruth E. Ambrose  
President
- Mr Gerald Price  
Director-General
- Ms Sheila Rosemarie Pigott  
Training Officer

**ARGENTINA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Sra. Susana Ciaccio de Alonso  
Presidenta

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mme Norma Dumont-Nascimbene  
Ministre, Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Buenos  
Aires
- M. Juan Carlos Sánchez Arnau  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève
- M. Manuel Benítez  
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Mme Magdalena von Beckh  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

## ARMENIA

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

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President  
Dr Gourgen Boshian  
Secretary-General  
Mr Levon Karadjian  
Head of International Affairs Department  
Ms Hasmik Aramian  
Head of Protocol Department

### State

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Vahan Papazian  
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Dr Armen Sarkissian  
Ambassador to the United Kingdom  
Mr Karen Nazarian  
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## AUSTRALIA

### National Society

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National Chairman  
Mr John Pinney  
Vice-Chairman  
Hon. Jim Carlton  
Secretary-General  
Mr Richard Matheson Morgan  
Chairman, Victoria Division  
Mr Edward John Kremzer  
Executive Director, Tasmania Division  
Mr Phillip James Hart  
Executive Director  
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\*Mr Michael Wansley  
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### State

*Head of delegation:*

Ms Penelope Anne Wensley  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
Mr Christopher Lamb  
Legal Adviser, Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade  
Mr Crispin Conroy  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Angus MacDonald  
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## AUSTRIA

### National Society

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Mr Hans Polster  
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Mr Alexander Lang  
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Dr Christian Marte  
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### State

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## AZERBAIJAN

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

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President  
Mr Elchin Bagirov  
Head of International Relations

### State

*Head of delegation:*

Prof. Thiunguiz Raguimov  
Head of Department of the Cabinet of Ministers

## BAHAMAS

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Lady Igrid Darling  
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Ms Marina C. Glington  
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Ms Nibia Souza  
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## BAHRAIN

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Sadiq Al-Shehabi  
Secretary-General  
Mr Mubarak Khalifa Al-Hadi  
Director  
Ms Esmat Al-Moosawi  
Director

### State

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Ahmed Al-Haddad  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva

Mr Bakr Omer

## BANGLADESH

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Jamal Syed Shahidul Haque  
Chairman  
Mr M. A. Matin  
Acting Secretary-General  
Mr Mohammed Ali Jinnah  
Treasurer

### State

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Anwar Hashim  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
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Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Nazmul Quaunine  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## BARBADOS

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Dr Raymond Forde  
President

## BELARUS

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

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Mr Alexander Koulikov  
Head, International Relations Department (NHQ)  
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## BELGIUM

### National Society

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S.A.R. la princesse Astrid de Belgique  
President of the Belgian Red Cross  
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Vice-President of the BRC  
Mr Maurits Wollecamp  
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Mr Marc Van der Stock  
Director-General, Flemish-speaking Community  
Mr Philippe Laurent  
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Mr Wilfried Remans  
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M. André Andries  
Expert, Auditeur général

## BELIZE

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Ms Delcia Goff  
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Mr Eamon Courtenay  
Executive Member

### State

*Head of delegation:*

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## BENIN

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

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Présidente  
M. Felix Dossa  
Secrétaire général

## BHUTAN

### State

*Head of delegation:*

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Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
Mr Yeshey Dorji  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Karma T. Rinchen  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Phuntsho Wangdi  
Attaché, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## **BOLIVIA**

### **National Society**

#### *Head of delegation:*

Dr. Hugo Palazzi  
Presidente

Dra. Ivonne Carmen Uzquiano Cazorla  
Tesorera del Directorio Nacional

### **State**

#### *Head of delegation:*

Sr. Jorge Lema Patiño  
Embajador, Representante Permanente, Ginebra

Srta. Isabel Cadima Paz  
Tercera Secretaria

## **BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**

### **State**

#### *Head of delegation:*

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Mr Amor Masovic  
Governmental Expert

Ms Sabahka Rado  
Attachée, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## **BOTSWANA**

### **National Society**

#### *Head of delegation:*

Lady Ruth Khama  
President

Ms Phodiso Seema  
Secretary-General

### **State**

#### *Head of delegation:*

Mr Molosiwa Selepeng  
Permanent Secretary for Political Affairs, Office of the  
President

Brigadier Albert Scheffers  
Botswana Defence Force

## **BRAZIL**

### **National Society**

#### *Head of delegation:*

Ms Mavy d'Aché Assumpção Harmon  
Presidente

Mr Julio Vidal Pessoa  
Secretary-General

Air Brigadier José Esteves de Amorim  
Member

### **State**

#### *Head of delegation:*

M. Gilberto Vergne Saboia  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève

M. Paulo Sergio Pinheiro  
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Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

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Premier Secrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève

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Premier Secrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève

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## **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

### **State**

#### *Head of delegation:*

Mr Mohammed Hamid Jaafar  
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Mr Abd. Hamid Abdullah  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Abu Sufian Haji Ali  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## **BULGARIA**

### **National Society**

#### *Head of delegation:*

Prof. Dr M.D. Stoyan Saev  
President

Dr Stefan Gladilov  
Secretary-General

Ms Jordanka Georgieva  
Head of International Department

### **State**

#### *Head of delegation:*

Mr Valentin Dobrev  
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Mr Peter Kolarov  
Counsellor

Mr Peter Popchev  
Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Branimir Zaimov  
First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## **BURKINA FASO**

### **National Society**

#### *Head of delegation:*

Mme Bana Ouandaogo  
Présidente

M. Jean-Michel Zowélengré  
Secrétaire général

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### **State**

#### *Head of delegation:*

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M. Bissélé Kambou  
Direction de la coopération multilatérale, Ministère des  
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## BURUNDI

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

M. François Buyoya  
Président

### State

*Head of delegation:*

Mme Appolonie Simbizi  
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M. Diomède Mikaza  
Premier Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

## CAMBODIA

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Dr Hong-Sun Huot  
Secretary-General  
Mr Ouk Damry  
First Deputy Secretary-General

## CAMEROON

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

M. William Eteki Mboumoua  
Président  
M. Zibi Zibi  
Secrétaire général  
M. Privat Zogo  
Directeur, Information et relations publiques

### State

*Head of delegation:*

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Ambassadeur, Mission permanente, Genève  
Mme Victorine Mbette  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

## CANADA

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Ms Janet Davidson  
President  
Mr Gene Dumin  
Vice-President  
Mr Darrell D. Jones  
Member  
Chairman, Policy and Planning Advisory Commission  
of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent  
Movement  
Mr Douglas Lindores  
Secretary-General  
Ms Linda Allain  
National Director, International Services  
Mr Paul Wharram  
Co-ordinator, Planning & Education — International  
Services  
Mr Armand De Mestral  
Governor  
Mr Gilles Sandré  
National Director, International Services

### State

*Head of delegation:*

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Brigadier Pierre Boutet Général  
Juge-Avocat général, Ministère de la Défense  
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Directrice, Droit international, Ministère de la Défense  
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Ministre, Représentant permanent adjoint, Genève  
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Agence canadienne de développement international  
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M. Avarad Bishop  
Deuxième Secrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève  
Maj.-Gen. R.A. Dallaire  
LFQ Commander, Land Forces, Quebec Arena,  
Canadian Armed Forces

## CAPE VERDE

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Mme Alice Da Silva Gonçalves de Sena Martins  
Première Vice-Présidente  
M. Mario Luis Mendes Moreira  
Directeur jeunesse

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

M. David Dofara  
Président  
M. Joseph Kamach  
Vice-Président  
M. Pierre Ngoutti  
Secrétaire général  
M. François Farra-Frond  
Trésorier général  
Mme Juliette Dongoya-Nzekou  
Membre du Comité exécutif national

## CHAD

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

M. Yoyana Baniara  
Président  
M. Oumar Mahamat Andjaimi  
Secrétaire général a.i.

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mme Madjinta Kalzeube  
Représentante du Gouvernement de la République du Tchad
- M. N'dotole Laokounda  
Représentant du Gouvernement de la République du Tchad

**CHILE**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Sra. Zoy Katevas de Sclabos  
Presidenta Nacional
- Sra. Margarita Rojas de Yavar  
Directora General de Relaciones Públicas e Información

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

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Embajador, Representante Permanente, Ginebra
- Sr. Hernán Salinas  
Subdirector de la Dirección Jurídica del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- Sra. Verónica Chahín  
Segunda Secretaria, Misión Permanente, Ginebra
- Sr. Rodrigo Hume Figueroa  
Tercer Secretario, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

**CHINA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Yingqi Gu  
Executive Vice-President
- Mr Changming Li  
Secretary-General
- Mr Hao Ren  
Deputy Director, International Department
- Mr Xiaohua Wang  
Deputy Director, International Department
- Ms Ayan Zhou  
Officer, International Department

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Yongjian Jin  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Mr Yisan Zhang  
Deputy Director-General, Dept. of International Organizations
- Ms Keping Gu  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Zhixian Liu  
Division Chief, Dept. of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms Yuehua Wang  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Ms Yanping Gao  
Deputy Division Chief, Dept. of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms Shangu Li  
Third Secretary, Dept. of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms Zihua Dong  
Member of Delegation

**COLOMBIA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr. Guillermo Rueda Montaña  
Presidente
- Dr. Roberto Liévano Perdomo  
Vicepresidente
- Sr. Oscar Zuluaga  
Director de Desarrollo
- Sr. Francisco Espinosa  
Miembro del Comité Ejecutivo

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Sr. Guillermo Alberto González  
Embajador, Misión Permanente, Ginebra
- Sra. María Carrizosa de López  
Ministra Consejera, Misión Permanente, Ginebra
- Sr. José Noé Ríos  
Oficina del Alto Comisionado para la Paz, Presidencia de la República
- Sra. Pilar Gaitán de Pombo  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- Sr. Mauricio Hernández  
Consejería Presidencial para los Derechos Humanos
- Sr. Carlos Roberto Sáenz  
Agregado, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

**CONGO**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mme Ida Victorine Nze  
Présidente nationale
- M. Jean Bakekolo  
Secrétaire général
- M. Michel Bienvenu Ebaka  
Membre de la CR Jeunesse

**COSTA RICA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Sr. Miguel Carmona Jiménez  
Presidente
- Sr. Rodolfo Azofeifa Chacón  
Secretario General
- Sr. Edwin Sauma Mena  
Director del Consejo Nacional
- Sr. Jorge Jiménez Aguilar  
Director del Consejo Nacional
- Sr. Guillermo Arroyo Chacón  
Director de Socorros y Operaciones
- Sr. Gerinán Chaves Arguedas  
Vocal IV

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Sr. Manuel B. Dengo  
Embajador, Representante Permanente, Ginebra
- Sra. Laura Thompson  
Primera Secretaria, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

## CÔTE D'IVOIRE

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

M. Pascal Amengoua  
Secrétaire général

### State

#### Head of delegation:

M. Sem Koffi Kouame  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève  
M. Sia Bi Sei  
Premier Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève  
M. Kouassi Hyacinthe  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève  
M. Sery Marc Georges  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

## CROATIA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Ms Ruza Pospis Baldani  
President  
Dr Nenad Javornik  
Executive President  
Dr Vera Golubovic  
Deputy Executive President  
Ms Dubravka Horvat  
Head of Legal Department  
Mr Nikola Jagic  
Head of International Department

### State

#### Head of delegation:

Dr Ivica Kostovic  
Ambassador, Vice Prime Minister  
Mr Miomir Zuzul  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
Mr Ivan Kopjar  
Vice-President  
Mr Jaksa Muljadic  
Advisor, Assistant Foreign Minister  
Mr Neven Madey  
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative,  
Geneva  
Prof. Budislav Vukas  
Legal Advisor  
Mr Neven Henigsberg  
Advisor  
Ms Narcissa Becirevic  
Advisor/First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mr Tomislav Thür  
Advisor/Second Secretary, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva  
Ms Zrinka Ujevic  
Attachée/Advisor

## CUBA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Dr. Jorge Victor Antelo Pérez  
Vicepresidente de la Federación Internacional y de la  
Cruz Roja Cubana  
Sr. Luis Foyo Ceballos  
Secretario General

Sr. Nicolás E. Fernández Montoto  
Director Jurídico y de Relaciones Internacionales

### State

#### Head of delegation:

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Embajador, Representante Permanente, Ginebra  
Sr. Miguel Alfonso Martínez  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Sra. Natacha Arostegui  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Sra. Gloria M. De Dios  
Primer Secretario, Misión Permanente, Ginebra  
Srta. Aymee Hernández Quesada  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

## CYPRUS

### State

#### Head of delegation:

Ms Stella Soulioti  
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Ms Loria Markides  
Deputy Permanent Representative, Geneva

## CZECH REPUBLIC

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Dr Zdenko Vlk  
President  
Dr Jiri Prochazka  
Secretary-General  
Ms Silvia Petrova  
Head, International Department

### State

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Zdenek Venera  
Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Milan Svoboda  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Mr In Gap Jong  
Presidium Member  
Mr An Bo Kim  
Deputy Director, International Department  
Mr Jong Ho Kim  
Deputy Director for Youth Department

### State

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Li Song Ho  
Member of Parliament  
Mr Kim Tchel Sou  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr An Myong Hun  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## DENMARK

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Peter Tage  
Vice-President
- Mr Freddy Karup Pedersen  
Vice-President
- Mr Jorgen Poulsen  
Secretary-General
- Mr Lars Adam Rehof  
Chairman of the International Law Committee
- Mr Preben Soegaard Hansen  
Director, Assistant Secretary-General
- Ms Siri Melchior Tellier  
Head of Department, International Dept.
- Ms Barbara Gram  
Head of Information

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Hans Klindingberg  
Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Arnold Skibsted  
Deputy Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Niels Severing Munk  
Deputy Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Niels Christiansen  
Deputy Judge Advocate General, Ministry of Defence
- Ms Helen Petersen  
Special Advisor, Ministry of Defence
- Mr Ole Torpegaard Hansen  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## DJIBOUTI

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- M. Abdi Kaireh Bouh  
Secrétaire général
- M. Guireh Ali Ahmed  
Président du Comité régional
- M. Abdillahi Sultan  
Chef du département information diffusion

## DOMINICA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Ms Kathleen Pinard-Byrne  
Director-General

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Hugo Lodrini  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Dr. Iván Sarmiento Sanlley  
Presidente
- Sr. Máximo Garabot  
Presidente del Consejo

- Dra. María Rosa Belliard de García  
Directora Ejecutiva

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Sra. Angelina Bonetti Herrera  
Embajadora, Representante Permanente, Ginebra

## ECUADOR

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Sr. Tito Cabezas Castillo  
Presidente
- Sr. Luis Chiriboga Parra  
Vicepresidente
- Sr. Juan Nicolás Cueva Ortega  
Presidente de la Cruz Roja Provincial de Loja
- Sr. Wilson Fernando Torres Regalado  
Asesor Jurídico de la Cruz Roja Provincial de Cañar
- Sr. Federico Heinert Insua  
Miembro

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Sr. Alfredo Pinoargote  
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- Sr. Francisco Riofrío  
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## EGYPT

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Dr Mamdouh Gabr  
Secretary-General
- Mr Omran El-Shafei  
Ambassador, Chairman, International Relations Committee Member

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Mounir Zahran  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Ms Naila Gabre  
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- Dr Magda Shahin  
Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Dr Mohamed Gomaa  
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- Mr Ashraf El-Moafi  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- General Samir Mohamed Kamel Hosny  
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Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## EL SALVADOR

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

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- Lic. Luis Alvarez  
Secretario

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Sr. Carlos Ernesto Mendoza  
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- Srta. Margarita Escobar  
Embajadora Adjunta, Misión Permanente, Ginebra
- Sra. Lilián Alvarado-Overdiek  
Consejera, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Sr. Elias Manuel Maho Sicacha  
Presidente
- Sr. Leoncio Mitogo Edjang Avoro  
Vicepresidente
- Sr. Jesús-José Mba Nchama  
Secretario General

**ESTONIA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Hillar Kalda  
President
- Ms Riina Kabi  
Secretary-General

**ETHIOPIA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Prof. Jemal Abdulkadir  
Chairman
- Mr Abraham Workineh  
Secretary-General

**State**

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First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
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Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Teferi Melese Desta  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

**FIJI**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr John Scott  
Director-General

**FINLAND**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Hakan Hellberg  
President
- Mr Tapani Lyyra  
Vice-Chairman
- Dr (Ms) Tuula Oksanen  
Vice-Chairman

- Mr Markku Niskala  
Secretary-General
- Ms Helena Korhonen  
Director, International Department
- Ms Eevaliisa Hindsberg  
Head of Communication
- Mr Jari Pirjola  
Legal Officer

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

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- Ms Irmeli Mustonen  
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Ms Hanna Rinkineva-Heikkila  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
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First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms Paivi Kaukoranta  
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**FRANCE**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

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Président
- Mme Simone Preyssas  
Vice-Présidente
- M. Jean-Pierre Cabouat  
Conseiller, Affaires internationales
- M. Roger Angebaut  
Membre du Conseil d'administration
- M. Robert de Souza  
Membre du Conseil d'administration
- M. Yan Ollivier  
Chargé de mission, Affaires internationales
- Mlle Marie-Christine Graff  
Chargée de mission, Affaires internationales

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

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Secrétaire d'État à l'action humanitaire d'urgence
- M. Daniel Bernard  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève
- Mme Bettina Medioni  
Conseiller technique au Cabinet du Secrétaire d'État à l'action humanitaire d'urgence
- M. Charley Causeret  
Sous-Directeur, Droits de l'homme, Affaires humanitaires et sociales, Ministère des Affaires étrangères
- M. Hervé Besancenot  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève
- Mme Joëlle Rogé  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève
- M. Jean-Michel Favre  
Rédacteur, Direction Affaires juridiques, Ministère des Affaires étrangères
- Mlle Hélène Dantoine  
Rédacteur, Direction Nations Unies, Ministère des Affaires étrangères

## GABON

### State

#### *Head of delegation:*

- M. Emmanuel Mba Allo  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève
- M. Corentin Hervo-Akendengue  
Conseiller

## GAMBIA

### National Society

#### *Head of delegation:*

- Mr Ousman Ndow  
President
- Mr Momodou Lamin Fye  
Secretary-General

## GERMANY

### National Society

#### *Head of delegation:*

- Prof. Dr.iur. h.c. Knut Ipsen  
President
- Botho Prinz zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein  
Honorary President  
Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
- Ms Soscha Gräfin zu Eulenburg  
Vice-President
- Mr Johann Wilhelm Römer  
Secretary-General
- Mr Thomas Klemp  
Deputy Secretary-General, Director, International Division
- Ms Birgitta Zimmermann  
Head, President's Office
- Prof. Michael Bothe  
Chairman of the GRC's Committee of Experts on International Humanitarian Law
- Dr Horst Fischer  
Legal Adviser
- Dr Heike Spieker  
Legal Adviser
- Mr Frank Mohrhauer  
Assistant to Chairman of the Standing Commission
- Mme Inge Aldenhovel  
Chef de département
- Mr Lutz Eckardt  
Press Officer
- Dr Maren Köster-Hetzendorf  
Spokeswoman
- Ms Margitta Zimmermann  
Press Officer

### State

#### *Head of delegation:*

- Dr Alois Jelonek  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Dr Klaus Platz  
Head of Division, Legal Affairs, Federal Foreign Office, Bonn
- Dr Alexander von Rom  
Head of Division for Humanitarian Affairs, Federal Foreign Office, Bonn
- Mr Guenther Wittschen  
Head of Division, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Bonn

- Dr Michael Schaefer  
First Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Dr Michael Donner  
Counsellor, Federal Ministry of Defense, Bonn
- Dr Peter Schoof  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Dr Julia Monar  
Second Secretary, Federal Foreign Office, Bonn
- Mr Bernd Wierum  
Second Secretary, Federal Foreign Office, Bonn
- Ms Martina John  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Ms Christina Schulz  
Attachée
- Dr Dieter Fleck  
Conseiller juridique

## GHANA

### National Society

#### *Head of delegation:*

- Mr Ebenezer Sersah Aidoo  
President
- Ms Ayodele Akiwumi  
Vice-President
- Mr Anthony Gyedu Adomako  
Secretary-General
- Mr Alexander B. Donkor  
Honorary Legal Advisor
- Mr John S. Addo  
Vice-Chairman, Finance Commission

### State

#### *Head of delegation:*

- Ms Anges Y. Aggrey-Orleans  
Ambassador, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Fritz Poku  
Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative
- Colonel J. Annoh  
Ghana Armed Forces

## GREECE

### National Society

#### *Head of delegation:*

- Ms Pandora Tsaldaris  
Vice-President
- Mr Jean M. Pasmazoglu  
Ambassador, President of the HRC International Relations Committee
- Mr Golfinos Petmezas  
Secretary-General
- Ms Lila Mallaspina  
Director of the HRC, International Relations Department
- Mr Helias Krispis  
Professor, Member of the HRC, International Relations Committee
- Mme Olga Monachou  
International Relations Department
- M. Dionyssios Kalodoukdas  
Membre du Conseil d'Administration Centrale

### State

#### *Head of delegation:*

- M. Georges P. Helmis  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève

- M. Jean Boucaouris  
Ministre plénipotentiaire, Représentant permanent  
adjoint, Genève
- M. Athanassios Théodoracopoulos  
Ministre plénipotentiaire, Ministère des Affaires  
étrangères
- M. Dimitris Iliopoulos  
Premier Conseiller, Ministère des Affaires étrangères
- M. Michel Daratzikis  
Premier Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève
- M. Emmanuel Manoussakis  
Premier Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève
- Mme Maria Telalian  
Département des Affaires juridiques, Ministère des  
Affaires étrangères
- M. Stylianos Kamnarokos  
Conseiller de presse

## GRENADA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Christopher A. Williams  
President
- Mr C. LeRoy Robinson  
Secretary-General

## GUATEMALA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Dr. Carlos de la Riva Payés  
Presidente
- Sra. Lourdes de la Riva  
Miembro

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Ing. Ricardo Díaz-Duque  
Ministro Consejero, Misión Permanente, Ginebra
- Lic. Nelson Rafael Olivero  
Primer Secretario, Misión Permanente, Ginebra
- Lic. Beatriz Méndez de la Hoz  
Tercera Secretaria, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

## GUINEA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- M. Louis Holie  
Président
- M. Christophe Camara  
Secrétaire général

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Dr Drame Kandjoura  
Ministre de la Santé

## GUYANA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Ms Dorothy Fraser  
Secretary-General

## HAITI

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Dr Claude Jean-François  
Président
- M. Marie-Joseph Marc Regis  
Secrétaire général
- M. Frantz Lafontant  
Membre du Comité central

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- M. Joseph Antonio  
Ambassadeur, Mission permanente, Genève
- M. Fritzner Gaspard  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève
- Mme Sandra Dorzin de Landsheer  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

## HOLY SEE

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Mgr Paul F. Tabet  
Ambassadeur, Nonce apostolique, observateur  
permanent
- Mgr Andrés Carrascosa  
Conseiller, Mission permanente du Saint-Siège
- Mlle Anne-Marie Colandrea  
Conseillère technique
- M. Giorgio Filibeck  
Conseiller technique
- M. De Gregori Massimo  
Membre, Mission permanente, Genève

## HONDURAS

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Sra. Virginia Meneca de Mencía  
Presidenta
- Sra. Rosa Esther Suárez  
Vicepresidenta

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Sr. Arturo López Luna  
Embajador, Representante Permanente, Ginebra
- Srta. Gracibel Bu Figueroa  
Consejera
- Sra. María Teresa Da Costa Gómez  
Agregada, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

## HUNGARY

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Dr Laszlo Andics  
President
- Dr Janos Hantos  
Member of the Board, Member of the Standing  
Commission
- Ms Agnes Jantsits  
Head, International Department
- Mr Nicholas De Vecsey  
Expert
- Mr Jean-François Barsacq  
Expert

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr André Erdos  
Ambassador, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs, Budapest
- Mr Péter Naray  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Dr Arpad Prandler  
Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Lt.-Col. Ferenc Almási  
Ministry of Defense, Budapest
- Dr Agnes Hevesi  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Jozsef Schlammadinger  
Ministry of Welfare, Budapest

**ICELAND**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Gudjon Magnusson  
President
- Ms Thorkelsdottir Anna Thrudur  
Vice-President
- Ms Sigrun Arnadottir  
Secretary-General
- Ms Jakobina Thordardottir  
Senior Advisor
- Ms Sigridur Gudmundsdottir  
Director, International Department
- Ms Gunvor Kronman  
Nordic Coordinator

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Gunnar Snorri Gunnarsson  
Ambassador, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Magnus K. Hannesson  
First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Gudmundur B. Helgason  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

**INDIA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Kolse Patil  
Member
- Ms Suman Krishna Kant  
Member, National Managing Committee
- Dr Jamshed N. Vazifdar  
Member, Central Managing Committee
- Mr Dilip R. Salgaocar  
Member, National Executive Committee
- Mr A. Ghatak  
Member of the Managing Body
- Mr S.C. Goyal  
Deputy Secretary

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Ms Arundhati Ghose  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Mr H.K. Singh  
Deputy Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Mr R.P. Singh  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

- Mr Hamid Ali Rao  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Dr Neeru Chadha  
Legal Officer

**INDONESIA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Ms Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana  
President/Chairlady
- Dr Soesanto Mangoensadjito  
Secretary-General
- Ms Aswi Reksaningtyas Nugroho  
Head, International Bureau
- Maj.-Gen. Nataatmadja Jauhari  
Member of National Board
- Mr Mohammad Yarman Se  
Member of National Board
- Ms Dati Kusumowardani  
Board Member
- Ms Yudith  
Member of Delegation

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Oetojo Oesman  
Minister of Justice of the Republic of Indonesia
- Mr Agus Tarmidzi  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Mr Saleh Baharis  
Secretary-General, Department of Justice
- Ms S.H. Budiarti  
Senior Official, Department of Justice
- Mr Suwardi Martowirono  
Supreme Judge, Supreme Court of the Republic of  
Indonesia
- GPH Haryo Mataram  
National Resilience Institution, Department of  
Defence and Security
- Colonel SPL. Tobing  
Senior Official, Department of Defence and Security
- Mr R. Santoso  
Department of Justice
- Mr Makmur Widodo  
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Ms Musma Musa Abas  
Official, Department of Foreign Affairs
- Ms Dienne M. Moehario  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Arif Havas Ugrosono  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Bebeb Djundjunan  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Dos Reis Leonardo  
Adviser
- Ms B.A. Syahrudin Saodah  
Adviser

**IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Seifollah Vahid Dastjerdi  
President
- Mr Sadreddin Sadr  
Director-General of International Affairs



- Mr Ali Akbar Zarghami  
Assistant Director-General, International Affairs
- Ms Zahra Falahat  
Director of International Services
- Mr Mostafa Mohaghegh  
Director of International Cooperation
- Mr Hassan Shoushtarizadeh  
Advisor to the President

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Sirous Nasser  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Mr Kia Tabatabaei  
Ambassador, Director-General for International Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Bozorgmehr Ziyaran  
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Mr Mehdi Molla Hosseini  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

**IRAQ**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Prof. Saadoon Al-Tikriti  
President
- Dr Sabah Al-Zubaidi  
Secretary-General

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Barzan Al-Tikriti  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Dr Riyadh Aladhamy  
Member
- Dr Monem Al-Kadhi  
Member
- Mr Mohammed Hussein  
Member
- Mr Mohammed Salman  
Member
- Mr Rahim K. Attah  
Member

**IRELAND**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Ms Una McGurk  
Chairman
- Mr Martin Good  
Secretary-General

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Ms Anne Anderson  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Mr James Anthony Sewell  
Principal Officer, Department of Defence
- Mr Raphael Siev  
Assistant Legal Advisor, Department of Foreign Affairs

- Mr Donal Denham  
Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Patrick Drury  
Administration Attaché, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Ms Colette Kinsella

**ISRAEL**

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Itzhak Lior  
Deputy Director-General for International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Yosef Lamdan  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Mr Raphael Walden  
Minister-Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Ms Simona Frankel  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Alan Baker  
Deputy Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem
- Ms Pnina Sharvit-Baruch  
Deputy Head of International Law Branch, Military Advocate, General's Unit, IDF
- Ms Tali Rimon  
Member

**ITALY**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mme Mariapia Garavaglia  
Commissaire extraordinaire
- M. Remo Paolini  
Conseiller
- Mme Manuela Lavagnino  
Chef, Département international
- M. Marcello Guerra  
Vice-Président, Commission Jeunesse de la Fédération internationale
- M. Paolo Benvenuti  
Président Commission DIH
- M. Renato Ribaud  
Attaché de presse

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- M. Giuseppe Baldocci  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève
- M. Roberto Toscano  
Ministre Conseiller, Représentant permanent adjoint, Genève
- M. Daniele Verga  
Premier Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève
- M. Gianluigi Mascia  
Premier Conseiller, Ministère des Affaires étrangères
- Prof Luigi Condorelli  
Conseiller juridique
- Mme Carmela Masecchia  
Deuxième Secrétaire, Ministère des Affaires étrangères
- Dr Agostino Miozzo  
Expert, Ministère des Affaires étrangères
- M. Ghebremedhin Ghebregzabiher  
Expert

## JAMAICA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Dr Audley Betton  
President  
Ms Yvonne Clarke  
Director-General

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Ms Marcia Thomas  
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## JAPAN

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Tadateru Konoe  
Vice-President  
Mr Shinichi Kaburagi  
Director-General, International Relations Dept.  
Mr Kiyoshi Igarashi  
Director, International Relief Division, International Relations Dept.  
Mr Ryoichi Hattori  
Assistant Director of Planning Division  
Ms Toshiko Hosokawa  
Officer, Planning Division, International Relations Dept.  
Mr Tomohiko Maeda  
Director-General, Okayama Prefectural Chapter  
Mr Kenya Okuda  
Director-General, Aichi Prefectural Chapter  
Mr Tsunefumi Shiki  
Director-General, Saga Prefectural Chapter  
Mr Masahiko Takenaka  
Assistant Director, Volunteer Division, Institutional Development Dept.

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Minoru Endo  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
Mr Hisashi Owada  
Ambassador, Special Advisor, Permanent Representative, New York  
Mr Yukiya Amano  
Minister, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva  
Mr Takashi Koezuka  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Kiyoshi Koinuma  
Director, Refugee Assistance Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mr Hajime Hayashi  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Junzo Fujita  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Toshiyasu Ikenaga  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Takuichiro Tada  
Legal Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mr Kazuhiko Nakamura  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Toshitaka Takeuchi  
Special Assistant, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva

- Ms Masako Kinoshita  
Special Assistant, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## JORDAN

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Dr Mohammed M. Al-Hadid  
President  
Mr Omar Abu-Goura  
Vice-President  
Mr Fahed El-Ejjeh  
Secretary-General  
Mr Hany Khair  
Member of Executive Community  
\*Dr Muwaffaq Al-Fawaz  
Member

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Dr Arif Al-Batayneh  
Minister of Health of Jordan  
Mr Abdullah Madadha  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
Dr Suleiman Al-Jaafari  
Health Director of the Zarka Governorate  
Mr Jafar A. Hassan  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## KAZAKHSTAN

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Tleukhan S. Kabdrakhmanov  
Ambassador, France

## KENYA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr J.S. Muriu  
Governor/Chairman of Executive Committee  
Mr Ephraim M. Gathaiya  
Secretary-General

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Hon. Amos Wako  
Attorney-General  
Mr N. Ngunjiri  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Ms Amina Mohamed  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Daniel Ole Supuko  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## KUWAIT

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Barges Al-Barges  
President  
Mr Saad Ali Al-Nahidh  
Treasurer & Member of Board of Directors  
Dr Ebraheem M.H. Behbehani  
Member of the Board

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Salah Mohammed Al-Buaijan  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Mohammed Al-Essa  
Attaché, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Fathi S. Al-Athri  
Chief of National Committee for POWs
- Mr Abdul Aziz Al-Majid  
Researcher in Human Rights Dept.
- Ms Aziz Abou-Zeid  
Secretariat
- Mr Majdi Ali  
Secretariat

**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Phou-Ngeunh Douangsiddhi  
Président a.i.
- M. Lane Pathammavong  
Secrétaire général

**LATVIA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Uldis Laucis  
President
- Ms Vilhelmina Savicka  
Head, Finance Department

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Ms Sandra Kalniete  
Ambassador, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Ansis Reinhardts  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

**LEBANON**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Gen. Georges Harrouk  
Président
- Mme Samia Samaha  
Chef du département des affaires intérieures
- Mme Amina Fawaz  
Chef, Département médico-social

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- M. Amin El Khazen  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève
- M. Ghassan Moallem  
Premier Secrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève

**LESOTHO**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Musi Mokete  
President
- Dr Mohlalefi Moteane  
2nd Vice-President

- Ms Masebina L. Letele  
Secretary-General
- Mr Mothusi T. Mashologu  
Advisor

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Fine L. Maema  
Attorney-General
- Mr Jürg H. Lippuner  
Consul General
- Ms Potlako Nzima-Ntsekhe  
Chargé d'affaires, Lesotho Embassy, Brussels

**LIBERIA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Ms Ophelia Hoff Saytumah  
National President
- Ms Juanita Neal  
Secretary-General
- Mr D. Robert Gbiah Tarr  
Acting Secretary-General
- Ms Esther H. Page  
Co-Chairman, Finance Commission

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Henry D. Williamson  
Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission, Geneva

**LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Ali Saeid Ali  
Assistant Secretary-General
- Dr Nosrat El Jerbi  
Medical Adviser
- Dr Farouk El Gerbi  
Medical Adviser

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- M. Taher Benshaban  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève
- M. Tayeb Habib  
Attaché, Mission permanente, Genève

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- H.S.H. Princess Marie von und zu Liechtenstein  
President
- Dr Marianne Marxer  
Secretary-General

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- S.A.S. le prince Nikolaus von und zu Liechtenstein,  
Ambassadeur, Ambassade de Liechtenstein, Berne
- Mme Letizia Meier  
Première Secrétaire, Ambassade de Liechtenstein,  
Berne

M. Patrick Ritter  
Collaborateur diplomatique, Office pour les Affaires  
étrangères, Vaduz

## LITHUANIA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Regimantas Budrys  
Secretary-General

Ms Irena Bruziene  
Head of International Department

### State

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Narcizas Prielaida  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva

## LUXEMBOURG

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

M. Pierre Wurth  
Ambassadeur, Administrateur de la Croix-Rouge  
luxembourgeoise

### State

#### Head of delegation:

M. Jacques Reuter  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève

M. Paul Duhr  
Représentant permanent adjoint, Genève

M. Alain Weber  
Attaché, Mission permanente, Genève

## MADAGASCAR

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Mme Gisèle Razafindrakoto  
Présidente nationale

### State

#### Head of delegation:

M. Jaona Ravaloson  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève

Mme Faralalao Rakotoniaina  
Premier Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

M. Phabien Edafe  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

## MALAWI

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Gideon D. Chadza  
President

Mr John Undulu  
Secretary-General

Mr Harry D. M'menya  
Honorary Treasurer

## MALAYSIA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Abdul Hamid Haji Omar  
National Chairman

Mr V.T. Nathan  
International Federation Vice-President  
and MRCS Deputy National Chairman

Mr Leong Hun Khoo  
National Vice-Chairman

Mr Kok Wing Lim  
National Vice-Chairman

Datin Paduka Ruby Lee  
Secretary-General

Mr Wan Ali Wan-Ahmad  
Chairman, Kelatan Branch

Mr Hisham-Harun Hashim  
Chairman, MRCS National Committee for Legal  
Affairs & IHL

Mr Soon Khean Ong  
National Executive Member, Chairman, Selangor  
Branch

Tunku Puan Sri Azizah  
Member

### State

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Haron Siraj  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva

Mr Tan Seng Sung  
Deputy Permanent Representative, Geneva

Mr Abdullah Faiz Zain  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Rostam A. Salleh  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## MALI

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

M. Dieudonne Alpha-Sow  
Secrétaire général

### State

#### Head of delegation:

M. Bassidi Coulibaly  
Chargé de mission au Ministère de l'administration  
territoriale et de la sécurité

M. Founé Sylla  
Chef de division, Ministère des Affaires étrangères

M. Aguibou Diallo  
Ministère des Affaires étrangères

## MALTA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Prof. Frederick Fenech  
President

Mr Joseph Micallef  
Secretary-General

Dr Ruth Farrugia  
Legal Advisor

### State

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Michael Bartolo  
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Dr Jacqueline Aquilina  
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Mr Anthony Bonnici  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## MAURITANIA

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Lt.-Col. Ahmed Ould Aida  
Président

M. Ainina Ould Abdel-Jelil  
Secrétaire général

M. Mohamed Ould Chighali  
Chef Service information et relations publiques

### State

*Head of delegation:*

M. Ould Samory Abdi  
Conseiller, Ministère des Affaires étrangères

## MAURITIUS

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

M. G. Roland Lagesse  
Directeur général

## MEXICO

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Dr. Fernando Uribe Calderón  
Presidente del Consejo Nacional de Directores

### State

*Head of delegation:*

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Embajador, Representante Permanente, Ginebra

Sr. Luciano Joublanc  
Embajador, Representante Permanente Alterno, Ginebra

Sr. Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo  
Consejero, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

Sr. Porfirio Muñoz-Ledo  
Primer Secretario. Misión Permanente, Ginebra

## MONACO

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

S.A.S. le Prince héréditaire Albert  
Président

Mme Rosine Sanmori  
Vice-Présidente

M. Philippe Narmino  
Secrétaire général

M. Alain Canis  
Trésorier général

### State

*Head of delegation:*

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Ambassadeur, Ambassade de Monaco, Berne

Dr Anne Negre  
Médecin de santé publique à la direction de l'Action  
sanitaire et sociale

Capitaine Philipponnat  
Aide de camp

## MONGOLIA

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Dr Nuren Shura  
President of MRCS

Ms Luntan Bayarmaa  
Head of International Relations Dept.

### State

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Shirchinjavyn Yumjav  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva

Mr Dogsomyn Ganbaatar  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Sharavdorjiin Bayarhuu  
Officer, Law and Treaties Department, Ministry of  
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Mr Oidov Chimidregzen  
Member

Mr Bat-Ochir Erdenebulgan  
Member

## MOROCCO

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Dr Mohamed Nesh-Nash  
Membre du Comité central

M. Mehdi Bennouna  
Membre du Comité central

M. Mohamed M. Maazouzi  
Membre du Comité central

M. Ali Lemnioui  
Membre du Comité central et Trésorier

### State

*Head of delegation:*

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Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève

M. Mohamed Majdi  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

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Chef de division des questions humanitaires et sociales

Mlle Mina Tounsi  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

Prof Fouad Ben-Makhlouf  
Chargé de mission auprès du Premier Ministre,  
Ministère des Droits de l'homme

M. Lotfi Bouchaara  
Deuxième Secrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève

## MOZAMBIQUE

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Sinai Nhatitima  
President

Mr Celestino Rebelo Jorge Dingongo  
Secretary-General

### State

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Carlitos Sufiante Inacio  
Director of the Department for NGOs, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

**MYANMAR**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

U Kyaw Soe  
Acting Executive Director

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

U Aye  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
U Linn Myaing  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
U Aung Ba Kyu  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

**NAMIBIA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

Ms Razia Essack-Kauaria  
Secretary-General  
Ms Alfonsina Zambwe  
Management Committee Member

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

Dr Albert Kawana  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice  
Mr Gullen Kolokwe  
Legal Advisor (Col.)

**NEPAL**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Ramesh Kumar Sharma  
Chairman  
Mr Dev Ratna Dhakhwa  
Secretary-General  
Mr Devendra Baradur Pradhan  
Treasurer

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Banmali Prasad Lacoul  
Minister-Counsellor and Chargé d'affaires a.i.,  
Permanent Mission, Geneva

**NETHERLANDS**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

Mr W. Meijer  
President  
H.R.H. Princess Margriet of The Netherlands  
Vice-President  
Mr W.H. Cense  
General Director  
Mr J.F. Boddens-Hosang  
Adviser to the Executive Committee  
Mr A.J.H. Korver  
Coordinator, International Secretariat  
Ms J. Van-Sambeek  
Dissemination Officer  
Mr G.L. De Graaf  
Member, Executive Committee

Ms D. de Wagenaar  
Press Officer

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

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Mr Peter P. Van Wulfften Palthe  
Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Permanent  
Representative, Geneva  
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Head, Emergency and Humanitarian Aid Section,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Ms Liesbeth Lijnzaad  
Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mr Harry A.M. De Wit  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Henk Swarttouw  
Legal and Social Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs  
Mr Johan F.R. Boddens-Hosang  
Ministry of Defense

**NEW ZEALAND**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Kerry Nolan  
National President  
Mr John Searle  
Director-General

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

Ms Elizabeth Wilson  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

**NICARAGUA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

Sra. Esperanza Bermúdez de Morales  
Presidenta Nacional

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

Sr. Lester Mejía-Solís  
Embajador, Representante Permanente, Ginebra  
Sr. Danilo Rosales Díaz  
Primer Secretario, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

**NIGER**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

M. Ali Bandiare  
Président

**NIGERIA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

Alhaji Shehu A. Musa CFR  
National President  
Mr Ofor Nwobodo  
Secretary-General

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Orobola Fasehun  
Minister, Chargé d'affaires a.i.
- Mr Cyril Uchenna Gwam  
Senior Counsellor
- Mr O. A. E. Egwa  
Senior Counsellor, Second United Nations Dept.,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Anyim Pius Anyim  
Head of Protection Department, National Commission  
for Refugees
- Mr B. I. D. Oladeji  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

**NORWAY**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Offbjorn Roys  
Vice-President
- Prof. Astrid N. Heiberg  
President
- Mr Vidar Helgesen  
Special Advisor
- Mr Sven Mollekleiv  
Secretary-General
- Mr Ole Jorgen Krohn-Nydal  
Head, Office of the Secretary-General
- Ms Anne Bauer  
Director of International Department
- Mr Brynjulf Mugaas  
Special Adviser

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Jan Egeland  
State Secretary, Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Bjorn Skogmo  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Mr Knut Morkved  
Ambassador, Special Adviser on Humanitarian  
Assistance and Refugee Affairs, Royal Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs
- Mr Kjetil Paulsen  
Head of Division, Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Petter Wille  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Wegger Strimmen  
Head of Division, Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Frode Solberg  
Executive Officer, Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Arne Willy Dahl  
Prosecutor General, Military Affairs

**OMAN**

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Ms Fatima Abdullah Al-Ghazali  
Director of the Department of Public Relations,  
Ministry of Health
- Mr Hashim Alawi Ahmed Al-Gazali  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Humaid Al-Ma'ani  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Said Al-Amri  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

**PAKISTAN**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Syed Wajid Ali  
Chairman
- Dr Mir Rifat Mahmood  
Secretary-General

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Akram Munir  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Ms Kehkashan Azhar  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Babar Hashmi  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Syrus Sajjad Qazi  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Lt.-Col. Muhammad Shabbir

**PANAMA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Sr. Luis Carlos Coronell  
Vicepresidente Nacional
- Sra. Lorena Lozano de Coronell  
Delegada

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Sr. Leonardo Kam Binns  
Embajador, Representante Permanente, Ginebra
- Sr. Javier Bonagas  
Delegado, Representante Permanente Adjunto,  
Ginebra
- Honorable Señor Pablo Fernández  
Consejero, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Loani Ravu Henao  
Former National Chairman
- Mr Gaudi M. Toka  
Secretary-General

**PARAGUAY**

**National Society**

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr. Luis Fernando Díaz de Bedoya  
Presidente

**State**

*Head of delegation:*

- Sr. Eladio Loizaga  
Embajador, Representante Permanente, Ginebra
- Sr. Rigoberto Gauto  
Consejero, Misión Permanente, Ginebra
- Sr. Rodrigo Ugarriza  
Segundo Secretario, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

## PERU

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Sr. Lauro Muñoz Garay  
Presidente Nacional

### State

#### Head of delegation:

Sr. José Urrutia  
Embajador, Misión Permanente, Ginebra  
Sr. Antonio García  
Consejero, Representante Permanente, Ginebra  
Sra. Romy Tincopa  
Segunda Secretaria, Misión Permanente, Ginebra  
Sr. Eduardo Pérez del Solar  
Tercer Secretario, Representante Permanente, Ginebra

## PHILIPPINES

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Ms Lourdes R. Loyola  
Director for Administration  
Dr Orencita Castillo  
Administrator, Quezon City Chapter  
Ms Annette Espino  
Administrator, Pampanga Red Cross Chapter  
Ms Meya G. Velez  
Administrator, Manila Red Cross Chapter  
Prof. Enrique P. Syquia  
Legal Adviser on International Humanitarian Law  
Ms Lourdes Casas Quezon  
Consultant, Volunteer Service, Bureau Member

### State

#### Head of delegation:

Ms Lilia R. Bautista  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
Mr Jaime J. Yambao  
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Ms Lourdes Yparraguirre  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## POLAND

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

M. Jerzy Kotowicz  
Vice-président  
Mlle Alina Kusmierczyk  
Conseillère pour la coopération internationale  
M. Jasica Roman  
Président de la Commission de diffusion du DIH

### State

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Ludwik Dembinski  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
Mr Zbigniew Szymanski  
Deputy Director of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mr Roman Kuzniar  
Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## PORTUGAL

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Prof José Manuel Carrilho Ribeiro  
Président  
M. Antonio França Doria  
Vice-Président  
Mr Ricardo Galvão Almeida  
Technical Adviser

### State

#### Head of delegation:

M. Gonçalo De Santa Clara Gomes  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève  
M. Fernando Coelho  
Conseiller  
Mme Liliana De Gouveia Araujo  
Direction des Services des affaires politiques  
multilatérales, Ministère des Affaires étrangères  
Mme Onélia Ferreira  
Institut pour la coopération, Ministère des Affaires  
étrangères  
Mlle Catarina de Albuquerque  
Expert

## QATAR

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Abdulla Al Abdulla  
Secretary-General  
Mr Hassan El-Suweidi  
Executive Manager

### State

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Abdullah Al-Mana  
Counsellor  
Dr Khalifa Al-Jaber  
Ministry of Public Health  
Mr Maisara Amer Khalifa  
Member/Advisor

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Dr Young-Hoon Kang  
President  
Ms Heh-Nam Kim  
Director of International Relations Department  
Mr Yong-Hoon Rheem  
Head of International Organization Division, Interna-  
tional Relations Dept.  
Mr Sang-Yeob Kim  
Advisor  
Mr Kwang-Bog Bae  
Advisor  
Mr Sang-Woo Rhee  
Advisor

### State

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Seung Ho  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva



Mr Joon-Hee Lee  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Kang Hyeon Yun  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Seung Bae Yeo  
Assistant Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Seong Mee Yoon  
Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Jae Chul Han  
Deputy Director-General for the United Nations

## ROMANIA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Nicolae Nicoara  
President

Ms Victoria Grigore  
Director-General

Ms Mihaela Steriu  
Adviser, International Department

### State

#### Head of delegation:

M. Romulus Neagu  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève

M. Toni Grebla  
Premier Secrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève

M. Sergiu Margineanu  
Premier Secrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève

## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Dr Oleg Sidorov  
President

Mr Ivan P. Starostin  
Head of Development and Social Issues Dept.

### State

#### Head of delegation:

M. Alexandre G. Khodakov  
Chef du Département Juridique

M. Guennadi Kouzmine  
Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Legal Department

Mr Valentin Romanov  
Counsellor

Mr Andrei Kolossovsky  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva

Mr Youri Vorobiov

Mr Igor Chtcherbak

Mr Youri Brajnikov  
Head of Department of Emercom Russia

Mr Oleg Malguinov

Mr Valeri Verdiev

Mr Nikolai Okinine  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Youri Boytchenko

Mr Alexei Lyjenkov  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Vladimir Dolgoborodov

Ms Lioudmila Cheremoukhina

Mr Serguei Tchoumarev

## RWANDA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

M. François Xavier Nsengumuremyi  
Président

M. Jean-Baptiste Gatali  
Secrétaire général

### State

#### Head of delegation:

Dr Dominique Rwakunda  
Médecin en poste au Ministère de la Santé

M. Benjamin Serukiza Nkundabantu  
Ministère des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération

M. Jean-Marie V. Mbonimpa  
Ambassadeur

M. Félix Bagambiki  
Chef de Division de la coopération multilatérale au Ministère des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération

## SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Ms Gwendolyn Nisbett  
Executive Member

Ms Imelda Hendrickson  
Group Leader

Ms Angela Titley  
Office Manager

## SAINT LUCIA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Kenneth Monplaisir  
President

Ms Terencia Gaillard  
Director-General

## SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Ms Yvonne Patterson  
Director-General

## SAMOA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

Mr Afa Lesà  
Vice-President

## SAN MARINO

### State

#### Head of delegation:

M. Sivano Innocentini  
Consul général, Représentant permanent, Genève

## SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

M. Paulo Rosario Das Neves  
Secrétaire général

- M. Paulo Jorge Rodrigues Do Espirito Santo  
Conseiller juridique

## SAUDI ARABIA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Dr Hamad A. Al-Sugair  
President  
Mr Waleed Sherbeeni  
Budget Researcher  
Mr Saleem Al-Ahmad  
Member

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Dr Abdul Rahman Gdaia  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Khaled Fakeeh  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## SENEGAL

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- M. Ousmane Diagne  
Président  
M. Abdoulaye Diong  
Secrétaire général  
M. Mamadou Assane Diop  
Trésorier général  
Maj. Mactar Diakhate  
Secrétaire à l'organisation  
M. Abdoul Aziz Diallo  
Administrateur des projets et du plan de développement

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- M. Ibra Déguène Ka  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève  
M. Aziz Ndiaye Abdou  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève  
M. Dia Balla  
Conseiller  
M. Ibrahima Fall  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

## SEYCHELLES

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Chrystold Chetty  
President  
Mr Norman Lucas  
Treasurer

## SIERRA LEONE

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Ernest Cummings  
Secretary-General

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- M. Edouard Luy  
Consul

## SINGAPORE

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Prof. L.R. Penna  
Council Member  
Ms Geri Lau  
Secretary-General

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr K. Kesavapany  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
LTC James Lim Chong Beng  
Ministry of Defense  
Mr Yeo Bock Chuan  
Ministry of Defense  
Maj. Seah Yong Kiat Peter  
Ministry of Defense  
Maj. Lawrence Chua  
Branch Head, Ministry of Defense  
Mr Joseph Teo Choon Heng  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## SLOVAKIA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Miroslav Chovanec  
President  
Dr Viliam Dobias  
Secretary-General  
Ms Emília Kováčová  
Member  
Dr Vladimír Karvaj  
Member  
Dr Juraj Kralík  
Member

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Ms Maria Krasnohorska  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
Mr Igor Grexa  
Director, Department of International Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mr Juraj Sykora  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## SLOVENIA

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Mirko Jelenic  
Secretary-General  
Ms Darja Horvat  
Deputy Secretary-General  
Ms Barbara Gorkic  
Interpreter

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Dr Anton Bebler  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
Mr Andrej Logar  
Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Permanent Representative, Geneva

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Dr Pimbo Ogatuti  
Vice-President

## SOMALIA

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Dr Ahmed M. Hassan  
President  
Colonel Nur Hassan Hussein  
Secretary-General

## SOUTH AFRICA

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Francis Ribeiro  
National Executive Member  
Mr Keith Gower  
Director-General

### State

*Head of delegation:*

Mr J.S. Selebi  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
Mr M. P. Netsianda  
The Defence Secretariat  
Major-General P.J. de Klerk  
Adjutant-General, South African National Defence Force  
Adv. M. Joubert  
Senior State Law Advisor (International Law), Department of Foreign Affairs  
Mr P.J. van Schalkwyk  
Secretary of Disaster Relief Fund  
Dr G. Wolvaardt  
Counsellor (Social Affairs), Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Dr A. Sooklal  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Ms S.S. Le Roux  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr J. Christofides  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr A.G. Michie  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## SPAIN

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Sr. Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero  
Presidente  
Sra. María Antonia Jordana  
Experta  
Sr. Carlos Balea  
Experto  
Sr. Juan Carlos González  
Vicepresidente  
Sr. Antonio Bruel  
Coordinador General  
Sr. José Luis Hernández  
Presidente Autonómico de Castilla-León

Sr. Joaquín Sánchez  
Presidente Autonómico de Extremadura  
Sra. María Planas  
Presidenta Autonómica de Baleares  
Sr. José Luis Rodríguez-Villasante  
Director C.E.D.I.H.  
Sra. Cuyas Marta Corachan  
Presidenta de la Cruz Roja de Cataluña

### State

*Head of delegation:*

Sr. D. Juan López de Chicheri  
Director-General de Organizaciones y Conferencias Internacionales, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Madrid  
Prof. Dr. D. José Antonio Pastor Ridruejo  
Director de la Asesoría Jurídica Internacional, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Madrid  
D. Juan Manuel Salas Fernández  
Consejero, Misión Permanente, Ginebra  
D. Juan Manuel González de Linares  
Consejero, Misión Permanente, Ginebra  
D. Ricardo Martínez Vázquez  
Consejero, Misión Permanente, Ginebra  
D. José María Ferreiro Moreno  
Jefe de Servicio de Ayuda Humanitaria, Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional

## SRI LANKA

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Tissa Manilal Abeywickrama  
Hon. President  
Mr Abeyratne A. M. B.  
Branch Chairman and Member of the Board of Governors

### State

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Bernard A.B. Goonetilleke  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
Mr W.P.R.B. Wickremasinghe  
Minister  
Mr A.L. Abdul Azeez  
Third Secretary

## SUDAN

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

Prof. Mamoun Yousif Hamid  
Presidente  
Mr Omar Osman Mahmoud  
Secretary-General  
Mr Mohamed El-Nabahani El-Sheikh  
Treasurer, Executive Committee

### State

*Head of delegation:*

Mr Ali Ahmed Sahloul  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
Mr Alier Deng Ruai  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## SURINAME

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Ms Marlene Cabenda  
President  
Dr Marja Naarendorp  
Director

## SWAZILAND

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Mathokoza T.E. Mtetwa  
President  
Ms Thandiwe S. Dlamini  
Secretary-General  
Mr Emmanuel Ndlangamandla  
Head of Programmes, Deputy Secretary-General  
Ms Sabelo Dlamini  
Volunteer Fund-raising Committee

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Ishmael Matse  
Legal Advisor

## SWEDEN

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Ms Christina Magnuson  
President  
Dr Henric Hultin  
Vice-President  
Ms Annie Marie Sundbom  
Vice-President  
Mr Peter Orn  
Secretary-General  
Mr Göran Bäckstrand  
Chief Advisor to the Secretary-General  
Mr Sten Furbo  
Director, International Department  
Ms Kristina Hedlund Thulin  
Advisor International Humanitarian Law  
Mr Mathias Iweborg  
Chairman, Red Cross Youth  
Ms Anette Eriksson  
Member of the Central Committee  
\*Dr Gunhild Beckman  
Member, Executive Committee

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- Mr Anders Bjurner  
Deputy Under-Secretary of State, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Stockholm  
Mr Lars Norberg  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva  
Mr Peter Bruce  
Ambassador, Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Stockholm  
Mr Bertil Roth  
Assistant Under-Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Stockholm  
Ms Marie Jacobsson  
Deputy Assistant Under-Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Stockholm

- Ms Ann Marie Pennegard  
Counsellor, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Stockholm  
Mr Anders Pedersen  
First Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Stockholm  
Mr Pär-Olof Johannesson  
First Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Stockholm  
Ms Margareta Af Geijerstam  
Legal Advisor, Ministry of Defense  
Ms Karin von Vietinghoff  
Senior Officer, Humanitarian Assistance Division, Swedish International Development, Stockholm  
Mr Per Sjögren  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Sweden, Geneva  
Mr David Friberg  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Sweden, Geneva

## SWITZERLAND

### National Society

#### Head of delegation:

- Mme Anne Ormond-Ronca  
Membre du Comité central  
M. Ermanno Genasci  
Vice-Président, Membre du Comité central  
Prof Pierre Sprumont  
Président a.i.  
M. Hubert Bucher  
Secrétaire général  
M. Martin Fuhrer  
Directeur Coopération internationale  
M. J. F. Labarthe  
Section genevoise CRS  
Mme Wendy Zysset Bucher  
Chargée de la diffusion

### State

#### Head of delegation:

- M. Urs Ziswiler  
Ambassadeur, Chef de la division politique des Droits de l'homme et humanitaire, DFAE  
M. Walter Gyger  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève  
M. Charles-Edouard Held  
Ministre, Sous-Directeur de la direction du Droit international public, DFAE  
M. Peter Eichenberger  
Divisionnaire, Directeur de l'Office fédéral des Affaires sanitaires de l'armée, DMF  
M. Walter Knüsli  
Chef de la Section conventions, tâches spéciales, Service juridique, Office fédéral de l'adjudance  
Mme Marianne Engler  
Chef de la Section politique humanitaire et de la politique internationale des réfugiés  
M. Franklin Thevenaz  
Division Aide humanitaire et corps suisse d'aide en cas de catastrophe  
M. Alain Guidetti  
Premier Secrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève  
M. Alain-Denis Henchoz  
Collaborateur diplomatique, direction du Droit international public, DFAE  
M. Lucius Cafilisch  
Ambassadeur, Président Groupe d'experts intergouv. pour la protection des victimes de la guerre

## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Kamal Shehadeh  
President
- Mr Khalusy Al-Atassy  
Secretary-General
- Dr Abdul Rahman Attar  
Board Member

### State

*Head of delegation:*

- M. Hanna Mourad  
Ministre d'État
- M. Clovis Khoury  
Chargé d'affaires, Mission permanente, Genève
- Dr Fouad Hamzeh  
Délégué gouvernemental
- M. Hamzeh Dawalibi  
Premier Secrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève

## THAILAND

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Phan Wannamethee  
Secretary-General
- Dr Atirek Na Thalang  
Assistant Secretary-General
- Dr Wongkulpat Snidvongs  
Director of the Central Bureau
- Ms Nontiya Kaewket  
International Relations Officer
- Mr V. Vejjajiva  
Special Advisor
- Dr Vitit Muntarbhorn  
Advisor

### State

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Tej Bunnag  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Mr Apichart Chinwanno  
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Viraphand Vacharathit  
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Virachai Plasai  
Counsellor, Dept. of Treaties and Legal Affairs
- Ms Saowalak Chaichuson  
First Secretary, Dept. of International Organizations
- Ms Priabthip Thenanonta  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Asda Jayanama  
Director-General, Dept. of International Organizations

## THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Zivko Popovski  
President
- Mr Ilija Cvetanoski  
Vice-President
- Mr Ivan Narasanov  
Secretary-General

- Mr Stojan Trencovski  
Head of International Dept.
- Mr Sasho Taleski  
Secretary of International Dept.

### State

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Ilijaz Sabriu  
Minister of Labour
- Dr Violeta Malinska-Petrusevska  
Under-Secretary, Ministry of Health
- Mr Miomir Ristovski  
Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Dimitar Belcev  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Ms Suzana Stamboliska  
Traductrice

## TOGO

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

- M. Amoussouvi Ahouangbevi  
Président
- M. Kwami Gafah Petrus Guy  
Secrétaire général
- M. Deh K. Mawuli Nyatepe  
Trésorier général

## TONGA

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

- Ms Amelia Taumoepeau Tupou  
Chairperson

### State

*Head of delegation:*

- Ms Kaimana H. Aleamotua  
Senior Assistant Secretary

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Mohamed Ali Aziz  
Vice-Chairman

## TUNISIA

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Brahim El-Gharbi  
Président
- M. Ali Tritar  
Vice-Président
- Dr Tahar Cheniti  
Secrétaire général
- Prof Habib Slim  
Secrétaire général adjoint

### State

*Head of delegation:*

- M. M. Mohamed Ennaceur  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent, Genève
- M. Mohamed Samir Koubaa  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

## TURKEY

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Ertan Gönen  
Vice-President
- Dr Kemal Demir  
President
- Mr Halit Doganay  
Director, Foreign Relations
- Mr Adnan Kunt  
Permanent delegate to the ICRC and the International Federation

### State

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Gündüz Aktan  
Ambassador, Deputy Under-Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Izzet Gucyener  
Head of Department, International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Colonel Sadi Cayci  
Military Judge, Turkish General Staff
- Ms Ozden N. Sav  
Legal Counsellor
- Mr Bogaç Guldere  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## TURKMENISTAN

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Zukhra Ellieva  
President

## UGANDA

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

- Prof. Herbert S.K. Nsubuga  
Chairman
- Mr Peter Oryema  
Secretary-General

### State

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Alfred Nnam  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Brussels

## UKRAINE

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

- Dr Ivan I. Usichenko  
President
- Ms Gabriela A. Manailo  
Chairman of Regional Committee
- Dr Igor S. Tarasov  
Chairman of Regional Committee
- Mr Oganés N. Mikhilian  
Head of the International Dept.
- Mr Eugene N. Tsybulenko  
Expert, International Humanitarian Law

### State

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Volodymyr Khandohiy  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Valeriy Syomin  
Deputy Head, Dept. of Humanitarian Policy, Admin. of the President of Ukraine
- Mr Olexander Slipchenko  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Mr Oleg Shamshur  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Yuri Gladenko  
Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Yevhen Semashko  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

- Mr Saeed Al-Romaithi  
Secretary-General
- Mr Khaleef Al-Seweidi  
Chairman, Board of Directors

### State

*Head of delegation:*

- H.E. Mr Nasser Salman Al Aboodi  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Mr Mohammed Ben Amara  
Permanent Mission, Geneva

## UNITED KINGDOM

### National Society

*Head of delegation:*

- Ms Elspeth Thomas  
Chairman
- Lady Sylvia Limerick  
Chairman Emeritus and Vice-President of the International Federation
- Mr Michael Whitlam  
Director-General
- Ms Jane Hamer  
Executive Assistant to the Director-General
- Mr David Wyatt  
International Adviser
- Mr Geoffrey Dennis  
International Division
- Sir Alan Munro  
Member
- Mr Michael Meyer  
Member
- \*Mr John Gray  
Communication Division

### State

*Head of delegation:*

- Sir Franklin Berman  
Legal Adviser, Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- Mr Nigel Williams  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Mr Edward Chaplin  
Deputy Permanent Representative, Geneva
- Ms Glynne Evans  
Head, United Nations Dept., Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Mr Andrew Bearpark  
Head, Emergency Aid Dept., Overseas Dev.,  
Administration

Mr Paul Berman  
Legal Adviser, Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Lt.-Col. David Howells  
Army Legal Service, Ministry of Defence

Mr Kenneth Cardy  
Emergency Aid Dept., Ministry of Defence

Ms Patricia Ramsey  
United Nations Dept., Foreign & Commonwealth  
Office

Mr Huw Llewellyn  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Ms Sarah Foulds  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Ms Jill Helke  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Ms Emer Doherty  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Alan Caughey  
Attaché, Permanent Mission, Geneva

#### UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

##### National Society

###### *Head of delegation:*

Mr Mohamed Mussa  
Hon. Treasurer/AG. Chairman

Mr Adam Kimbisa  
Secretary-General

##### State

###### *Head of delegation:*

Mr Francis Malambugi  
First Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

##### National Society

###### *Head of delegation:*

Ms Anita L. Rankin  
Chairman, International Services Committee

Ms Jennifer L. Dorn  
Senior Vice-President

Mr Gene Dyson  
Acting President

Mr Jose A. Aponte  
Vice-President

Mr David B. Arnold  
Officer, International Services

Mr Michael Hoffman  
Officer, International Humanitarian Law

Mr Miguel Nieves  
Member, Board of Governors

Mr Neal Boyle  
Member

Mr Stuart Leiderman  
Environmental Response

##### State

###### *Head of delegation:*

The Honorable Ann Richards  
Former Governor of Texas, State of Texas, Austin,  
Texas

The Honorable Phyllis E. Oakley  
Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees, and  
Migration, Department of State

The Honorable Daniel Spiegel  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva

Dr Spencer Foreman, MD  
President, Montifiore Medical School, Albert Einstein  
College, New York

The Honorable John H. McNeill  
Senior Deputy General Counsel of the Defense  
Department

Ms Jane Hickie  
Vemer, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson, and Hand,  
Chartered Advocate, Washington D.C.

Ms Leslie Ann Gerson  
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##### State

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Vice-Président
- M. Eric Roethlisberger  
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- M. Daniel Thürer  
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- M. Jacques Forster  
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- Mme Francesca Pometta  
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- M. Jean de Courten  
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- Dr Mohamed El-Hadid  
Vice-Président
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Vice-Président
- Dr K. Kennel  
Vice-Président (excusé, représenté par M. H. Bucher)
- M. Bengt Bergman  
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- M. George Weber  
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- Mr Robert Cox  
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- M. François Borel  
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- M. Pierre Cornillon  
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Mr Shai Franklin  
Member  
Mr Andrew Silberberg  
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#### **WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION**

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#### **WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL**

*Head of delegation:*

Dr Eric R. Ram  
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## II COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

1 and 2 December 1995

### 2.1 ANNOTATED AGENDA

#### I. Elections, agenda and procedural matters

“The Council shall meet on the occasion of each International Conference, prior to the opening of the Conference” (Article 15, paragraph 1, of the Movement’s Statutes). The convening of the Council before the International Conference requires no special request by any of the Movement’s components or decision by any statutory body.

##### 1. Opening of the meeting by the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent;

“In conformity with Rule 26 para. 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Chairman of the Standing Commission shall chair the opening meeting until the Chairman of the Council has been elected.”

##### 2. Election of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretaries of the Council of Delegates;

“In addition to the election of its Chairman and Vice-Chairman from among its members, the Council shall elect secretaries” (Rule 26, paragraphs 2 and 3).

The Movement’s Statutes (Rule 15, paragraph 2) specify that “the Council and the General Assembly of the International Federation, as well as the International Conference when it is convened, shall be chaired by different persons”.

##### 3. Adoption of the agenda;

The Chairman submits to the Council the provisional agenda drawn up by the Standing Commission (Article 18, paragraph 4 b), of the Movement’s Statutes). Once it has been adopted, the agenda becomes final.

#### II. Substantive items

##### 4. 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

##### 4.1 Proposals for the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary-General and two Assistant Secretaries-General of the International Conference;

(proposals for the Chairmen and Rapporteurs of the plenary Commissions);

Article 14, paragraph 2 a), of the Movement’s Statutes provides that the Council shall “propose to the Conference the persons to fill the posts mentioned in Article 11, paragraph 3”, namely a Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, a Secretary-General and Assistant Secretaries-General.

The other Conference officers to be proposed by the Council are the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur of each of the two plenary Commissions which are meant to share between them the work of the Conference.

##### 4.2 Adoption of the provisional agenda;

This means that the Council is responsible for approving and, if necessary amending the agenda of the Conference. This procedure is designed to facilitate the work of the Conference by enabling it to spend as little time as possible on matters of procedure and to attend without delay to substantive questions on its agenda.

Requests for amendments and additions to the agenda of the Conference are usually submitted under this item.

The adoption of its agenda does not require an express decision by the Conference. It is not customary for this item to be placed on the agenda of the first plenary session. As provided in Rule 6, paragraph 2, of the Movement’s Rules of Procedure, “observations, amendments or additions to the provisional agenda must be received by the Standing Commission at least sixty days before the opening of the Conference, unless the Standing Commission agrees to a later date”.

##### 5. Commission on the Red Cross and Red Crescent and Peace

The final report of the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace (cf. Resolutions 1 and 12, Council of Delegates, Birmingham 1993) will summarize the Commission’s work accomplished during its reunions subsequent to the Council of Delegates (October 1993). A synopsis of the conclusions reached by the Commission on the basis of the mandate attributed to it by the Council of Delegates of 1991, Budapest (Resolution 3), and which was specified at the Council of Delegates held in Birmingham, 1993 will explain the way in which it completed the work conferred to it. Specific points to be developed will be the contribution of the Movement in relation to respect for the more specific rights of the child and the actions of the National Societies in the prevention of problems where minorities are involved.

In its final report, the Commission will present its conclusions and recommendations related to the future contribution of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to Peace.

##### 6. Future of the Movement:

##### 6.1 Report of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission established by Resolution 1/1993;

##### 6.2 Report of the ICRC and the International Federation on their functional cooperation;

This item covers one of the most important subjects which will be dealt with at the Council of Delegates.

Resolution 1 of the 1993 Council set up a Policy and Planning Advisory Commission and required it to report to the forthcoming Council. The report will be represented by the Chairman of the Commission on behalf of its twelve members, drawn from National Societies, from the International Federation and from the ICRC. It will give an account of the deliberations of the Commission in the six meetings it has held, and contains recommendations in respect of the mandate given to it by Resolution 1/93 of the 1993 Council.

At this stage several consultations with National Society representatives have taken place at various levels and on different occasions. National Societies shall examine the report with attention taking into account that on the basis of the discussions, decisions shall be adopted and taken into consideration when discussing the future of the Movement.

It was furthermore decided by the two institutions, the ICRC and the International Federation, to prepare a

report on their functional cooperation (6.2), an important issue moreover addressed by the Advisory Commission.

7. Information policy of the Movement

The ICRC and the International Federation are trying together with National Societies, through a participatory process, to update the present Information Policy of the Movement.

Relevant information concerning these questions will be communicated to all National Societies in due time before the General Assembly of the International Federation and the Council of Delegates.

8. Ceremony of award of the Henry Dunant Medal;

The Henry Dunant Medal, which recognizes outstanding services and acts of great devotion to the cause of the Movement, is awarded every two years by decision of the Standing Commission. The medals are presented by the Chairman of the Standing Commission at a plenary meeting of the Council of Delegates.

9. Activity Report of the Henry Dunant Institute;

This item is traditionally included on the Council's agenda. A report will be presented.

10. Children in armed conflicts

This document covers ICRC and International Federation follow-up to Resolution 4 of the Council of Delegates of 1993 and sets out a plan of action for the Movement, prepared under the auspices of the Henry Dunant Institute.

11. Report of the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC

12. Miscellaneous

Follow-up to Resolution 5 (Armed Protection of Humanitarian Assistance), Resolution 6 (A Code of Conduct for Organizations taking part in Disaster Relief Operations) and Resolution 7 (The Movement, Refugees and Displaced Persons) of the Council of Delegates (1993).

13. Date and place of the next Council of Delegates.

## 2.2 COMMISSIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

### COMMISSION ON THE RED CROSS, RED CRESCENT AND PEACE

*Chairman*

Mr Maurice Aubert (Honorary member of the ICRC)

*Permanent members*

The International Federation, the ICRC and the Henry Dunant Institute

*National Society members*

Australian Red Cross  
 Brazilian Red Cross  
 Colombian Red Cross  
 Egyptian Red Crescent  
 Ethiopian Red Cross Society  
 French Red Cross  
 Hellenic Red Cross  
 Hungarian Red Cross  
 The Republic of Korea Red Cross  
 Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
 Malaysian Red Crescent Society  
 Nigerian Red Cross Society  
 Paraguayan Red Cross  
 The Sudanese Red Crescent  
 Swedish Red Cross  
 Tunisian Red Crescent

### POLICY AND PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION

*Chairman*

Mr Darrell Jones (Canadian Red Cross)

*Vice-Chairmen*

Mr Jacques Forster (ICRC)  
 Mr Ilkka Uusitalo (International Federation)  
 Mr Hubert Bucher (International Federation) (from May 1995)  
 Ms Jennifer Dorn (American Red Cross)  
 Ambassador Hector Gros Espiell (International Federation) (until March 1995)  
 Ms Françoise Krill (ICRC)  
 Ms Bana Maiga Ouandaogo (Burkinabe Red Cross)  
 Mr André Pasquier (ICRC)  
 Prof. Stoyan Saev (Bulgarian Red Cross)  
 Mr Sadiq Al Shehabi (Bahrain Red Crescent)  
 HRH The Princess of Wales (International Federation)  
 Mr Phan Wannamethee (Thai Red Cross)

## 2.3 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES CHAIRMANSHIP

*Chairman*

Mr Cornelio Sommaruga (ICRC)

*Vice-Chairman*

Dr Mohammed M. Al-Hadid (Jordanian Red Crescent)

*Secretaries*

Ms Yolande Camporini (International Federation)  
 Ms Kathleen Graf (ICRC)



## 2.4 SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1995 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

### FIRST MEETING

Friday, 1 December 1995

9 a.m.

**SUMMARY:** Opening of the meeting by the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent — Election of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretaries of the Council of Delegates — Adoption of the Agenda — 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent: Proposals for the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen, Secretary-General and two Assistant Secretaries-General of the International Conference (proposals for the Chairmanship and Rapporteurs of the plenary Commissions and the Drafting Committee); Adoption of the provisional agenda of the International Conference — Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace (adoption of Res. 2)

**Item 1 of the agenda: OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMISSION OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

1. Botho, Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, Chairman of the Standing Commission, referring to the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, urged all those participating in it to abstain from political discussion and comment and to make every effort to convince governmental delegations to respect the principles of the Movement. Work to assist the most vulnerable called for solidarity, harmony, cooperation, confidence and coordination within the Movement. States and their political leaders must be made aware that the principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence represented the only ways of guaranteeing assistance without discrimination, as well as the prevention and alleviation of human suffering. The Conference provided a unique opportunity for dialogue with the States party to the Geneva Conventions and they had to be persuaded that the Movement's work on behalf of the most vulnerable gave it a moral right to demand strong support for its work. Millions of volunteers were daily setting the example of humanity. Their selfless commitment and enthusiasm made an important contribution towards mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace among all people.

**Item 2 of the agenda: ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN AND THE SECRETARIES OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES**

2. Botho, Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, Chairman of the Standing Commission, proposed that the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, should chair the meeting and that Dr M. Al-Hadid, President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society and Vice-President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, should act as Vice-Chairman, with Ms Yolande Camporini (International Federation) and Ms Kathleen Graf (ICRC) as joint Secretaries.
3. *It was so decided.*
4. Mr Sommaruga (ICRC), Chairman of the Council of Delegates, thanked the Council for the confidence they had shown the ICRC in electing its President as Chairman of the Council and welcomed those National Societies participating for the first time as full members of a Council of Delegates.

He expressed his conviction that, with a large measure of goodwill, the Council would make significant progress in

implementing the first Fundamental Principle: humanity. He urged participants never to lose sight of the ultimate objective and common mission, namely, to help the helpless. The world today needed a strong Movement and, so that it could gain that ideal strength, and have a comparative advantage among humanitarian agencies and eschew politics, the respective mandates and complementarity of the Movement's various components must be clearly perceived by all. The Movement would only be weakened if one of its components built up its strength to the detriment of another.

The success of the 26th International Conference would also depend on the preparatory work carried out in the Council. In the presence of governments attending the Conference, the Movement must show cohesion. Victims all over the world, as well as millions of volunteers in National Societies, hundreds of delegates of the International Federation, the ICRC and National Societies, expected concrete results and must not be disappointed.

Lastly, he cited the words of Montesquieu, which in his view were entirely appropriate for the common task not only in the Council of Delegates but also in everyday humanitarian work: "The present of the past is remembrance; the present of the present is action; the present of the future is imagination".

**Item 3 of the agenda: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

5. The Chairman introduced the provisional agenda contained in document 95/CD/3/1.
6. Mr Delruelle (Belgian Red Cross) announced his Society's intention to submit a draft resolution on anti-personnel landmines as a follow-up to Resolution 3 adopted in Birmingham and requested that an appropriate sub-item be included under Item 12 (Miscellaneous).
7. *The agenda was adopted.*

**Item 4 of the agenda: 26TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

- 4.1 **Proposals for the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary-General and two Assistant Secretaries-General of the International Conference (proposals for the Chairmanship and Rapporteurs of the plenary Commissions and the Drafting Committee);**
8. Botho, Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, Chairman of the Standing Commission, presented the proposals for the officers of the 26th International Conference.
9. *The proposals were unanimously adopted.*

#### 4.2 Adoption of the provisional agenda of the International Conference

10. Mr Sandoz (ICRC) drew attention to the provisional annotated agenda contained in document 95/P/1, emphasizing that it was the result of intensive work carried out by the Standing Commission, the Commissioner of the Conference, the ICRC, the International Federation and National Societies. There had been unanimous agreement that it was vital to avoid the political problems that had bedevilled previous conferences.

The Conference's work would be carried out in two Commissions and the commitments to be undertaken in the Commissions were extremely important. In view of the large number of participants and the short time available, it was essential that the draft resolutions be prepared carefully, so the texts had already been extensively discussed.

Commission I would focus on issues related to humanitarian law and war victims and its work had two aspects: firstly, measures to be taken at the national level to strengthen international humanitarian law and its observance, particularly in time of peace, so as to reinforce the preventive approach. It was hoped that National Societies would give the measures adopted full support in their own countries. The second aspect concerned the acute problems faced by the civilian population, in particular during armed conflict, and how to promote awareness of them.

11. Mr Weber (International Federation) underlined the excellent cooperation that had prevailed between the ICRC and the International Federation in preparing the Conference.

He drew attention to two important documents to be considered by Commission II: Principles and Response in International Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (95/C.2/2/1) and Strengthening Capacity to Assist and Protect the Most Vulnerable (95/C.2/3/1). Two "omnibus" resolutions had been prepared for the Commission and revised in the light of comments received from National Societies and governments.

One other matter before the Conference would be the amendment of the Movement's Statutes and Rules of Procedure as a result of the decision taken at the VIIIth Session of the General Assembly to replace "League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies" by "International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies".

12. The provisional annotated agenda of the 26th International Conference was adopted.
13. Amb. Biéler, Commissioner of the 26th International Conference, highlighted the problems the organizers had faced in recent months in relation to participation. Some countries had expressed doubts concerning the participation of the government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Since that was a highly political issue, the organizers had sought the advice of a group of ambassadors representing different points of view. The group had proposed that a smaller group of five ambassadors from permanent missions in Geneva try to resolve the issue and all parties had been kept regularly informed of discussions in this group. Finally, the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, not wishing to create any problems, had decided not to participate and the organizers would make a declaration

to that effect at the opening of the Conference. The group of ambassadors had taken note of their decision and communicated it to the other parties concerned. The other issue was a practical matter concerning the participation of the Palestinian representatives; discussions were being pursued.

14. The Chairman noted that the Palestinian representatives had been invited by the Standing Commission to attend as observers.
15. Ms Thomas (British Red Cross) underscored her Society's strong belief in the importance of holding the Conference and its intention to table a draft resolution to that effect.

#### Item 5 of the agenda: COMMISSION ON THE RED CROSS, RED CRESCENT AND PEACE

16. Mr Aubert, Chairman of the Peace Commission, introduced the report of the Commission (95/CD/5/1) and its supplementary report (95/CD/5/2), which contained a draft resolution on Red Cross and Red Crescent action for peace (PR/CD/95/5/1).

In order to fulfil the new mandate entrusted to it by the Council of Delegates in 1991, the Commission had set a number of priorities so as not to duplicate work incumbent upon other components of the Movement. It was submitting two sets of recommendations, one of a general nature and the other more specific.

Among the general recommendations, the Commission considered that the prevention of tension and conflict and respect for fundamental human rights should continue to be discussed within a small ad-hoc body created by the Movement. The latter's action to promote respect for human rights, especially with regard to health, protection of the family and children, was both useful and essential. The Commission had devoted particular attention to the Movement's contribution to the special rights of the child, emphasizing that, whereas some Societies were already active in helping vulnerable children, others had not yet shown sufficient commitment and should be encouraged to develop such activities. Any action should of course comply fully with the Fundamental Principles. Co-operation with other organizations active in this field should also be promoted, not to duplicate activities but to strengthen action aimed at helping children in vulnerable situations. In addition, the exchange of information among National Societies, whether by region or by subject, was considered essential. The Commission expressed particular concern regarding the problems of street children, who were exploited or ill-treated, even tortured, and recommended that the Movement should continue to study ways in which it could provide practical help.

Discrimination and failure to respect the rights of persons suffering from AIDS were also discussed and special emphasis was laid on promoting the International Federation's programme in this regard. National Societies were encouraged to train their staff and volunteers in order to make a more active contribution towards strengthening global peace and justice by promoting respect for human rights in the area of health.

The Commission considered that the study by the Henry Dunant Institute on the sensitive issue of conflict prevention involving minorities should not remain a dead letter and that National Societies should share

their experiences so that Societies facing the same problems could benefit from them.

The Commission was of the opinion that the growing number of international and internal conflicts, and the consequent increase in violations of fundamental human rights, made it more necessary than ever not only to continue exchanging information but also to define the Movement's orientation and position. It therefore hoped that the Council of Delegates would include such concerns in the mandate of the body it would set up following the debate on the future of the Movement.

17. All speakers who took the floor paid tribute to the work carried out by the Commission and expressed gratitude to its members for their efforts.
18. Mr Roethlisberger (ICRC) stressed that working for peace meant ensuring that the most fundamental human rights were not violated and that cultural and ethnic differences did not become sources of tension. It also implied finding concrete solutions and propagating a spirit of tolerance both through action and through personal conduct.

The Commission's report showed clearly how the concept of humanitarian mobilization on behalf of the rights of children could be translated into practical terms. The experiences of National Societies that had dealt with the problem of street children who had been ill-treated or exploited, could be of value to other National Societies facing the same problem and the exchange of information should be encouraged.

The exchange of information among National Societies could also be beneficial for the prevention of conflicts involving minorities. Guidelines in this area should be disseminated and promoted so as to assist in developing a spirit of tolerance, understanding and mutual respect.

The ICRC fully shared the Commission's view that consideration of the issues discussed by the Commission should continue. The task could be taken up by a small study group that was representative of the Movement as a whole and the ICRC would also like such a group to study and define the Movement's position in relation to the problem of arms transfers.

Finally, after expressing the ICRC's support for the Commission's recommendations, he stated that they must be followed up so that the Commission's concerns became those of the Movement itself.

19. Lady Limerick, speaking in her capacity as Vice-President of the International Federation, emphasized that when the Commission had been set up the international context had been different and the Commission had played a valuable role in defining the practical contribution which the Movement could make towards peace. Circumstances had now changed and the focus of the Commission's work had altered as well. Many of the problems studied by the Commission were now incorporated in National Societies' programmes and the International Federation's action plans; she cited a number of examples. The Commission had pioneered consideration of important issues to be addressed by the components of the Movement and had paved the way for future practical work by the International Federation, National Societies and the Movement as a whole. Its work should now be taken up by other statutory bodies.
20. Dr Ali (Libyan Red Crescent) noted that since its inception the Movement had concerned itself with peace

issues. The Commission had played a valiant role during the Cold War period and although this had ended there was an even greater need for peace during the present transitional period. The subjects discussed by the Commission must continue to be studied by the Movement and he therefore proposed that the draft resolution include wording to the effect that the Standing Commission should monitor developments by setting up appropriate ad hoc bodies to debate the question of peace.

21. Dr Hamid (Sudanese Red Crescent) described the efforts made by his National Society to ensure that people could live in dignity, thereby avoiding conflict that could constitute a threat to peace. He noted that ethnic conflict was not confined to the Third World, and that refugees and displaced persons were to be found across the globe. Dialogue and an exchange of views among the components of the Movement must therefore continue.
22. Ms Harmon (Brazilian Red Cross) stated that she felt that the term "street children" was not correct, and was degrading. Children might be in the streets because they were forced to act as drug runners, but they were not street children. Her Society was familiar with the problem and helped the children by giving them training, so that they could find opportunities in the social and economic mainstream.
23. Mr El-Ejeh (Jordan National Red Crescent Society) said that peace could not be achieved merely by signing a treaty and he urged National Societies to assist in implementing the Red Cross and Red Crescent action programme in favour of peace, particularly by improving the health and social conditions of the most vulnerable. The dissemination of international humanitarian law and respect for it were of the utmost importance. National Societies could also lay emphasis on the rights of women and children, particularly refugees. He concluded by expressing the view that a third Red Cross and Red Crescent Peace Conference was sorely needed at a time when so many conflicts were emerging, and drew attention to the proposal made by his National Society for a Red Cross and Red Crescent Day of Peace.
24. Mr Diagne (Senegalese Red Cross Society) said that the primary target for peace education should be teachers and schoolchildren. Government support was necessary, but once it was obtained it was the responsibility of National Societies to put such education into practice in the schools, with assistance from the International Federation and the ICRC. Experience in Senegal had been positive in that regard and he was convinced that such an approach was essential.
25. Mr Consigny (French Red Cross) introduced two amendments to the draft resolution intended to strengthen the text and ensure its follow-up. The first, submitted by the French Red Cross (PR/CD/95/5/1/1), called on National Societies to draw the attention of their respective governments to the need for penal measures to punish abuse of children's rights in the form of child prostitution. The second, submitted by a number of National Societies (PR/CD/95/5/1/2), underlined the need to pursue consideration of activities contributing to peace and respect for human rights and proposed that an ad hoc body set up by the Standing Commission should be entrusted with the task.

26. Ms Jantsits (Hungarian Red Cross) considered that the structure to be adopted was less important than the need to confront the challenges faced by the Movement in the medium term in a constantly changing world.
27. Mr Pesmazoglu (Hellenic Red Cross) stressed that it was the duty of a humanitarian movement to make every effort to prevent disputes that threatened peace. The Movement's moral authority gave it the responsibility to propose peaceful solutions to disputes that might lead to war. National Societies that had shown the greatest interest in the subject should provide the support required to pursue the study on peace.
28. Ms Magnuson (Swedish Red Cross) remarked on the Commission's impressive achievements and said that its work must now be carried on by all National Societies. She therefore shared the view that the question of peace should remain on the agenda of the Council of Delegates.
29. Mr Patil (Indian Red Cross Society) underlined the importance of helping children who had dropped out of school and teaching them the virtues of tolerance.
30. Dr Hassan (Somali Red Crescent Society) noted with satisfaction that the initial concern expressed at the Movement's involvement with peace issues had been dispelled. Peace was an essential ingredient in everyday life; without it there could be no development. Peace had been included in the Movement's agenda at a time when there was a danger of international conflict, but the conflicts afflicting the world today were mainly internal conflicts whose victims were defenceless civilians. Although it was not easy, prevention of conflict was paramount and the Movement, together with the international community, should make further efforts to that effect.
31. Prof. Haworth (Zambia Red Cross Society) noted that the Commission's recommendations called on the Henry Dunant Institute to continue the study of child-related problems, provided that appropriate financing could be found. In his view, appropriate financing had to be found and he hoped that those Societies in a position to do so would support the Institute's work. Referring to the categories of vulnerable children, he emphasized that the situation was constantly changing. For example, because of the danger of acquiring HIV infection, men were turning to increasingly younger girls for unprotected sexual relations, exposing them to the risk of infection. Some older women were turning to younger boys for the same reason. Children of both sexes must be protected.
32. Mr Nsengumuremyi (Rwandan Red Cross) drew attention to the role played by economic and social problems in fomenting conflict. Assistance given to relieve economic and social tension must be in conformity with the Fundamental Principles. He urged National Societies to consider whether they were irrevocably committed to the Fundamental Principles and expressed the view that the Movement's strategies to promote peace should be reviewed in order to make them more effective.
33. Mr El-Shafei (Egyptian Red Crescent Society) said that he had no doubt that the Movement was capable of fulfilling its role in favour of peace because of its universality, independence, impartiality and neutrality. The prevention of conflict was a major constituent of humanitarian work. Adding that the current escalation of internal conflict had led to increased numbers of civilian victims, he reiterated his belief that it was in the Movement's interest to pursue its work on peace and formulate an action programme.
34. Dr Mokete (Lesotho Red Cross Society) considered that the report highlighted how much remained to be done in the area of peace. He encouraged all Societies with the necessary capacity to continue to help fellow Societies in the Third World in their efforts on behalf of children.
35. Ms Quezon (Philippine National Red Cross) requested that special attention be paid to the situation of girl children.
36. Dr Demir (Turkish Red Crescent Society) stated that disasters recognized no political or ethnic boundaries and National Societies had to extend humanitarian aid without discrimination or political considerations to victims of political, geographical and geological disasters. Aid should not only be material but should also take into account social, educational and moral aspects.
37. Dr Kang (Republic of Korea National Red Cross) shared the view that the Henry Dunant Institute had made an invaluable contribution towards the protection of children and minorities.
38. Mr Benhabdallah (Algerian Red Crescent) emphasized that the prevention of conflict implied a considered policy and a study group that was permanently ready to provide the means to stop the emergence of conflict. Those conditions were not clearly spelled out in the Commission's report and his Society would put forward a draft resolution on that aspect. The Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols already provided guarantees to assist the victims of conflict, but they had to be applied. In order to ensure that humanitarian principles prevailed, all types of assistance, from whatever source, should be channelled through the Movement. The latter also had a responsibility to promote peace within the United Nations.
39. Dr El-Gharbi (Tunisian Red Crescent) said that his Society benefited from the support of the government for its various programmes on behalf of victims, particularly children. He also expressed his conviction that literacy programmes constituted an excellent means of combating marginalization and exclusion. In conclusion, he emphasized that prevention had a vital role to play in maintaining peace and promoting the rights of the child.
40. Dr Rueda Montaña (Colombian Red Cross) said that for his country peace was a matter of vital importance and expressed regret at the termination of the Commission's mandate.
41. Mr Muñoz Garay (Peruvian Red Cross) drew attention to the threat to peace constituted by nuclear tests. Studies on peace should not be restricted to conflicts alone but should also consider the use of nuclear weapons.
42. The representatives of many National Societies described the efforts being made by their Societies to promote peace.
43. Mr Aubert, Chairman of the Peace Commission, responded to the points raised and agreed that the convening of a third Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace was an extremely important matter and should be given due attention. Prevention was a weighty subject and should be discussed by the

group that would take over the Commission's work. Nevertheless, examples of preventive action had been studied in connection with the protection of minorities and the lessening of tension. The promotion of tolerance and understanding was also preventive action.

44. Dr Nesh-Nash (Moroccan Red Crescent), referring to the amendment proposed in document PR/CD/95/1/1, stated that it was not within the competence of the Council of Delegates to draw the attention of governments to, or to call for the adoption of, penal measures. He therefore proposed that the word "penal" be deleted.
45. The Chairman pointed out that the amendment proposed to paragraph 8 in document PR/CD/95/5/2 mentioned "the ad hoc body of the Standing Commission", which had not yet been established.
46. Lady Limerick, speaking in her capacity as Vice-President of the International Federation, suggested that the text be amended to read "... prepared by the Standing Commission or an ad hoc body that it may set up".
47. **The Council of Delegates adopted the resolution on Red Cross and Red Crescent Action for Peace as amended after further discussion (Res. 2).**
48. Mr Aubert, Chairman of the Peace Commission, expressed his gratitude to the members of the Commis-

sion for their commitment to peace. He also wished to thank the joint ICRC/International Federation Secretariat for its support. The drafting of the report had been an excellent example of the functional cooperation between the ICRC and the International Federation.

To those who were to take over the Commission's work, he wished to say that National Societies, the ICRC, the International Federation and the Henry Dunant Institute, basing themselves on the Fundamental Principles, had the opportunity to provide practical solutions in aiding victims. It was the Movement's mission to provide protection, assistance and the minimum necessities to which every human being was entitled. The tasks entrusted to the Commission should not be neglected, otherwise they would become the prerogative of others. Peace must not become the Achilles heel of the Movement, which did not only have the intellectual qualities to make a positive contribution but also a worldwide network of National Societies. In a changing world, the Movement must continue its work on peace in the broad sense. It must search for and encourage the implementation of concrete prevention measures, protecting the weak, particularly at the regional and local levels, through action by National Societies.

*The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.*



## SECOND MEETING

Friday, 1 December 1995  
2.30 p.m.

SUMMARY: Future of the Movement: Report of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission established by Resolution 1/1993; Report of the ICRC and the International Federation on their functional cooperation

### Item 6 of the agenda: FUTURE OF THE MOVEMENT

#### 6.1 Report of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission established by Resolution 1/1993

#### 6.2 Report of the ICRC and the International Federation on their functional cooperation

49. The Chairman said that the two sub-items would be discussed together and drew attention to the draft resolutions before the Council (PR/95/CD/6.1/2 and PR/95/CD/6.2/1).
50. Mr Jones, Chairman of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission, presented the draft report of the Commission (95/CD/6/1) and introduced the pertinent draft resolution.

After relating the historical background to the establishment of the Advisory Commission, he described its functioning: with a very effective and modest Secretariat and a relatively small budget it had held only six plenary meetings and had worked largely through ad hoc working groups on questions that were essential to the future of the Movement. As circumstances had allowed, it had been represented at many meetings of National Societies and had met with the senior management of the ICRC, the International Federation and the Standing Commission as well as the Chairman of the Study Group on the Future of the Movement and many others, both individually and in small groups.

He reviewed the seven chapters of the Report, noting that the Advisory Commission did not advocate any changes to the Statutes of the Movement at the present stage; that the Standing Commission should be strengthened to better carry out its statutory functions; that the complex issue of establishing the Council of Delegates as the supreme deliberative body for internal matters of the Movement was clearly desirable and needed further study; that functional cooperation between the various components of the Movement was absolutely essential; that consultations with a broad representative group of government experts should be initiated on the complex issue of use of the emblem; and that an early warning system on changes in external factors to alert to the need to adjust priorities in good time should be devised and institutionalized.

In conclusion, he said that the importance of developing a shared vision and a strategy among the components of the Movement could not be overstated and must be constantly reviewed and adjusted. In that context, the Advisory Commission recommended the conclusion of a new Agreement between the two international components of the Movement to ensure dynamic action in favour of the most vulnerable. On the humanitarian scene, the Movement must recognize that it had become one player among many and was functioning in a changing environment. A common course of action for the future must be based on meeting the humanitarian needs of victims everywhere in the world.

While some of the tasks outlined in the Report would be best performed by existing bodies of the Movement such as the Standing Commission, he advocated the need for a new independent advisory commission to continue the process initiated and to report to the next Council of Delegates.

The comments and suggestions made on the preliminary draft resolution of the Advisory Commission, distributed to all delegations six days previously, were reflected in the text now before the Council and he urged its adoption.

51. Botho, Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, Chairman of the Standing Commission, after congratulating the Chairman of the Advisory Commission on his presentation, said that although the Standing Commission appreciated the excellent work of the Advisory Commission, it was concerned with some of the comments made regarding the Standing Commission, which were perhaps due to a lack of information regarding its activities.

First, the Standing Commission had already established ad hoc bodies in accordance with Article 18, paragraph 7 of the Statutes, on both political and procedural questions arising during preparations for the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. He expressed his gratitude to the 24 ambassadors who had cooperated in that work.

Secondly, an ad hoc body had also been set up to review the Rules of Procedure and to interpret Article 18 of the Statutes. The question of arbitration had been dealt with in that context, but consensus had not been reached owing to the fact that the International Federation had voiced reservations of a legal and internal nature. The Standing Commission had drafted new Rules of Procedure reflecting some of the ideas discussed within the Movement and recommended in paragraph 3 of the Advisory Commission's draft resolution and had decided to leave their final adoption to the new Standing Commission to be elected in the near future.

Thirdly, an ad hoc body had also been established to study the functions of the Standing Commission as set out in the Statutes.

The great importance of communication within the Movement had been discussed and he stressed the need for it to be two-way — National Societies did not always communicate with the Standing Commission even when invited specifically to do so.

He recommended that the traditional meetings between the three Presidents be maintained.

The Standing Commission fully agreed with the Advisory Commission on the need for the former to establish independent secretarial support services which he had advocated on a number of occasions. In that connection he expressed his gratitude to Ms Camporini for the expert assistance she had provided.

Finally, he thanked the Advisory Commission for its work.

52. Mr Davey (International Federation), speaking on functional cooperation, noted that history showed that the relationship between the ICRC and the International Federation had often been difficult; nevertheless, it was of critical importance and had been the subject of much hard work over the past two years, leading to some success even though much remained to be done. The Report (95/CD/6.2/1) of the two institutions reviewed progress on that matter.

The work had led to the realization that a common vision, strategy and coordinated inputs from the different components of the Movement were needed for it to achieve its common goals.

The three main ones identified were the strengthening of National Societies, rapid and effective international reaction to disasters and the promotion of the principles and values of the Movement. Four supporting goals had also been identified: the increasing of financial resources, leadership and staff development, the development of the Movement's capacity in the communications sphere and the strengthening of coherent cooperation with other international organizations.

The prospects for functional cooperation in the future must rely on practical experience and be based on clear distribution of tasks, along with positive attitudes and mutual understanding at all levels within the two institutions.

He drew attention to the short draft resolution which called on the two institutions to further develop functional cooperation and to propose elements for inclusion in the new Agreement between them proposed by the Advisory Commission. The role of National Societies in the development of functional cooperation was also stressed, as was the need for due speed in achieving the objective in question.

53. Mr Sandoz (ICRC) agreed that functional cooperation must be improved. Contacts between the two institutions had resulted in the Report of which Mr Davey had stressed the important elements.

He emphasized that the prevailing spirit must continue in order to complete the work in hand: first, the complexity of the international situation must be understood along with the complexity — and great potential — of the Movement. Constant endeavours were needed to ensure consultation and coordination in view of the huge increases in the amount of aid needed, the proliferation of organizations providing it and the politicization of humanitarian aid.

It was therefore essential for the two institutions to continue their efforts to improve functional cooperation and to turn their complementarity to the fullest possible account. There was no doubt that real problems existed, but they must be overcome, and it was essential that the senior management of the two institutions collaborate with the Advisory Commission in establishing a new Agreement between them. Such an Agreement would not, however, preclude the necessity to pursue a close dialogue on future issues and action in the field.

Finally, he emphasized that the consultations on functional cooperation would be successful only if they took place within the overall scope of the Advisory Commission's work and extended to all aspects of the two institutions. In that context, the ICRC could fully support the draft resolution on functional cooperation.

54. Ms Dorn (American Red Cross), member of the Advisory Commission, said that the Movement had recognized its inability to adjust adequately to the changing realities of a complex world and had embarked on a courageous course by establishing the Advisory Commission and realizing that it had to adopt a common course for the future to respond to the needs of the victims it served. The Movement's obligation was to help to bring all potential resources to bear, serving people effectively and compassionately, and it must therefore have the courage to face up to the changes needed in its institutional culture in order to promote and convey a unified image to the outside world.

The Advisory Commission had wrestled with those thorny problems and had made considerable progress in formulating the recommendations set out in its Report, but the next steps should now be taken to enable the Movement to better fulfil its humanitarian task. She stressed that the recommendation to establish a new advisory commission should not imply its institutionalization but rather a means of strengthening and adapting existing structures, of openly monitoring the changes made, and thus of meeting the challenge facing the Movement in the future.

55. Dr Magnusson (Icelandic Red Cross), after commending the Advisory Commission on behalf of the Nordic Societies, fully agreed that the Report was part of an ongoing process to review the Movement. This process had been initiated in 1990 by National Societies and had continued through the work of the Study Group on the Future of the Movement. It was clear that the Advisory Commission had devoted much energy to its task but had had very little time to address some of the recommendations of the Study Group on the Future of the Movement adopted by the Council of Delegates in 1993. That fact underlined the need to continue the process for renewal begun in 1990, to adapt to change, and to improve cooperation within the Movement.

He fully agreed with the recommendations of the Advisory Commission and welcomed the statement of the two Geneva-based institutions regarding improved functional cooperation. In conclusion, he considered that the financial situation of the proposed new advisory commission should be made clear from the outset: a number of National Societies were prepared to make pledges in that regard and he urged others to follow suit.

56. Mr Roys (Norwegian Red Cross) was pleased that the positive process that the Advisory Commission had been entrusted to carry out had begun and welcomed the efforts to establish closer cooperation by the two Geneva-based institutions. The Movement must take care to present a united front in the complex emergency situations at present and he noted that functional cooperation between the two components in the former Yugoslavia and other areas had been a very positive step in the right direction. He would like to see such measures expanded and extended to all components of the Movement, after thorough preparation to ensure that all practical implications were understood at all levels.

In view of the need to study more closely the Movement's practice and achievements so as to adjust its operational tools, he supported the establishment of a new advisory commission.

57. Mr Keller (ICRC), congratulating the Advisory Commission, and particularly its Chairman, on the valuable recommendations made, said that the ICRC welcomed



the proposals to strengthen the Council of Delegates and the Standing Commission and approved the importance accorded to consideration of the emblem of the Movement. It also supported the establishment of a new advisory commission mandated, in line with the terms of the draft resolution, to continue studying the relevance of the International Conference, the Council of Delegates and the Standing Commission, and accepted its proposed composition.

The ICRC also supported the formulation of a new Agreement between the components of the Movement in order to clarify and improve its international activities on the basis of the Geneva Conventions, the existing Statutes and the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, and undertook to work with the International Federation on that subject.

Finally, the ICRC welcomed the establishment of subsidiary bodies and trusted that their actions and funding would be coordinated: provided their budgets were reasonable, the ICRC was ready to assume its share of the cost. Furthermore, he emphasized that one of the bodies established should be mandated specifically to monitor follow-up of the general recommendations made by the Commission on Peace.

In conclusion, the ICRC recalled that the proposals made in its document of 31 March 1995 on the future of the Movement were intended to strengthen the Movement. This implied a two-pronged approach: first, the functioning of the statutory bodies of the Movement must be improved and, second, it was most important that all components shared the determination to ensure that each one was strong in its own field of competence. If the distribution of tasks was clear and respected, the Movement's complementary international activities could be better coordinated and the functional cooperation and solidarity of its components could be enhanced.

The ICRC supported the draft resolution presented by the Advisory Commission since it prepared the ground for the two-pronged approach he had just outlined; the real challenge was to build a stronger Movement that could provide better assistance to those in need.

58. Ms Magnuson (Swedish Red Cross) said that in the current unprecedented world situation, the recommendations of the Advisory Commission were finally providing indications of the structural changes required to enable the Movement to meet the needs of victims and to prevent crises and conflicts. Whatever the achievements of the two Geneva components, the leadership of the Movement could gain strength from the Council of Delegates in many areas of policy-making and advocacy. Moreover, between sessions, an executive body was needed to pursue the work — the Standing Commission could fulfil that function by playing a more active role. It was also crucial that the National Societies should express themselves more strongly through the Standing Commission, thereby giving the Movement greater cohesion.

The new members of the Standing Commission, who would be elected within a week, must work together as a team and promote the common objectives of the Movement as soon as possible.

She fully supported the draft resolution submitted by the Advisory Commission.

59. Mr Diagne (Senegalese Red Cross Society) wondered whether the matters at issue were the role of the Standing

Commission and its members: he feared that duplication of functions was taking place in establishing a new advisory commission in accordance with operative paragraphs 9 and 10 of the draft resolution submitted by the Advisory Commission. He acknowledged the competence of the Standing Commission's members and stressed that if its failure to achieve in nine years what the Advisory Commission had done in two was due to lack of resources or to deficiencies in its functioning, those aspects should be reviewed and rectified.

60. Dr Hantos (Hungarian Red Cross) recognized that the work of the Advisory Commission had been most valuable and agreed that a complete analysis of all the recommendations made by the Study Group on the Future of the Movement required more time: it should be pursued by a new advisory commission. The conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Commission had a positive influence for the future of the Movement.

The document on functional cooperation between the ICRC and the International Federation was also a positive element and he hoped that it would be possible, in conformity with the fine statements therein, to achieve harmonious cooperation among all components of the Movement in the spirit of the Fundamental Principles. A good basis for that was provided in the recommendations of the Advisory Commission and he stressed the importance of three of them: first, the recommendation on a common strategy for the Movement, which would increase public confidence in the Movement. Secondly, there was the recommendation on necessary amendments to the Statutes of the Movement, restricting these to the minimum consistent with the Fundamental Principles and reality, i.e. by changing the title and nature of the International Conference in order to avoid misunderstandings and misinterpretations and to ensure the indispensable cooperation of governments with the Movement, and by establishing the Council of Delegates as the supreme deliberative body for internal matters; that change could be considered at the next Council of Delegates. Thirdly, it was of vital importance that basic and advanced training programmes for the leaders of National Societies be provided.

He agreed with the recommendation to create a new advisory commission, but considered that a single secretariat could serve both that body and the Standing Commission.

61. Mr Carlton (Australian Red Cross) said that he was delighted at the two reports: enormous progress had been made in resolving some of the difficult problems facing the Movement. The recommendations of the Advisory Commission showed that the Standing Commission should be reinvigorated to carry on the work of the Movement and that its members must be carefully selected for their outstanding personal capacities to ensure that the components of the Movement fulfilled their role adequately in the future. It must also have a small administrative support unit. He fully supported the establishment of a new advisory commission, with a separate administrative support unit, to conduct further investigations and monitor the activities of the reinvigorated Standing Commission for at least two years.

Speaking on the draft resolution of the Advisory Commission, he proposed the addition of a new

operative paragraph 3 to strengthen the approach of the Standing Commission, reading as follows: "Recommends that the Standing Commission, led by its Chairman, play an active role within the Movement in fulfilling the functions ascribed to it under Article 18.3 of the Statutes, namely, promote harmony in the work of the Movement, and in this connection, coordination among its components; encourage and further the implementation of resolutions of the International Conference; examine with these objects in view matters which concern the Movement as a whole, and in furtherance of this objective, initiate regular channels of communication with the Executive Council of the International Federation and the Executive Board of the ICRC".

The existing paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly.

The supplementary paragraph would make quite clear the high profile which the Council of Delegates expected of the Standing Commission, interacting regularly with the two Geneva-based institutions and the National Societies. With that amendment, he could fully support the draft resolution.

62. Mr Kimbisa (Tanzania Red Cross National Society) said that disintegration normally began from within and that the Movement was working in a very complex world. Although the Movement, too, was very complex, it must present a united front, otherwise it ceded an advantage to other organizations competing in the same work. He sometimes wondered what caused contradictions within the Movement — its Principles were crystal clear and so a thorough analysis to establish the causes should take place, on the basis of respect for the various components of the Movement.

In his part of the world, a coordination group formed between the various representatives of the Movement to maintain close contacts and avoid duplication of effort was working very hard and producing excellent results — it might be taken as an example.

63. Mr Van der Stock (Belgian Red Cross) welcomed the report of the Advisory Commission and thanked its members. Previous speakers had covered many of the points he wished to make but he was a little concerned at the large number of commissions and ad hoc bodies proposed; he therefore took very seriously operative paragraph 11 of the Advisory Commission draft resolution, which asked the International Federation and the ICRC to address the issue of the organization and financing of the common bodies of the Movement.

It was sad that a binding arbitration tribunal to settle differences within the Movement was needed but, if necessary, it should be provided. He strongly encouraged the continuation of regular dialogue at senior management level between the International Federation and the ICRC and endorsed the idea of a new Agreement between all the components of the Movement.

Finally, he would like the Advisory Commission to continue its work until the next Council of Delegates and, since it was not appropriate that the chairman of an outgoing commission have power of decision on a new commission, he proposed that the second sentence of operative paragraph 9 b) of the Advisory Commission draft resolution be amended to read: "... International Federation and the ICRC and the Chairman of the Standing Commission, in consultation with the Chairman of the outgoing Policy and Planning ..."

64. Dr Jakovljevic (Yugoslav Red Cross) said that the Advisory Commission had achieved a great deal in a very short time; he appreciated its efforts and, in general, endorsed its recommendations.

There were two aspects to the question in hand, the internal one and the external one: the Advisory Commission had made great progress in regard to the first, which was to streamline the Movement and strengthen its unity; the second had been touched on and further work was required. Certain situations since 1990 could be studied to judge whether the Movement retained the role it had played prior to that period. In emergency situations, which were increasing in magnitude and duration, the Movement had played an irreplaceable role; events in his country had demonstrated that fact and the mobilization of public support which had taken place augured well for the future. This National Society had played an important part in both the emergency and the rehabilitation phases.

National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation all demonstrated vitality in their actions, which were appreciated by everyone concerned. That was promising for the future.

New developments in the world, especially in humanitarian affairs, had taken place recently, introducing greater competition and politicization of such activities — and their impact on the Movement should be studied in depth by the Advisory Commission. The factors involved should also be studied and the necessary response sought.

65. Dr Ali (Libyan Red Crescent) thanked the Advisory Commission and its Chairman for the excellent report which reflected very well what could be achieved. First, rapid changes in the Movement were required to provide a better impetus; secondly, greater internal solidarity was required and a continuous effort was needed to ensure respect for the fundamental principles; and thirdly, difficulties were experienced in disseminating the importance of the Movement. Solutions to those problems were suggested in the report and he expressed his satisfaction that the problem of the abuse of the emblem was being addressed.

In conclusion, he noted the complex structure of the Movement and supported the suggestions made by the Advisory Commission to clarify that situation.

66. Mr Tage (Danish Red Cross) stressed the importance of functional cooperation between the two Geneva-based institutions: the differing functions of the various components of the Movement at different stages of an emergency made it essential to harmonize approaches. His National Society was optimistic, particularly in view of the consistent signals received from the ICRC that it was increasing its support for and reliance on National Societies. A clear division and complementarity of roles was a precondition for effective implementation in programming relief for development. He indicated his support for the work on functional cooperation and for the draft resolution on that topic.

67. Ms McGurk (Irish Red Cross Society), while welcoming the effort made, expressed her disquiet at the overriding concern of the Advisory Commission to ensure that the Council of Delegates would become "a stable and efficient decision-making forum". While that was good in itself, she had expected greater vision from such an influential body as the Advisory Commission. She was also disappointed that the most challenging question

raised by the Commission, namely the urgent and far-reaching need to better define, reaffirm and strengthen the complementary roles and actions of the Movement's components in the face of new humanitarian challenges and new players on the humanitarian scene had not been fully answered. That was a fundamental aspiration which must be addressed in order for the Movement to evolve.

Furthermore, she was concerned that the Advisory Commission had apparently completely ignored its mandate "to study policy matters of common interest to all components of the Movement and possible courses of action and to advise the Council of Delegates on the Movement's priorities and policies". Instead, the Commission had concentrated on a recommendation made by the Study Group on the Future of the Movement concerning joint monitoring. While that was an important aim, it was not in keeping with the mandate.

She was also concerned at the emphasis on constant analysis and review which could create inordinate bureaucracy and paperwork. She was sure that studies existed already which could be used to achieve the desired goal. The Movement should not always be considered in structural terms; in order to be truly effective, a movement must involve the minds and hearts of its members in a common aspiration: for the Movement that meant the restoration of peace and harmony throughout the world.

The Movement's strength in numbers — some 125 million volunteers — and universal network must be the envy of many other organizations, yet there was still not peace. The key element must be to strengthen motivation in order to create a climate of peace and respect in the world.

68. Mr Niskala (Finnish Red Cross) said he was happy at the general line taken by the Advisory Commission in its report and recommendations which showed that the long process to strengthen the Movement was proceeding successfully. He supported the draft resolution proposed by the Advisory Commission, but felt that when the new advisory commission continued its work, greater attention should be paid to the impact of the changing environment on the Movement's work. The Advisory Commission should propose common policies and strategies emphasizing the complementarity of the components working as a whole. In that connection, he stressed that National Societies should be equal partners with the Geneva institutions.

He therefore wished to add a reference to National Societies in operative paragraphs 8 e) of the Advisory Commission's draft resolution which would read as follows: "... working closely with the senior management of the two Geneva-based institutions and in consultation with National Societies, to draft an Agreement ...". With that addition, he supported the text.

69. Mr Consigny (French Red Cross) expressed his appreciation of the Advisory Commission's report: among the challenges currently facing National Societies were the two problems of unity and the complexity and cumbersome procedures of the Movement. A number of sound proposals were made in relation to the first problem and he hoped that work would continue in that direction. With regard to the second problem, which was felt by the National Societies at times, he hoped that topic would also be addressed. Finally, he hoped that membership of the new advisory

commission would reflect the balance between the ICRC, the International Federation and the National Societies which existed in the Standing Commission, and suggested increasing the number of National Society representatives to eight or ten.

70. Dr Gladilov (Bulgarian Red Cross) said that he thought the Advisory Commission had accomplished the tasks set by the Council of Delegates in 1993. First, he agreed entirely with the proposals concerning the activities of the Standing Commission in regard to the preparation of the International Conference and the implementation of its decisions until the following Conference; the responsibility to follow up the decisions of the Council of Delegates; and arbitration. He supported reorganizing the Standing Commission as a compact unit, with a separate secretariat, able to be operative and to set up ad hoc bodies on various subjects, as well as the candidate profile, which might also be used for the election of other subsidiary bodies of the Movement.

Secondly, the recommendations to promote the Council of Delegates as the body to decide on all internal matters of the Movement were quite relevant, but it should not necessarily be considered as the supreme deliberative body of the Movement. The steps to tighten its operations would be quite sufficient to enable it to take its due place in the Movement.

Thirdly, he was especially satisfied with the progress made in functional cooperation between the components of the Movement, particularly the ICRC and the International Federation. He welcomed the efforts of the two Presidents to state their views on the future of the Movement — which were made known to the National Societies — and of the regular high-level meetings between the two governing bodies.

Lastly, he commended the Advisory Commission for the firm manner in which it had submitted to the Standing Commission and the two Geneva-based institutions the problems concerning their relations and its persistence in making them seek solutions.

Although the Advisory Commission had not had sufficient time to address all the problems facing the Movement, it had worked effectively. He supported the draft resolution it had submitted and advocated that a new advisory commission should continue the work, perhaps with members selected on the basis of the candidate profile formulated for the Standing Commission. Furthermore, the function to arbitrate, monitor and conciliate internal tensions in the Movement and to elaborate new guidelines could be given only to an independent body created by the Council of Delegates, not to any other existing or ad hoc body — the Advisory Commission fulfilled that condition.

71. Mr Al-Barges (Kuwait Red Crescent Society) congratulated the Advisory Commission on its very exhaustive report on the problems of the Movement. He stressed that the Movement must appear united. He supported the Advisory Commission's proposals concerning the Standing Commission and the recommendation that the Council of Delegates should become the supreme deliberative body of the Movement.

With regard to the emblem, he considered that the question was within the purview of the Conference. He also approved the renewal of the Advisory Commission for a further two years; some National Societies might have difficulty in ensuring its financing, so the ICRC

and the International Federation, along with certain donor societies, should bear the cost.

72. Dr Nesh-Nash (Moroccan Red Crescent) said that he supported the statements of previous speakers, particularly the United States. He approved the Advisory Commission's report and supported the draft resolution, as amended by the Australian and Finnish National Societies. Referring to operative paragraph 3 e), he proposed deletion of the text within brackets so that the subject was clear. The matter at issue was the abuse of the emblem. He had no objection to consideration of a single emblem.
73. Mr Aponte (American Red Cross) had noted with interest the support for the report and draft resolution on functional cooperation. He supported the draft resolution.

In the report of the Advisory Commission, the question of the emblems was of special significance. He applauded the willingness to tackle the issue and the bold decision to consult with governments on all aspects. At a time of rapid change and dialogue in the Middle East, the Movement should initiate a dialogue between its components on recognition of the emblem of the Red Star of David, since for too many years it had waited for governments to do so. While ultimately it was up to governments to recognize the emblems used, nothing should prevent the Movement from bringing to their attention its interest in resolving the issue, thus showing its leadership on an issue that directly affected the fulfilment of its fundamental principles of unity and universality.

74. Mr Weber (International Federation) said that he fully supported the report and the draft resolution on functional cooperation. Furthermore, he thanked the Chairman and members of the Advisory Commission for their very encouraging report and draft resolution which were fully supported by the International Federation. In particular, he endorsed any move to make all components of the Movement more dynamic, as the Movement as a whole had to be made more effective and relevant. This it could achieve by strengthening its philosophical basis and by ensuring the complementarity of its objectives.

He greatly welcomed the chapters on the Standing Commission, the Council of Delegates and functional cooperation, which clarified responsibilities. The issue of the emblem was sensitive and he hoped that some flexibility would be shown in the matter. Referring to the chapter dealing with external factors affecting the Movement, he hoped that any new advisory commission would deal with the priorities and common policies required for the future. The sixth chapter converged with the conclusions of the group dealing with functional cooperation of the two international components.

Referring to Annex 4, he welcomed the criteria set out and requested an interpretation of the wording "should not simultaneously hold other elective functions in the International Federation" in the last paragraph. The widest interpretation could mean excluding up to 90 candidates from office.

Referring to operative paragraph 3 c) of the draft resolution, he noted that the function was clearly a "last-ditch" effort which, he hoped, would never be used. If arbitration were needed, it must be absolutely clear on whom it would be binding. If the International Federation were involved, a decision of its Executive Council to allow

a specific case to go to arbitration would be needed. On that understanding, he could support that text.

He would have preferred an earlier version of operative paragraph 9 b) which did not involve the Chairman of the Standing Commission and set a longer time limit. He advocated a period of 60 days. With those amendments, he could support the draft resolution.

75. Dr Kang (Republic of Korea National Red Cross) congratulated the Advisory Commission on its report, which he supported in general. In particular, he endorsed the position of the Swedish Red Cross. He was surprised to learn at the present stage of the Movement's history that it was necessary to emphasize the need for functional cooperation between its components: such cooperation was vitally important in order to carry out the humanitarian mission of the Movement.

He emphasized again the importance of harmony and cooperation within the Movement.

76. Dr Beckman (Swedish Red Cross) said that because of the withdrawal of governments from services they had long provided, a growing voluntary sector was working to meet the needs of vulnerable groups. It was most important for the Movement to understand the decisive factors behind that development, including how to develop government and third-sector relations, create a more enabling legal and fiscal framework and increase the visibility of and understanding for contributions to voluntary organizations, as well as ways and means to enhance the resource base and, finally, institutional development. In order to answer those questions, and to promote the rules of the voluntary sector, the Movement should develop cooperation with leading NGOs, a potential which it had not fully explored hitherto.

77. Mr Bucher (Swiss Red Cross) said that his was one of the National Societies which had initiated the "Yverdon process" and he welcomed the progress made and the fruitful dialogue in the Council of Delegates. He advocated that the changes envisaged should proceed more quickly to keep pace with the changing environment. Some had wondered whether the Standing Commission was being short-circuited and doubts cast on its members if the draft resolution were adopted. That was not the case. The Advisory Commission was looking to the future and proposing an ideal candidate profile. The roles of the two Commissions were different: the former was a decision-making body while the latter was an advisory body; the will to change must be present in both.

In reply to Ms McGurk of the Irish Red Cross Society, who had expressed disappointment that the Advisory Commission had not entirely fulfilled its mandate, he said that the outcome of the Commission's work was based on consensus, in accordance with its mandate. Dialogue and criticism were needed and all constructive proposals were welcome.

He supported strongly the first statement made by the American Red Cross delegation as well as the draft resolution of the Advisory Commission.

78. Mr Paolini (Italian Red Cross) expressed his satisfaction at the positive comments of most delegations regarding the Advisory Commission's report, which had exceeded all expectations.

He believed that the fundamental issues in the report concerned strengthening the Council of Delegates and strengthening the Standing Commission in order to give

the Movement greater force and unity of action. The two bodies must be reinvigorated, given greater decision-making power, and communicate more closely with all the components of the Movement.

The most important conclusion of the report was that the international political situation had to be analysed regularly in order to identify recent trends in humanitarian action. The vocation of the Movement was, indeed, to identify humanitarian needs and to study how best to respond to them. The report was acceptable and enabled the Movement to take the first step towards that unity and cooperation which were essential, especially for National Societies. He advocated following the recommendations of the Advisory Commission, while taking care to avoid a proliferation of bodies.

He supported the draft resolution of the Advisory Commission, particularly regarding the establishment of a new advisory commission to pursue the work: its main focus should be internal cooperation, developments in the outside world and effective action through a flexible and consistent approach.

79. Dr Rueda Montaña (Colombian Red Cross) commended the Advisory Commission's work, which had shown that the Movement had the capacity for change.

He agreed fully with the draft resolution, and particularly with the amendments proposed by Australia and Finland.

He believed that the future of the Movement lay in the active and lasting application of its Fundamental Principles; the bodies to achieve that existed already, but to confront present changes the Council of Delegates and the Standing Commission should be strengthened without changing the Statutes. One of the functions of the latter was to ensure that the Movement developed and maintained its unity. In that context, functional cooperation between the various components of the Movement was essential on the lines advocated by Mr Bucher of the Swiss Red Cross Society.

80. Mr Shehadeh (Syrian Arab Red Crescent) said that the Advisory Commission's report was aimed at eliminating complexity from the bodies of the Movement and at simplifying measures. He pointed out that the introduction of a new emblem as suggested by one delegation was not in line with that approach; confusion would be created by the use of several emblems and he supported those who had spoken against such a development.

81. Dr Magnusson (Icelandic Red Cross) said that he had been provoked to speak by the statement of the International Federation and the changes it was proposing to the draft resolution on the Advisory Commission's report. To his knowledge, only one draft resolution on that topic had been circulated. Three members from the International Federation sat on the Advisory Commission, which was advocating strengthening of the Standing Commission, and therefore he failed to understand why the International Federation should wish to exclude the Chairman of that body from the group which would announce the composition of the Advisory Commission.

82. Mr El-Shafei (Egyptian Red Crescent Society), after expressing his appreciation of the Advisory Commission's very impressive and positive report, said that since the submission to the Council of Delegates of the report of the Study Group on the Future of the Movement, the reform process had started and could not be reversed. The reform

was essentially motivated by external factors and the need to survive in the face of change. In that regard, he stressed the extreme importance of monitoring measures and hence the need for a new advisory commission with a new mandate, and wondered to what extent the reform would have a bearing on the performance of National Societies and an impact on situations in the field.

Referring to operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution submitted by the Advisory Commission, he requested that "repressive" be replaced by a more appropriate word.

Like Mr Weber, he wished to have an interpretation of the wording "should not simultaneously hold other elective functions in the International Federation" in the last paragraph of the profile for candidates for election to the Standing Commission.

Regarding the consultations with a group of government experts on the use of the emblem of the Movement, his understanding was that the consultations would relate to the emblems recognized at present.

83. Prof. Abdulkadir (Ethiopian Red Cross Society), after complimenting the Advisory Commission on its comprehensive report, referred to the three "presents" mentioned by the Chairman of the Council of Delegates in his opening address: the present of the past war remembrance of which the Movement had an abundance; the present of the present was action, which was generally satisfactory; and the present of the future was imagination and vision, both of which the Advisory Commission had shown evidence in fulfilling its task.

He highlighted some important points in the Advisory Commission's report, including the question of the emblem and stressed that, on the threshold of the twenty-first century, the Movement needed to do more work in order to adopt a far broader vision and to devise an inspiring formula commensurate with the momentous events which were occurring.

84. Mr Weber (International Federation), replying to Dr Magnusson of the Icelandic Red Cross, said, first, that in his statement he had expressed support for the reinforcement of the Standing Commission, including its competence to create ad hoc bodies. Secondly, he supported the first part of the draft resolution, namely the operative paragraphs relating to the authority of the Standing Commission. Thirdly, he had said that he preferred an earlier version of the draft resolution, of which not everyone had been aware. His reason was that it was more difficult to obtain agreement on a number of candidates from four people in various parts of the world than from three; clearly, the outgoing chairman of the Advisory Commission would have a better conception of the qualifications and skills required to continue the work. He did not feel strongly about the matter and was ready to agree with the opinion of the Council of Delegates on the matter.

85. The Chairman noted that appreciation for the work done and a clear intention to strengthen the Movement had emerged from the debate. He requested that the Chairman of the Advisory Commission chair a small working group, composed of those delegations that had suggested amendments to the draft resolution, to present a revised draft of the resolution for adoption at the Council's next meeting.

*The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.*



## THIRD MEETING

Saturday, 2 December 1995

9 a.m.

SUMMARY: 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (adoption of Res. 1) — Report of the Commission for the financing of the ICRC (adoption of Res. 7) — Future of the Movement (adoption of Res. 3 & 4) — Information Policy of the Movement — Activity Report of the Henry Dunant Institute — Award of the Henry Dunant Medal.

### Item 4 of the agenda: 26TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT (continued)

86. The Chairman invited the Council to adopt by acclamation the draft resolution on the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, proposed by the British Red Cross and others (document PR/95/CD/4.2/1).
87. The Council of Delegates adopted the resolution on the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Res. 1).
88. Mr Weber (International Federation) said that some 50 National Societies were already inscribed on the list of speakers for the International Conference, and he urged other National Societies to add their names to the list. He hoped that at least one-third of all National Societies would speak at the Conference. Stressing that the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent was a unique international humanitarian forum where the components of the Movement had equal status with States, he said that the ICRC and the International Federation were ready to provide technical assistance to National Societies in preparing speeches to be delivered at the Conference, including background research and even advice on content. Referring to the Drafting Commission, he explained that participation was open to all, as the only members of that Commission to be designated were its Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
89. The Chairman endorsed those remarks and encouraged National Societies to stay in Geneva over the coming five days and to participate actively in the Conference.

### Item 11 of the agenda: REPORT OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE FINANCING OF THE ICRC

90. Mr Niskala, Chairman of the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC, introducing the report of the Commission contained in document 95/CD/11/1, recalled that the Commission had been set up in 1948 on the initiative of five National Societies. The Commission's membership was currently composed of 12 National Societies and the Commission operated under the provisions of Resolution XXIV of the 25th International Conference. The original objective of the Commission had been to enable the ICRC to carry out its activities in the chaotic conditions following World War II when solidarity had been a life-saving factor. Today, nearly 50 years later, the need remained just as vital. Burdens had to be shared to allow humanitarian tasks to be accomplished with maximum efficiency. The Commission had held annual meetings over the past four years, and its traditional work was described in the report before the Council. Since 1992, the number of National Societies contributing to the headquarters

budget of the ICRC had grown from 65 to 75. Another positive development was the better flow and exchange of information. In the light of the discussion at the Commission's recent meeting, however, he wished to make the following remarks. If entities were to remain adequate and efficient, they had to be periodically reviewed and adapted. In a rapidly changing world, existing procedures might require revision. It would therefore be appropriate for the Commission, in conjunction with the ICRC, to evaluate the Commission's current mode of functioning and identify possible alternatives. Efforts had to be streamlined and adapted to meet the challenges of tomorrow. A draft resolution (document PR/95/CD/11/1) was proposed to that end, which he hoped could be accepted by consensus.

91. Mr Roethlisberger (ICRC) thanked Mr Niskala and the National Societies, especially the members of the Commission, for their support of the ICRC. He also expressed the gratitude of those who had received humanitarian assistance as a result of that support. In a fast-moving world, any collaborative effort had to be well defined and precisely targeted in order to achieve its aim. Operational cooperation and communication between the ICRC and National Societies had improved dramatically during 1995 and, as the Chairman of the Commission had commented, it was opportune to consider ways of enhancing the voluntary support provided by National Societies to the ICRC and hence to international humanitarian activities in favour of the victims of armed conflicts. He hoped that the Council would approve the report of the Commission and adopt the proposed draft resolution.
92. The Chairman invited the Council to adopt by acclamation the draft resolution on financing of the ICRC by National Societies, contained in document PR/95/CD/11/1.
93. The Council of Delegates adopted the resolution on financing of the ICRC by National Societies (Res. 7).

### Item 6 of the agenda: FUTURE OF THE MOVEMENT (continued)

#### 6.1 Report of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission established by Resolution 1/1993 (continued)

94. Mr Jones, Chairman of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission, said that he had been encouraged by the thoughtful and constructive views expressed by the Council of Delegates with regard to the report of the Commission. The necessary political will was clearly manifest. Responding to the comments made by the Secretary-General of the International Federation about the profile for candidates for election to the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Annex 4 of the report) and, in particular, their availability, he said that the ability of the Standing Commission to carry out its functions clearly required not only commitment on the part of every member but

also their availability to attend all meetings and to participate between meetings in undertaking assignments for the Standing Commission. Some functions envisaged by Article 18 of the Statutes were quasi-judicial by nature. Persons called upon to settle any differences that might arise between the ICRC and the International Federation had not only to act impartially and with objectivity, but also to be seen not to have any conflict of interest. In making reference in the profile to that role of the Standing Commission, the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission had in mind that such a condition would apply only to a small number of National Societies and to a limited range of candidates within them, for example vice-presidents, as suggested by the Secretary-General of the International Federation.

Referring to the earlier debate on the draft resolution before the Council, he said that, following informal discussions, agreement had been reached on the text of a draft resolution on the future of the Movement, contained in document PR/95/CD/6.1/3. The French version of that text was correct but, in the English and Spanish versions, operative paragraph 8 should be amended to read as follows: "considers that steps should be taken by the ICRC, the International Federation, National Societies and States at the legislative, preventive and repressive level to ensure greater respect for the emblem", echoing the wording of Article 45 of the Second Geneva Convention.

Recalling the suggestion by the President of the French Red Cross that more National Societies should participate as members of the Advisory Commission, he said that participation could be broadened without changing the size of the Commission if the International Federation would consider appointing members of National Societies, as for other Commissions. Increasing the number of members of the Commission would increase its costs; there thus seemed to be general agreement with regard to operative paragraph 10(a) that it would be preferable to maintain the Commission at its current size, namely 12 members.

95. Mr Weber (International Federation) said that such a course would be acceptable on the understanding that, in order to maintain a balance within the Advisory Commission, those nominated by the International Federation take account of its experience and interests.
96. The Chairman pointed out that such an interpretation might conflict with operative paragraph 10(b) which provided for members of the Advisory Commission to be appointed in a personal capacity. Observing that the draft resolution was important for the Movement, and for the effectiveness and efficiency of its humanitarian mission, he urged the Council to adopt the text by acclamation.
97. The Council of Delegates adopted the resolution on the future of the Movement: report of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission established by Resolution I/1993, as amended, (Res. 3).

#### 6.2 Report of the ICRC and the International Federation on their functional cooperation (continued)

98. The Chairman invited the Council to adopt by acclamation the draft resolution on the report of the ICRC and the International Federation on their functional cooperation, as contained in document PR/95/CD/6.2/1.

99. The Council of Delegates adopted the resolution on the report of the ICRC and the International Federation on their functional cooperation, (Res. 4).

#### Item 7 of the agenda: INFORMATION POLICY OF THE MOVEMENT

100. Mr Kornevall (ICRC), introducing the information policy of the Movement work plan for 1995-97 as set out in document 95/CD/7/1, recalled that in 1987 the Council of Delegates in Rio de Janeiro had requested the ICRC and the International Federation, together with National Societies, to propose guidelines for an information policy for the Movement to which all its component parts could refer. Between 1987 and 1989, a report had been elaborated, which the Council of Delegates in Geneva had adopted in 1989 as the information policy of the Movement. In 1991, in Budapest, the ICRC and the International Federation had reported on proposals regarding the Communicator's Guide; a technical workshop held in Nairobi in 1991; the setting up of a promotion bureau; work planned for the Seville exhibition; the campaign for the protection of war victims; and the *Red Cross, Red Crescent magazine*. Regarding World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day, the Council of Delegates had chosen "dignity for all" as the overall theme for 1993-1995, with "the vulnerable", "our children's future" and "respect for women" as sub-themes for 1993, 1994 and 1995, respectively. In 1993, in Birmingham, the ICRC and the International Federation had reported not only on the efforts made with regard to the communication guide, *Red Cross/Red Crescent magazine* and Red Cross/Red Crescent Day, but also on the dramatic changes that had taken place in the communication environment, both institutions announcing that they were revising their communications strategies and management. A resolution of the 1993 Council of Delegates requested the Geneva institutions to continue to develop the Movement's information policy and, in particular, encouraged them to continue cooperation in the communication field to increase awareness and understanding of Red Cross and Red Crescent activities worldwide, and to work towards a communication policy and work plan. With regard to the latter, a workshop held in Geneva, with the participation of National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation, had focused on practical aspects of communication that could form the basis for a realistic work plan for the Movement, with the aim of building on practical experience to achieve a credible communication policy.

Commenting on the ten-point work plan, which had been drawn up according to the results of the workshop, he said that point (1) arose from a general feeling that publications were not properly targeted and that there were gaps and overlaps. Efforts to overcome that criticism, on the part of the ICRC through a process of rationalization and decentralization, and on the part of the International Federation through an audit, would result in a more targeted range of publications. Distribution systems would be modernized in order to enhance the effectiveness of targeting. Regarding point (2), the workshop had been of the opinion that the thematic approach to Red Cross/Red Crescent Day should be dropped in favour of national emphasis on the Day, with limited backup material of long-term validity being provided by the Geneva institutions for use by



National Societies if they so wished. Point (3) dealt with the pooling of audiovisual resources; techniques were being developed that might bring such an objective within reach, bearing in mind cost, flexibility and compatibility. Proposals would be made when cost and systems factors made it sensible to do so; meanwhile, developments would be monitored. Point (4) addressed resources. The central role of information and communication had to be recognized and a corresponding commitment to funding made.

101. Mr Piper (International Federation), continuing the presentation of the work plan, said that point (5) covered the Internet and the World Wide Web. A number of National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation were already on the Web, which offered a cheap and attractive means of communicating, with significant fund-raising potential. Guidelines were needed, and the ICRC and the International Federation would coordinate a study to that end. During 1996, the ICRC and the International Federation would design a programme to provide support in an effort to ensure that all National Societies had access to electronic mail facilities, as envisaged under point (6). Point (7) concluded that the image of the ICRC and the International Federation could be used more by National Societies to position themselves in their national media markets and for fund-raising for their national programmes. The experience of some National Societies in that field would be shared in 1996 with others through the International Federation's resource development programme. Point (8) dealt with the relationship between fund-raising and communications. In order to be successful, fund-raisers needed proper communications support. Experience in Europe in that respect could serve as an example for other regions. Points (9) and (10) addressed advocacy campaigns. Often the Movement held back in communications because of operational considerations. Advocacy campaigns offered an opportunity to speak out and enhance the image of the Movement, profiting from its high credibility and worldwide organization. Campaigns had, however, to be based on the Movement's own information and experience. The landmines campaign in 1996 would provide the Movement with valuable experience for the future. The International Federation and the ICRC recognized that the work plan for 1995-97 was limited in scope, but were grateful for the National Society interest which had made it possible. The modest nature of the advance reflected the difficulty of establishing policies which all could follow. In a way, the policy advocated functional cooperation in the communications field, along the lines of the cooperation between the senior management of the ICRC and the International Federation. It also seemed preferable to start with a practical approach, rather than elaborating a utopian strategy, hence the holding of the workshop. On that basis, together with the experience gained in implementing the work plan, it would be possible to respond to demands to go further. The approach evidently depended on National Society participation and support.
102. The Chairman invited the Council to comment on the work plan contained in document 95/CD/7/1 and to consider the draft resolution on the information policy of the Movement, proposed by the British, Belgian and other National Societies, contained in document PR/CD/95/7/2.
103. Princess Margriet (Netherlands Red Cross) said that the need to communicate with the public had been recognized as a factor in eliciting public support for the work of the Movement. It was not enough to let actions speak for themselves. The work plan nevertheless required some refinement. The ICRC and the International Federation should indeed produce fewer and more targeted publications. It was even more important, however, that publications and information should be received by National Societies as soon as possible, enabling National Societies to inform the media, rather than receiving their information from the media. Again, while it was desirable to build relationships with the media and donors, there was insufficient coordination in that area between the International Federation, the ICRC and National Societies. The ICRC and the International Federation should contact national news agencies or donors only after consulting the National Society concerned. The general public perceived the Movement as a whole, rather than as made up of distinct components. She suggested that a detailed work plan should be produced, as well as a calendar giving monthly information on forthcoming communications activities. She was pleased that a joint communications group had been established and hoped that communications policy would improve.
104. Ms Harmon (Brazilian Red Cross) endorsed the comments made by the previous speaker. She stressed that information material had to be relevant to local conditions but thought that it might be a daunting task for the International Federation and the ICRC to work with each National Society individually, as envisaged in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution. The power of communication through the mass media was enormous and, if skilfully used, could be of great benefit to the Movement.
105. Mr Muriu (Kenya Red Cross Society) strongly supported the information workshops and offered to host further such workshops in Kenya. Communication was the key to involving the general public in the work of the Movement. Referring to the draft resolution, he particularly endorsed paragraph 5. With regard to paragraph 6, and acknowledging the point made by the previous speaker, he suggested that regional workshops might offer scope for collaboration in preparing messages suitable for local media, as well as for enhancing familiarity with new communications technologies.
106. Ms Kusmierczyk (Polish Red Cross) recognized the importance of an effective information and communication policy to raise awareness of and support for the activities carried out by the Movement. She welcomed the involvement of National Societies in drawing up a policy that would apply to the Movement as a whole, observing that it was easier for National Societies to have access to local media than to international media. Endorsing the proposed work plan and draft resolution, she stressed that information should be given rapidly and communications worded eloquently.
107. Mr Andjaimi (Red Cross of Chad) said that, although his National Society was weak, a public information programme had been undertaken with ICRC assistance. The Red Cross of Chad also enjoyed government support, and was accorded 15 minutes of television broadcasting time per week. A quarterly information bulletin was distributed through regional committees. He stressed the need to ensure that the general public

was aware of the activities undertaken by Red Cross workers and said that communication links with the ICRC and the International Federation should be strengthened, in particular to enable National Societies to make use of available documentation and audiovisual material.

108. Mr Hoste (Belgian Red Cross) said that a failure to communicate with the public at large would result in a loss of the financial and moral support that the Movement needed to continue its work on behalf of the most vulnerable. It was therefore vital for the Movement to send concise, clear and consistent messages, speaking with one voice. Emphasis on internal differences would only weaken the support of donors. There should therefore be a single communication strategy, under which each component could elaborate its own message. Implementation of the strategy would not necessarily require extra funding, rather a more effective use of existing resources. The draft resolution sought to achieve that aim. He welcomed the cooperation between the ICRC and the International Federation and endorsed the proposed work plan, although it required further elaboration. There should be a coherent set of project plans, with clearly defined objectives, setting priorities consistent with the objectives of the Movement and taking account of social developments.
109. Mr Gray (British Red Cross Society) said that the information policy adopted in 1989 needed to be reviewed in order to respond to the changes that had taken place in the world since that time. The draft resolution sought to achieve that end. Other organizations had plans up to the year 2000; the Red Cross and Red Crescent should not be left behind. Failure to raise public support would jeopardize the Movement's important work. He therefore hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted, noting that paragraphs 1 to 8 were preambular, while paragraphs 9 to 14 were the key operative paragraphs. He suggested the addition of a further paragraph, as follows: "15. *renames* the document for this item 'The information work plan for the Movement 1995-1997'", as the document in fact contained a work plan, not a policy.
110. Mr Suárez del Toro Rivero (Spanish Red Cross) stressed the need for a coordinated and unified communication policy, comprehensively representing the Movement as a whole. He agreed that the work plan required further elaboration and he welcomed the draft resolution.
111. Ms Nze (Congolese Red Cross), observing that National Societies should support the ICRC in its important work, endorsed the draft resolution. It was important for the general public to be aware of the work of the Movement, and access by National Societies to mass media, especially television, was a powerful means of broadening understanding of the different activities undertaken.
112. Dr Nesh-Nash (Moroccan Red Crescent) stressed the importance of media coverage in focusing attention on violations of international humanitarian law and promoting respect for human rights. Supporting the draft resolution, he suggested that the following text should be added: "the Council of Delegates commends the role played by the international media in denouncing violations of international humanitarian law and welcomes the interest that it shows in the activities of the components of the Movement". Such recognition of the role of the media would implicitly call for continued media interest in the work of the Movement in protecting human dignity and promoting respect for international humanitarian law.
113. Prof. Nsubuga (Uganda Red Cross Society) supported the draft resolution and called for increased resources to be devoted to communication in order to reach the grass-roots level, particularly by translating messages into local languages. He also welcomed the flexible approach to Red Cross/Red Crescent Day, which would enable National Societies to highlight topics of local relevance.
114. Dr Mokete (Lesotho Red Cross Society) endorsed the draft resolution and appreciated the stress placed on functional cooperation between the ICRC and the International Federation. He welcomed the concept of a communication calendar, which would prompt National Societies to undertake useful work. Translation of materials would give the most vulnerable access to information, and the use of electronic communications technologies would enable National Societies to keep in touch with the experience of others.
115. Mr Diagne (Senegalese Red Cross Society), referring to the draft resolution, suggested that: in paragraph 1, "*applauds*" should be replaced by "*welcomes*"; in paragraph 10, the word "*limited*" should be deleted; and paragraph 14 should be subsumed in the preambular part of the resolution, possibly under paragraph 3 or 8.
116. Prof. Hamid (Sudanese Red Crescent), supporting the draft resolution, said that the flow of information from the Geneva institutions to National Societies was plentiful in comparison with the meagre flow from National Societies to Geneva or between National Societies. He stressed the importance of recruiting well-chosen and competent communicators to improve the communication activities of National Societies.
117. Mr Davey (International Federation) endorsed the draft resolution and particularly emphasized the importance of paragraphs 9, 10 and 11. Regarding paragraph 12, he considered that the wording might hinder rather than promote the rapid progress that was desired.
118. Mr Wansley (Australian Red Cross) recognized the need for the communication policy to keep up with changes and welcomed the cooperation between the ICRC and the International Federation to that end. Endorsing the draft resolution in general, he considered that paragraph 7 should be deleted; it was for the ICRC and the International Federation, not the Council of Delegates, to decide on the level of resources to be devoted to communication.
119. Mr Gatali (Rwandan Red Cross) appreciated that communication was important in ensuring the support of donors but explained that, in Rwanda, the primary concern was with the image of the Red Cross and the way in which it affected Red Cross activities. For example, ICRC visits to detainees could be misinterpreted by a largely illiterate population, traumatized by war, as support to criminals. He therefore urged the ICRC, the International Federation and National Societies to help the Rwandan Red Cross to re-establish the Red Cross image so as to facilitate the accomplishment of its humanitarian task. He endorsed the draft resolution.

120. Mr Hellberg (Finnish Red Cross), referring to the draft resolution which he generally supported, endorsed the comments made by Mr Davey and suggested that paragraph 12 should be amended to read "... regularly review these plans at their meetings". He stressed the need for concise, clear and consistent messages.
121. Mr Roethlisberger (ICRC) welcomed the draft resolution and, referring to paragraph 12, said that the ICRC and the International Federation should regularly review and approve the plans. The communication activities of the ICRC, the International Federation and National Societies should be in harmony with the overall communication policy of the Movement, and each component should contribute its resources, according to the means at its disposal.
122. Ms Loyola (Philippine National Red Cross) supported the draft resolution and stressed the importance of communication in building the image of the Movement. Regarding point (2) of the work plan, she said that information material should be made available well in advance in order to enable National Societies to prepare for the celebration of Red Cross/Red Crescent Day.
123. Ms Quezon (Philippine National Red Cross), referring to point (5) of the work plan, said that most developing countries relied on traditional means of communication, such as radio. She therefore suggested that the following words should be added to the end of the first sentence of point (5): "without prejudice to the use of existing traditional means of communication, like radio".
124. Ms Razafindrakoto (Malagasy Red Cross Society) welcomed the work plan and the draft resolution, as amended. She suggested that, in order to avoid delays in transmitting information to local media, the ICRC and the International Federation should use the services of internationally established news agencies.
125. Mr Consigny (French Red Cross) supported the draft resolution, observing that much remained to be done to elaborate a unified communication policy for the Movement. He endorsed the amendment to paragraph 1 suggested by Mr Diagne. With regard to paragraph 6, he suggested that messages should also be "inspired by the Fundamental Principles of the Movement". In paragraph 14, it would be preferable to refer to "armed conflict", rather than to "war and political violence". Turning to the work plan, he recalled the difficulties faced in France and other countries by the choice of 8 May as Red Cross/Red Crescent Day.
126. Mr Patil (Indian Red Cross Society) appreciated the cooperation between the ICRC and the International Federation, and emphasized the importance of communication in promoting the humanitarian goals of the Movement. He observed that some National Societies would have difficulty in financing communication activities. Recognizing the need for further development of an information policy, he supported the draft resolution.
127. Princess Margriet (Netherlands Red Cross) proposed a new operative paragraph 15 for the draft resolution to read as follows: "requests the ICRC and the International Federation secretariat, when contacting national news agencies and/or donors directly for an appeal or a campaign, to seek prior coordination with the National Society concerned".
128. Mr Piper (International Federation) said that, among the different views expressed, it was gratifying to see a common wish for timeliness and conciseness, as well as an understanding of the logistical problems faced in an organization of 171 voices, with so many languages. With regard to the additional paragraph proposed by the previous speaker, in certain circumstances in the field, such coordination with National Societies might jeopardize the timeliness of information.
129. Mr Kornevall (ICRC) added that the ICRC made numerous appeals for respect of international humanitarian law and it would be extremely difficult to contact all National Societies before doing so.
130. The Chairman invited the sponsors of the draft resolution to prepare a consolidated text, taking account of the various amendments suggested. Consideration of agenda item 7 would be resumed when that text was ready.
- Item 9 of the agenda: ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE**
131. Mr Weber, speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Henry Dunant Institute, mentioned that the Henry Dunant Institute had been founded in 1965 by the ICRC, the International Federation and the Swiss Red Cross to carry out studies, research, training and instruction, as well as to contribute to the development of the Red Cross in the world. The Institute was housed in a building belonging to the City of Geneva and the institutional budget, of some 940,000 Swiss francs, was funded by the member institutions. The operational budget of the Institute, however, which was used for projects and studies, depended to a large extent on voluntary contributions; 73% of it was covered for 1995, some 11,000 Swiss francs still being needed for the project on street children. He stressed that the Institute did not undertake field operations. While the decisions taken on the future of the Movement, under agenda item 6, would have implications for the Institute, the present agenda item concerned a follow-up of the Institute's activities.
132. Dr Toman (Henry Dunant Institute) introduced the report of the Institute for 1993-1995 (document 95/CD/9/1) and highlighted its role as a bridge between the Movement and the academic world, allowing each to benefit by the work of the other. Among its various activities, he mentioned in particular the training of leaders of National Societies. The basic objective of the Institute was to serve the Movement to the best of its ability, undertaking whatever tasks were entrusted to it.
133. Mr Sandoz (ICRC) thanked the Acting Director and staff of the Henry Dunant Institute for their continuing dedicated service. While it had carried out valuable work, for example on vulnerable minorities and ethnic groups, the links between that work and National Societies were not close enough. National Societies were insufficiently involved in specific projects and did not sufficiently use the results obtained by the Institute. With streamlined staffing, it should be more fully integrated into the Movement and should concentrate on those research and training programmes needed to strengthen the Movement as a whole. He supported the draft resolution on the Henry Dunant Institute, contained in document PR/95/CD/9/2.
134. Mr Bucher (Swiss Red Cross) endorsed the comments made by Mr Weber and Mr Sandoz. Thanking the

Acting Director and staff for their good work, he stressed that the Institute was intended to serve all the components of the Movement. He supported the draft resolution which sought to make the most effective use of the Institute's limited resources, and suggested that the operative paragraph should mention that the ICRC, the International Federation and the Swiss Red Cross were the founders of it.

135. Dr Mangoensadjito (Indonesian Red Cross Society), referring to his own personal experience of the usefulness of the courses run by the Henry Dunant Institute, appreciated the contribution that the Institute had made to the Movement as a whole and hoped that those activities would continue in the future. In particular, he wondered whether it might be possible to extend its activities and hold training courses in Asia. The Institute had done valuable project work, in particular that on children in war. Regarding the draft resolution, he suggested that the views of the Council of Delegates, the Standing Commission and National Societies should also be taken into account in charting the future of the Institute.
136. Mr Muriu (Kenya Red Cross Society) expressed appreciation for the work of the Institute, especially the training of volunteers and the project on street children. He was pleased that the financial position of the Institute was sound, and considered that National Societies should have a say in its future activities.
137. Dr Mokete (Lesotho Red Cross Society) welcomed the work undertaken by the Henry Dunant Institute, especially the studies for use by National Societies, and endorsed the draft resolution. Referring to local initiatives in southern Africa, he suggested that by providing support to such initiatives at regional, if not at country level, the Institute might play a useful role in filling gaps left by the International Federation and the ICRC.
138. Dr Magnusson (Icelandic Red Cross) drew attention to a report by the Nordic National Societies, entitled "Interaction and learning", which concluded that many of the Institute's original tasks had been taken over by the International Federation and the ICRC. In redefining the role and functions of the Institute, as called for in the draft resolution, account should be taken of the changes detailed in the Nordic report.
139. Ms Harmon (Brazilian Red Cross) agreed with Mr Sandoz that there was a lack of communication between the Henry Dunant Institute and National Societies but pointed to the huge resources that would be required to enable the Institute to respond to a wide range of requests. Drawing attention to the list of projects in its Activity Report, she said that every effort should be made to avoid using the pejorative term "street children".
140. Mr Whitlam (British Red Cross) said that, although the Acting Director of the Institute was well respected, the Institute itself had stagnated. It was, moreover, unrealistic to expect the Institute to act as the university of the Movement or to establish the basis for Red Cross and Red Crescent values without adequate cooperation and resources. It was therefore opportune, as envisaged in the draft resolution, to redefine the role and functions of the Institute, taking account of current circumstances.
141. Dr Al-Fawaz (Jordan National Red Crescent Society), referring to the draft resolution, suggested that, in the

first preambular paragraph, the word "*Applauding*" should be replaced by "*Welcoming*" and the word "in" should be inserted before "contributing"; and, in the third preambular paragraph, "*Mindful also of*" should be replaced by "*Realizing*".

142. The Chairman said that discussion would be continued at the Council's next meeting as it was time for the Award of the Henry Dunant Medal.

#### Item 8 of the agenda: AWARD OF THE HENRY DUNANT MEDAL

143. Botho, Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, Chairman of the Standing Commission, said that the Commission had unanimously decided to award the Henry Dunant Medal to the following persons for their outstanding service to the Movement:

*Mrs Jacqueline Briot (French Red Cross)*, who had dedicated over 50 years to the humanitarian cause, including undertaking missions as a nurse and social worker during World War II, and establishing first-aid services in French-speaking Africa.

*Dr Hugo Ernesto Merino Grijalva (Ecuadorian Red Cross)*, who had worked as a volunteer in the Ecuadorian Red Cross for over 40 years and served as its President for 18 years, alongside his medical work which included the modernization of the blood bank in Ecuador.

*Dr Esmildo Gutiérrez Sánchez (Cuban Red Cross)*, posthumously, who with his innate humanitarianism and attachment to the Fundamental Principles had devoted himself entirely to the Red Cross at both the national and the international level.

*Professor Hans Haug (Swiss Red Cross)*, posthumously, who had served the Swiss Red Cross from 1946 to 1982 and the ICRC from 1983 to 1991, with a profound commitment to asserting the role of international humanitarian law and the Movement in alleviating human suffering.

*Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed (Malaysian Red Crescent Society)*, posthumously, who had served the National Society from 1955 to 1994 and under whose chairmanship the relatively small and young Society had acquired an international reputation and role, contributing to the development of the Movement.

144. Mr Hove, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Commission, said that, in the absence of its Chairman, the members of the Standing Commission had decided to award Botho, Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, the highest distinction of the Movement for his integrity and faithfulness to the humanitarian cause.

145. Botho, Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, Chairman of the Standing Commission, thanked the members of the Standing Commission for the great honour they had bestowed upon him. Overcoming his initial reluctance to accept the award, he now wished to speak on behalf of all recipients of the Medal and to express gratitude to all who had devoted themselves, without recognition, to the alleviation of human suffering. He dedicated his own reward to the memory of his late mother, who had worked for the Red Cross for over 60 years and who had recruited him in 1944.

*The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.*

## FOURTH MEETING

Saturday, 2 December 1995  
2.30 p.m.

SUMMARY: Activity Report of the Henry Dunant Institute (adoption of Res. 8) — Children in armed conflicts (adoption of Res. 5) — Information Policy of the Movement (adoption of Res. 6) — Miscellaneous: refugees and internally displaced persons; armed escorts; Code of Conduct; anti-personnel landmines (adoption of Res. 9 and 10) — Date and place of the next Council of Delegates — Closing of the meeting.

*Dr. Al-Hadid, Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

**Item 9 of the agenda: ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE (continued)**

146. Mr Dofara (Central African Red Cross Society) proposed that training courses organized by the Henry Dunant Institute should be decentralized wherever possible in order to reduce costs. He also added that references to street children in the Institute's Activity Report (95/CD/9/1) could be replaced by the term "children in difficulty."
147. Dr Naarendorp (Red Cross Society of Suriname) commended the Institute on the quality of its training courses, which were of great importance to National Societies new to the Movement. She supported the draft resolution on the Institute and expressed the hope that new activities could be incorporated into its programme for small National Societies.
148. Mr Zowelengre (Burkinabé Red Cross Society) highlighted the important effect that the Institute had in disseminating international humanitarian law in his country. He hoped that its training courses would be maintained and expressed his full support for the dynamic role of the Henry Dunant Institute within the Movement.
149. Prof. Haworth (Zambia Red Cross Society) emphasized the importance of the Institute's research work and underlined the need for independence when publishing studies. He proposed an amendment to the draft resolution which sought to affirm the value of the Institute's training programme and research, and invited the Council of Delegates to reflect upon the costly nature of similar activities carried out by other institutions. He also proposed that the word "examine" be placed before "redefine" (which should be understood as "to clarify and illuminate") in the final paragraph, and suggested the insertion of an additional paragraph further inviting the ICRC, the International Federation and the Swiss Red Cross to establish a system of management which would enable the Institute to function properly.
150. Ms Jantsits (Hungarian Red Cross) supported the amendments proposed by the Zambian Red Cross and expressed appreciation of the research and training work of the Institute and the cooperation achieved at the Symposium on Family Reunification in Budapest (1994). She stated that the Institute was extremely valuable to the entire Movement and requested components of the Movement who had developed parallel activities to work in close collaboration with it.
151. Dr Rueda Montaña (Colombian Red Cross) expressed full support for the Institute and the draft resolution that proposed a redefinition, to be understood as reinforcement, of its role and activities.
152. Mr Wang (Red Cross Society of China) also expressed great appreciation for the Institute's activities and stated that the Chinese Red Cross had made a financial contribution to express its support and gratitude.
153. Dr Kang (Republic of Korea National Red Cross) congratulated Dr Toman on the quality of the Activity Report of the Institute and underscored the latter's role in strengthening the unity and universality of the Movement over the last thirty years. Although he supported the draft resolution he felt that role of the Institute should be encouraged and strengthened, rather than be redefined. He proposed, therefore, that the word "redefine" should be replaced by "reinforce" in the final paragraph.
154. Dr Dobias (Slovak Red Cross) congratulated the Director and the staff of the Institute on the impressive work that they had achieved, and stated his support for the draft resolution. The Slovak Red Cross had only recently joined the Movement and did not possess any archives of its own. As a result it was extremely grateful to the Institute for providing access to its documents. It hoped that any redefinition of the Institute's role and function would take into account the needs of other new or recent members and their desire for assistance in establishing their own information, research and training systems.
155. Ms Preyssas (French Red Cross) said that it was important to redefine the activities of the Institute and services that it provided in the spirit in which it was founded. She proposed that a data bank and a documentation centre be set up for the benefit of National Societies. The Institute's training courses should be maintained and even increased, as there was a need for cohesion in the components of the Movement.
156. Mr El-Shafei (Egyptian Red Crescent Society) stressed the importance of the Institute's research work for all components of the Movement and many international organizations. He also agreed with many other delegates in that the Institute's training activities should be developed in order to meet the needs of National Societies in developing countries. He supported the amendments to the draft resolution as proposed by the Zambian Red Cross and requested that the role and activities of the Institute be strengthened, as opposed to being simply redefined. It was important for the Institute to be able to promote independent research.
157. Gen. Harrouk (Lebanese Red Cross Society) indicated strong support for the Institute and the draft resolution, and suggested that the Institute should disseminate its work in Arabic.
158. Mr Ndlangamandla (Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society) underlined the importance of the Institute's training activities to National Societies such as his own and requested greater access to the above programmes.

He expressed support for the amendments to the draft resolution as proposed by the Zambian Red Cross.

*Mr Sommaruga (ICRC) resumed the Chair.*

159. Mr Benabderrahmane (Algerian Red Crescent) recalled the outstanding work of Henry Dunant in Algeria and informed the Council of Delegates of his Society's decision to establish an Algerian Red Crescent Museum which would include a research centre and data base on international humanitarian law. He appealed to the National Societies of the Movement for financial assistance.
160. Dr Ali (Libyan Red Crescent) stated that it was important to strengthen the Institute and expand its capacities. He also believed that the word "redefine" in the draft resolution should be replaced by "reinforce," and proposed that "before the end of 1996" be deleted from the final paragraph which would be complemented by a new paragraph requesting the ICRC, the International Federation and the Swiss Red Cross to report on progress made to the meeting of the Council of Delegates in 1997.
161. Dr Jean-François (Haitian National Red Cross Society) congratulated the Institute on its outstanding work and endorsed the report on its activities. He indicated that periodic review and adaptation were necessary if the Institute were to have a dynamic effect upon the entire Movement. He expressed support for the amendments proposed by the Zambian Red Cross and concurred with the comments made by the French Red Cross.
162. Mr Dieudonné (Andorra Red Cross) expressed support for the draft resolution and drew attention to the essential role that the Institute had played over the last thirty years in contributing to the unity and universality of the Movement.
163. Mr Guerra (Italian Red Cross) expressed his appreciation of the studies and research work carried out by the Institute and hoped that its activities would be expanded and reinforced.
- In the light of the various suggested amendments on the subject of the draft resolution, the Chairman proposed that a contact group headed by Mr Weber be set up in order to provide a revised text.*
164. Mr Weber, speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Henry Dunant Institute, thanked the National Societies for their constructive comments and expressed satisfaction at the positive impact of the Institute's training courses. Although it was essential for the Institute to adjust its role, priorities and strategies to changing circumstances, it was equally important to retain positive elements that had proved their worth. The Institute was committed to maintaining its training activities, and would organize courses in Geneva if sufficient financial resources were available. It would also organize courses elsewhere if enough interest were shown by National Societies in a particular region and sufficient voluntary funding could be found. The Institute's finances were now in a healthy position; reserves had been increased and its core budget was sound. Moreover, 73% of funding had already been obtained for its projects and programmes. To conclude, he commended the Nordic study on interaction and learning to all the delegates of the Council.
165. Dr Toman (Henry Dunant Institute) thanked the National Societies for their comments and for the

support they had expressed for the Institute. He then invited delegates to attend the open house organized by the Institute on Sunday, 3 December from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. so that they could become better acquainted with its work and discuss any further points if desired.

166. The Chairman extended his warmest congratulations to the Henry Dunant Institute on its thirtieth anniversary.
167. Mr Weber (International Federation), as head of the contact group on the draft resolution, presented a revised text of the draft resolution (PR/95/CD/9/2) which took into account the amendments proposed by the National Societies. He indicated that the word "redefine" in the first operative paragraph was taken to mean a strengthening of activities which were relevant and an elimination of activities which were not and were therefore to be changed. The word "role" in the same paragraph included the Institute's mission, priorities, governance and management.
168. Mr Mboumoua (Cameroon Red Cross Society) suggested a correction to the wording of the French version of the text, which was subsequently modified.
169. *The revised resolution on the Henry Dunant Institute was adopted by acclamation (Res. 8).*
170. Mr Weber, speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Henry Dunant Institute, concluded by expressing his deep gratitude and that of the entire Council of Delegates towards Dr Toman and the staff of the Institute for their efforts.

*Applause*

#### **Item 10 of the agenda: CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICTS**

171. Ms Petitpierre (ICRC), introducing document 95/CD/10/1, emphasized the vulnerability of children in armed conflicts and the lack of respect for international humanitarian law in many countries. The Plan of Action was addressed to the entire Movement; National Societies were requested to do their utmost to prevent children under the age of 18 from being recruited into armed forces. They were also asked to take practical steps to ensure physical care and psycho-social rehabilitation for child victims of armed conflict. The ICRC expressed complete support for the draft resolution (contained in Annex II) which included *inter alia* the establishment of a coordinating group to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Plan.
172. Prof. Hamid, speaking in his capacity as Vice-President of the International Federation, reminded the meeting of the concrete efforts that the International Federation had made over the last two years to assist children exposed to armed conflict, promote dissemination of the study entitled "Child Soldiers" and provide support and guidance for the elaboration of the Plan of Action.
173. Ms Thulin (Swedish Red Cross) stressed that the Plan of Action endeavoured to build on the existing programmes and expertise of the National Societies. In order to achieve its goals the Movement was requested to strengthen international law, work closely with the children concerned and raise awareness in society of the need to prohibit children from joining armed forces or groups. The Movement was also asked to extend assistance and protection to all categories of children affected by armed conflict, including those termed as unaccompanied, those living in foster families, and

those who had participated in armed conflict. The comments of National Societies had been incorporated into the Plan of Action along with the views of governmental and non-governmental organizations. Gratitude was expressed to all who had participated in the undertaking.

174. The Chairman drew attention to a revised draft of the proposed resolution on Children in Armed Conflicts (PR/95/CD/10/3).
175. Mr Dofara (Central African Red Cross Society) expressed his satisfaction with the study on Child Soldiers and supported the establishment of a working group which would monitor the implementation of the Plan of Action. He hoped that an Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the non-recruitment and non-participation of children under the age of 18 in armed conflict would soon be adopted.
176. Ms Sundbom (Swedish Red Cross) commended the International Federation and the ICRC for its comprehensive report. The Movement had a dual responsibility to prevent children from becoming soldiers and participate in the social and psychological rehabilitation of victims of armed conflict. The Swedish Red Cross strongly supported the Plan of Action and its follow-up mechanism. It urged the Council of Delegates to adopt the draft resolution.
177. Mr Cummings (Sierra Leone Red Cross Society) drew the meeting's attention to the use of children as young as 10 years of age in regular armies and private armed groups. In blatant contravention of international humanitarian law, children were used to commit atrocities or forced to act as human shields for adult combatants. Few countries engaged in real rehabilitation or demobilization programmes; former child soldiers were left to drift into delinquency or drug addiction. He endorsed the draft resolution and urged the Movement to provide individual National Societies with guidance and support.
178. Ms Arnadottir (Icelandic Red Cross) welcomed the report on children in armed conflicts and thanked the authors for their work. She expressed concern at the increasing number of children under the age of 15 involved in armed conflict and emphasized the lasting trauma of such experiences. The rehabilitation and recovery of such children was a fundamental task for the Movement and one that required a long-term commitment and considerable financial resources that few countries possessed. She urged the National Societies to play a major role in promoting the principle of the non-recruitment of children below the age of 18 in armed forces, and expressed full support for the Plan of Action and the draft resolution.
179. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Ms Thordardottir from the Icelandic Red Cross for her efforts in producing, together with Ms Thulin, the Plan of Action on children in armed conflicts.
180. Mr Whitlam (British Red Cross) explained that the revised version of the draft resolution was designed to ensure better observance of the rules of international humanitarian law and achieve greater clarity. The additions made the resolution more balanced and more beneficial to child soldiers. He expressed concern over the principle of non-recruitment of children under the age of 18 since his country had a long tradition of voluntary enlistment among 16-17 year olds who had

benefited from joining the armed forces. However, to maintain a spirit of consensus, the British Red Cross was prepared to support the Movement's position on the issue.

181. Mr Nolan (New Zealand Red Cross) suggested that in operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution PR/95/CD/10/3 the phrase "prepared by the International Federation and the ICRC in cooperation with the Henry Dunant Institute" should be brought forward and placed after the "Red Crescent Movement." He also proposed that the coordinating group, as opposed to the International Federation and the ICRC, should be requested to report on progress in implementing the Plan of Action, as specified on page 8 of document 95/CD/10/1, and that the group should provide the Council of Delegates with an interim report in 1997.
182. Dr Hassan (Somali Red Crescent Society) endorsed the Plan of Action and the draft resolution, and mentioned the different ways in which children were affected by armed conflict. He commended the Henry Dunant Institute for its work on the Plan and expressed his gratitude towards the ICRC, the International Federation and all National Societies who had provided support for the project on children in war.
183. Mr Yoyana (Red Cross of Chad) also supported the Plan of Action and the draft resolution. He described the tragic situation in his own country where many children under the age of 15 became soldiers and ended up as criminals. He hoped that the International Federation and the ICRC would provide concrete support to National Societies with little influence upon their governments.
184. Dr Moteane (Lesotho Red Cross Society) welcomed the report and the draft resolution and urged the Movement to work together so that the world could be made a safer place for children.
185. Mr Nsengumuremyi (Rwandan Red Cross) expressed his approval of the Plan of Action and draft resolution, and drew the Council's attention to the situation in his country, where unaccompanied children found their way onto the battlefield and were confronted with serious problems of integration due to a lack of education and skills and a non-existent family background. It was difficult to provide each orphan or unaccompanied child with a foster family because of inadequate financial resources. It was also difficult to measure the scope of the problem since an unknown number of children still belonged to paramilitary groups.
186. Prof. Haworth (Zambia Red Cross Society) suggested that the ICRC, the International Federation and the National Societies mentioned in operative paragraph 1 of the revised draft resolution should be urged to work for the implementation of international legal standards on a national level.
187. Mr Ouk (Cambodian Red Cross Society) supported both the draft resolution and the Plan of Action.
188. Mr Gbiah Tarr (Liberia National Red Cross Society) also supported the draft resolution and the Plan of Action. He described the problems created by juvenile delinquency and the enlistment of children in armed forces in his country. He felt that it was essential for the Movement to provide young victims in conflict-affected areas with the childhood that they deserved, and suggested that National Societies with vast experience

in the above field should be invited to join the coordinating group.

189. Mr Nwobodo (Nigerian Red Cross Society) felt that the Plan of Action should focus upon adults who recruited children to armed conflict. He strongly supported the draft resolution and appealed to the Movement to stir the conscience of the warlords.
190. Mr Osman (International Federation) reminded the Council that the Plan of Action integrated a number of new activities into ongoing programmes. It addressed long-term issues by recommending a community-based approach which provided support to children in their natural environment and helped to build up the capacity of local communities to deal with such problems. The International Federation supported the draft resolution and offered the services of its secretariat to new Societies requiring assistance in integrating the new activities of the Plan.
191. Mr Aponte (American Red Cross) supported the revised draft resolution as presented. It was important for the Movement to show that it could work with existing tools to disseminate international humanitarian law and carry out its humanitarian mission.
192. Prof. Carrilho Ribeiro (Portuguese Red Cross) welcomed the report on children in armed conflicts and supported the draft resolution. He suggested that a progress report on the implementation of the Plan of Action might be provided at six-monthly intervals.
193. Mr Dossa (Red Cross of Benin) urged National Societies to defend the principle of non-recruitment of children under 18 in armed conflicts. He expressed wholehearted support for the draft resolution and the commitment to establish a coordinating group to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action.
194. Mr Dieudonné (Andorra Red Cross) endorsed the Plan of Action and the revised version of the draft resolution.
195. Ms Thulin (Swedish Red Cross) thanked the delegates for their supportive comments and emphasized the responsibility of adults in preventing children from becoming soldiers. She agreed that the question of child soldiers had to be addressed from all sides and required long-term commitment from the National Societies.
196. The Chairman invited the Council to adopt an amended version of the draft resolution which took into account the various changes proposed by the National Societies. He specified that it would be more appropriate for the International Federation and the ICRC to present the progress report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to the next Council of Delegates meeting in 1997.
197. *The draft resolution on children in armed conflicts, as amended, was adopted by acclamation (Res. 5).*

**Item 7 of the agenda: INFORMATION POLICY OF THE MOVEMENT (continued)**

198. Mr Gray (British Red Cross) presented draft resolution PR/CD/95/7/2.Rev and indicated minor typographical errors in the text.
199. *The revised version of the draft resolution on the information policy of the Movement, as corrected, was approved (Res. 6).*

**Item 12 of the agenda: MISCELLANEOUS**

**12.1 Follow-up to Resolutions 5, 6 and 7 of the 1993 Council of Delegates**

200. Mr de Courten (ICRC), introducing document 95/CD/12/1, stressed the importance of the three reports and the draft resolution that it contained. Armed protection of humanitarian assistance represented a violation of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, and could be envisaged only in exceptional circumstances and subject to stringent evaluation criteria.

As to the second report, he stated that National Societies could play an important role in promoting the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief by raising awareness, translating the Code into their own languages, and attending humanitarian cooperation fora.

With regard to the third report he indicated that refugees and internally displaced persons were essentially victims of armed conflict and violations of international humanitarian law, and that respect for its rules would help prevent many displacements. When cooperating with United Nations agencies or other international bodies to provide humanitarian assistance it was essential for the components of the Movement to remember the Fundamental Principles. In order to adopt a coherent approach and to preserve the Movement's integrity, National Societies should inform the International Federation and/or the ICRC of their plans to negotiate agreements with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. He hoped that the return of millions of refugees to Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, which would require a joint approach, would take place on a voluntary basis ensuring dignity, security and justice.

201. Ms Wahlström (International Federation) stressed that the best protection for the Movement in providing humanitarian assistance was the manner in which it behaved. The behaviour of one single component of the Movement reflected upon the rest of the Movement; hence the necessity for close contact with the Geneva-based institutions. The draft resolution on armed protection of humanitarian assistance attached to the first report in Document 95/CD/12/1 called upon the Council of Delegates to note the report and endorse the guiding principles contained therein.

Recent experiences in Rwanda had demonstrated the need for the Code of Conduct. The next logical step would be to develop practical minimum standards for the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The International Federation was also deeply concerned about the increasing number of refugees and displaced persons; it was vital for the Movement to forge a correct relationship with governmental services and United Nations agencies making both independence and partnership possible wherever required. Viable policy structures and expertise were also needed to deal with relief efforts that were often built up in a matter of weeks, but which lasted years.

202. The Chairman called upon the Council of Delegates to note the reports contained in Document 95/CD/12/1 and adopt the draft resolution on armed protection of humanitarian assistance.
203. *It was so agreed (Res. 9).*



**12.2 Miscellaneous: Draft resolution on anti-personnel landmines**

204. Mr Remans (Belgian Red Cross) introduced draft resolution PR/95/CD/10/1 and spoke of the terrible toll that anti-personnel landmines had taken and continued to take upon the world's civilian population. He appealed to the National Societies to speak out in their respective countries to obtain the prohibition of such indiscriminate weapons. The Belgian Red Cross, in cooperation with various NGOs and using the expertise of the ICRC, had succeeded in obtaining in national law a unilateral ban on the production, export and use of anti-personnel landmines. As a result, it had become stronger as a National Society.
205. The Chairman supported the appeal of the Belgian Red Cross.
206. Ms Magnuson (Swedish Red Cross) expressed full support for the draft resolution and emphasized that landmines were a worldwide disaster in slow motion. It was the responsibility of the Movement as a whole to participate in efforts to ban them.
207. Mr Guerra (Italian Red Cross) informed the meeting of a recent appeal to the Italian parliament and government to strengthen the moratorium on trade in anti-personnel landmines, cease all national production of such weapons, respect the terms of the 1980 UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), and do its utmost to ensure that an international ban on the trade and use of anti-personnel landmines should enter into force.
208. Dr Ali (Libyan Red Crescent) paid tribute to governments which had enacted legislation against anti-personnel landmines, and emphasized the disastrous human, economic, social and psychological consequences arising from the use of such weapons. He proposed that the Council of Delegates should urge the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution to intensify contacts with their respective governments in order to work for a total ban. He also suggested the addition of a fourth paragraph requesting the ICRC and the International Federation to report on progress in that area to the meeting of the Council of Delegates in 1997.
209. Mr Whitlam (British Red Cross) endorsed the views expressed by the Belgian Red Cross. It was essential to have a clear statement of policy reflecting the broad consensus within the Movement. The elimination of anti-personnel landmines was a long-term goal; in order to assist victims and maintain credibility it was necessary to welcome all initiatives that would alleviate the current situation, including practical measures such as mine clearance and education. The issue called for a balanced approach that would take into account both the strong humanitarian commitment of the Movement and its need to be considered as a realistic partner by governments.
210. Mr Bugnion (ICRC) supported the draft resolution, which he considered to be a valuable opportunity for the Movement to make its voice heard at a time when the Review Conference of States party to the CCW was discussing the subject.
211. Mr Nolan (New Zealand Red Cross) stressed the need for clarity and precision in the wording of the draft resolution. He proposed that the word "indiscriminate" be removed from the first operative paragraph and that paragraph 3 be deleted.
212. Mr Nathan, speaking in his capacity as Vice-President of the International Federation, supported the amendments proposed by the New Zealand Red Cross and requested a total ban on the production, sale, storage and use of anti-personnel landmines.
213. Ms Harmon (Brazilian Red Cross) also called for a total ban on anti-personnel landmines and expressed support for the proposal to delete "indiscriminate" from the first operative paragraph of the draft resolution.
214. Dr Nesh-Nash (Moroccan Red Crescent) supported the views expressed by the New Zealand Red Cross Society.
215. Dr Haider Reza (Afghan Red Crescent Society) expressed full support for a total ban on anti-personnel landmines and spoke of the terrible damage that they had caused to the civilian population in his country.
216. Dr Hassan (Somali Red Crescent Society) endorsed the draft resolution and the views expressed by the Belgian Red Cross. He expressed his appreciation of the work of the ICRC in promoting a review of the CCW and thanked the ICRC, the International Federation and the National Societies for their efforts towards a total ban on anti-personnel landmines.
217. Dr Kang (Republic of Korea National Red Cross) supported the draft resolution. He informed the meeting of the efforts of his Society to assist mine victims in Myanmar and its involvement in television coverage of the plight of the civilian population in Afghanistan. He urged the Movement to ensure greater cooperation between National Societies in assistance programmes for the victims of landmines.
218. Ms McGurk (Irish Red Cross Society) expressed full support for the draft resolution and endorsed the views of the Belgian Red Cross, whose work was to be seen as a positive example of the beneficial influence that the Movement could have as a whole.
219. Mr Hoffman (American Red Cross) supported the draft resolution as originally presented. He stressed the need for a realistic approach which would enable victims to be assisted and maintain the Movement's credibility. He explained that deletions to the text or an all-or-nothing approach would be counter-productive for all concerned.
220. The Chairman, recalling the various amendments proposed to draft resolution PR/95/CD/10/1 suggested that the word "indiscriminate" be deleted from the first operative paragraph and proposed the creation of three new paragraphs. The third paragraph of the draft resolution would be replaced by "invites National Societies to intensify contacts with their respective governments in order to obtain a total ban on anti-personnel landmines." It would be followed by an additional fourth paragraph ("encouraging all measures to alleviate the suffering of victims, and to remove mines already in place") and a final paragraph ("requests the ICRC and the International Federation to report to the Council of Delegates in 1997 on the progress made in introducing a total ban in international law.")
221. Mr Remans (Belgian Red Cross) expressed full support for the above proposals.

222. Mr Whitlam (British Red Cross) stated his delegation's difficulty in accepting the deletion of "indiscriminate" from paragraph 1.
223. Ms Harmon (Brazilian Red Cross) felt that it was essential for the Movement to indicate clearly that anti-personnel landmines should be banned.
224. Mr Sandoz (ICRC) said that reference should be made in the proposed fifth paragraph to the importance of reporting to the Movement on progress made to alleviate the suffering of victims.
225. The Chairman endorsed Mr Sandoz's suggestion and proposed that the controversial words "indiscriminate use" in the first paragraph of the draft resolution be replaced by "indiscriminate effects."
226. Mr Hoffman (American Red Cross) requested that his delegation be allowed time to reflect upon the proposed substantive changes to the draft resolution.
227. Mr Nolan (New Zealand Red Cross) proposed that "indiscriminate effects" be replaced by "the use of anti-personnel landmines, some of it indiscriminate" in order to allay the concerns of the British Red Cross.
228. Prof. Nsubuga (Uganda Red Cross Society) drew the Council's attention to the ambiguity of the term "indiscriminate."
229. The Chairman, taking into account the request of the American Red Cross and the need for consensus amongst delegates, suspended the discussion.
230. During the short period that ensued, Ms Grigore (Red Cross of Romania) paid a moving tribute to the courage, skill and patience of women in assisting and supporting humankind in the face of disaster.
231. Mr Whitlam (British Red Cross), upon resumption of the discussion on the draft resolution, explained that the British and the American Red Cross could support paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 and proposed that the first operative paragraph should contain a reference to both the indiscriminate effects and the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines.
232. The Chairman felt that the proposed addition weakened the strength of the said paragraph.
233. Mr Cabouat (French Red Cross) shared the same view. He stated that the effects of anti-personnel landmines were indiscriminate, not their use.
234. Dr Javornik (Croatian Red Cross) felt that the "misuse" of anti-personnel landmines would be a more appropriate term.
235. Mr Gbiah Tarr (Liberia National Red Cross Society) emphasized that it was essential to delete the word "indiscriminate" from the first operative paragraph since it suggested that anti-personnel landmines could be used discriminately.
236. Mr Dofara (Central African Red Cross Society) supported the views expressed by the French Red Cross. He felt that it was essential for the Movement to adopt a strong position on the matter so that millions of lives could be saved.
237. Mr Dieudonné (Andorra Red Cross) restated the importance of the proposed amendment to paragraph 3.
238. Mr Henao (Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society) expressed his support for the proposal to delete the word "indiscriminate" in the draft resolution.
239. Mr Whitlam (British Red Cross) reiterated that his Society was horrified at the effects of anti-personnel landmines. In a spirit of compromise he indicated that the British Red Cross could accept the replacement of "indiscriminate use" with "indiscriminate effects" and support the draft resolution, but requested that its name be removed from the list of co-sponsors.
240. The Chairman thanked the British Red Cross for its assistance. He drew the Council's attention to the revised first paragraph which mentioned the "indiscriminate effects" of anti-personnel landmines, and additional paragraphs 3, 4 and 5.
241. *The draft resolution on anti-personnel landmines, as amended above, was approved (Res. 10).*
242. Dr Nesh-Nash (Moroccan Red Crescent), whilst congratulating the officers of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on their election (Item 4.1 of the agenda: Proposals for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary-General and two Assistant Secretaries-General of the International Conference), drew the Council's attention to the fact that no representative from a Red Crescent Society had been chosen to serve as an officer at the Plenary Meetings or Commissions. He hoped that such a situation would not recur in the future.
243. *The above comment was noted.*
- Item 13 of the agenda: DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT COUNCIL OF DELEGATES**
244. The Chairman proposed that the decision on the exact date and place of the 1997 meeting of the Council of Delegates be entrusted to the Standing Commission, in accordance with Rule 24 of the Movement's Rules of Procedure.
245. *The proposal was accepted.*

#### CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

246. The Chairman expressed his deep satisfaction at the active presence of so many delegates at the Council and the many questions of substance that had been dealt with during the meeting. He thanked all those who had contributed and appealed to the National Societies to do their utmost to make the forthcoming International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent a similar success.

*The meeting closed at 7.05 p.m.*

## 2.5 RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

(adopted on 2 December 1995)

### 1

#### 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The Council of Delegates,

*alarmed* by the increasing number of vulnerable people continuously suffering from or threatened by man-made and natural disasters all over the world,

*committed* to the Movement's Fundamental Principles, which include humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, that enable it to act on behalf of the victims and vulnerable people and to advocate their cause,

*emphasizing* that it is necessary, in the interest of all those whom the Movement seeks to assist and protect, to strengthen the unique relationship between the Movement and the States party to the Geneva Conventions, which finds one concrete expression in the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*stressing* that the International Conference is a forum for dialogue on humanitarian matters whose effectiveness for victims and vulnerable people depends on the participation of all those concerned with humanitarian issues, and that the 26th International Conference was convened in conformity with the Statutes of the Movement,

*concerned* to avoid a situation in which issues of a political nature may disrupt the International Conference or divide the Movement,

1. *reaffirms* its commitment to holding the 26th International Conference in 1995;
2. *appeals* to all participants in the International Conference, in the interest of all victims and vulnerable people, to safeguard its exclusively humanitarian character, in particular by respecting the Fundamental Principles during the Conference, in conformity with the Statutes of the Movement;
3. *requests* all National Societies to convey this appeal to their respective governments at their earliest convenience;
4. *confirms* the commitment of all components of the Movement to act in conformity with the Fundamental Principles throughout the International Conference in order to preserve the unity of the Movement.

### 2

#### Red Cross and Red Crescent action for peace

The Council of Delegates,

*having considered* the final report of the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace on its activities since the 1991 session of the Council of Delegates in Budapest, and the Commission's recommendations,

*recalling* all the resolutions adopted and the efforts made to promote peace, in particular the "Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace" and the "Fundamental Guidelines for the Contribution of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to a True Peace in the World", adopted respectively by the World Red Cross Conference on Peace (Belgrade, 1975) and the Second World Red Cross Conference on Peace (Aaland — Stockholm, 1984),

*reaffirming* the importance of the preamble to the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which recalls the Movement's definition of peace and declares that "by its humanitarian work and the dissemination of its ideals, the Movement promotes a lasting peace, which is not simply the absence of war, but is a dynamic process of co-operation among all States and peoples, co-operation founded on respect for freedom, independence, national sovereignty, equality, human rights, as well as on a fair and equitable distribution of resources to meet the needs of peoples",

*aware* of the influence that the Movement, which upholds and propagates the values of tolerance, solidarity and dialogue, wields or can wield through its activities to reduce tension and prevent armed conflicts, thereby contributing to a climate conducive to peace,

*stressing* the need for the Movement to pursue its work in this regard and for the Movement's contribution to peace to be regularly re-examined in the light of constant changes in the present international situation and the new challenges to humanitarian action resulting from the increase in the number of both internal and international conflicts and the concomitant sharp rise in violations of the fundamental rights of the individual.

1. *takes note* of the final report of the Commission and thanks it for its work and its contribution to the Movement's action for peace;
2. *reaffirms* the importance of implementing the resolutions adopted to promote peace and respect for human rights on the basis of the work and recommendations made by the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace;
3. *requests* the National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation, in cooperation with the Henry Dunant Institute, to pursue implementation of the "Programme of Action of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as a Factor of Peace", and of the "Fundamental Guidelines for the Contribution of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to a True Peace in the World";
4. *calls upon* all components of the Movement to undertake specific actions to strengthen understanding between different cultures and ethnic, social, cultural and religious groups with a view to reducing tension and preventing conflict, in conformity with the study on minorities and conflict prevention presented by the Henry Dunant Institute;
5. *strongly recommends* the implementation of the proposals submitted by the Commission regarding children and respect for their rights, and supports in particular the pursuit of efforts in favour of children in armed conflicts and street children;
6. *recommends*, in particular, that National Societies draw the attention of their respective governments to the need for measures to be adopted nationally in order to punish the especially shocking abuse of children's rights constituted by child prostitution, particularly in the form that goes by the regrettable name of "international sex tourism";

7. *stresses and reaffirms* the importance of keeping issues linked to examination of the Movement's contribution to peace, particularly through activities conducive to reducing tension and preventing conflict, at the centre of the Movement's concerns;
8. *desires* that the Movement's role and attitude concerning the problem of arms transfer be studied and clarified;
9. *decides* to regularly include in its agenda an item on the promotion of activities contributing to peace and respect for human rights, in order to reassert the need for particular attention to be paid to these matters during its discussions, and *recommends* that its discussions on these issues be prepared by the Standing Commission or an ad hoc body that the latter may set up.

### 3

#### **Future of the Movement: report of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission established by Resolution 1/1993**

The Council of Delegates,

*recalling* that its Resolution 1 of 1993 established the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission and confirmed the view that the Movement must adapt itself to changing world realities while maintaining and operating in accordance with the Fundamental Principles,

*taking into account* the decision expressed in Resolution 1 of 1993 to make progress towards the formal recognition and establishment of the Council of Delegates as the supreme deliberative body for internal matters of the Movement,

*welcoming* the report of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission (Document 95/CD/6/1),

*expressing satisfaction* that the Advisory Commission reached the conclusions contained in its report by consensus,

1. *decides* to improve the preparation of its own agendas, and to devote these in the future to the definition of those policies and strategies which are common to the Movement's components and which require priority attention;
2. *requests* the Standing Commission to take due note of this decision; to make appropriate provision in the future for the Council of Delegates to meet for a sufficient period of time to allow it to debate and decide on policies and strategies of the Movement needing priority attention and to establish under the provisions of Article 18, para. 7, of the Statutes of the Movement an ad hoc body to prepare and ensure the follow-up to future Councils of Delegates;
3. *recommends* that the Standing Commission, led by its Chairman, play an active role within the Movement in fulfilling the functions assigned to it under Article 18, para. 3, of the Statutes, namely:
  - (a) to promote harmony in the work of the Movement and, in this connection, coordination among its components,
  - (b) to encourage and further the implementation of resolutions of the International Conference,
  - (c) to examine, with these objects in view, matters which concern the Movement as a whole and, in furtherance of this objective, to follow a policy of open, structured and regular communication with the components of the Movement, notwithstanding that some matters are of a confidential nature;
4. *recommends* that the Standing Commission establish:

- (a) independent secretarial support services with adequate facilities,
- (b) under Article 18, para. 7, one or more ad hoc bodies to prepare and ensure the follow-up to future International Conferences,
- (c) under Article 18, para. 7, an ad hoc independent body as and when required, to arbitrate, with the agreement of the parties, differences between the components of the Movement where conciliation and mediation have failed,
- (d) consultation with a representative group of government experts on all aspects of the use of the emblem and report to the Council of Delegates with the ultimate objective of reaching agreement with States;

5. *reaffirms* the commitment of the components of the Movement to recognize the statutory role of the Standing Commission in ensuring respect for the provisions of the Statutes of the Movement;

6. *endorses* the candidate profile for election to the Standing Commission drawn up by the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission, and commends it to all delegations to each International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent;

7. *notes with satisfaction* the steps taken so far by the ICRC and the International Federation to improve mutual understanding and functional cooperation;

8. *considers* that steps should be taken by the ICRC, the International Federation, National Societies and States at the legislative, preventive and repressive levels to ensure greater respect for the emblem;

9. *further decides* to re-establish on a temporary basis an independent Advisory Commission, under the provisions of Article 14, para. 7, of the Statutes of the Movement, with a mandate until the next Council of Delegates, to:

(a) keep under review the implementation of the above recommendations concerning the Standing Commission and the Council of Delegates,

(b) review, in the light of the report of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission (Document 95/CD/6/1) and of the results achieved through implementation of the above recommendations, the statutory provisions (including the Rules of Procedure) concerning the role, competencies and functioning of statutory bodies of the Movement; identify areas calling for potential clarification; if necessary, draw up subsequent proposals for statutory amendments; and report to the Council of Delegates,

(c) follow developments in the field of functional cooperation between the ICRC and the International Federation, in close cooperation with the senior management of both institutions,

(d) further develop proposals for a common strategy for the Movement,

(e) work on a clear definition of the organization of the international activities of the Movement's components, on the basis of the Geneva Conventions, of the existing Statutes and of the Fundamental Principles; and, working closely with the senior management of the two Geneva-based institutions and in consultation with National Societies, draft

an agreement between all components of the Movement, replacing the 1989 Agreement between the ICRC and the International Federation, for endorsement by the next Council of Delegates, which would bind all components of the Movement,

- (f) keep under review the external factors affecting the Movement; disseminate its findings to all components of the Movement; recommend how the process may be permanently institutionalized; and report to the Council of Delegates,
  - (g) follow up those concerns of the Study Group on the Future of the Movement which have not yet been addressed;
10. *decides that*
- (a) the independent Advisory Commission shall be composed of 12 persons, the ICRC and the International Federation each appointing three members and the others coming from National Societies,
  - (b) all members of the Advisory Commission shall be appointed *ad personam*; by joint decision of the Presidents of the International Federation and the ICRC and the Chairman of the Standing Commission, in consultation with the Chairman of the outgoing Policy and Planning Advisory Commission, the names of those appointed shall be announced within 60 days of this Council of Delegates,
  - (c) the Advisory Commission shall elect its chairperson from among its members and take its decisions and make its recommendations by consensus,
  - (d) the Advisory Commission shall have independent secretarial support services to assist it in its work;
11. *decides that* the financing of the budget of the new Advisory Commission shall be the joint responsibility of the International Federation, the ICRC and National Societies on the basis of 25% from the ICRC; 25% from the International Federation and 50% through voluntary contributions of National Societies;
12. *requests*
- (a) the International Federation and the ICRC to address the issue of the organization and financing of the common bodies of the Movement, including the secretarial support services proposed in this resolution, with a view to achieving cost effectiveness and taking into account existing institutions,
  - (b) the Bureau of the outgoing Policy and Planning Advisory Commission to take responsibility for ensuring the preparation of the new Advisory Commission's first meeting.

#### 4

#### Report of the ICRC and the International Federation on their functional cooperation

The Council of Delegates,

*recalling* that Resolution 1 of the Council of Delegates in 1993 called *inter alia* on the ICRC and the International Federation, in cooperation with the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission, to take immediate action to improve functional cooperation between the components of the Movement, taking into account the recommendations of

the report of the Study Group on the Future of the Movement, and to report to the next Council of Delegates on progress made,

*noting* the close interrelationship between the report of the ICRC and the International Federation on functional cooperation, on the one hand, and the report of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission, on the other,

1. *welcomes* the report submitted by the ICRC and the International Federation on their functional cooperation and the joint working process of the senior management of the two institutions to assess difficulties and develop solutions;
2. *invites* the ICRC and the International Federation to continue their joint working process so as to:
  - (a) further develop functional cooperation, based on the vision and goals outlined in this report,
  - (b) develop, on the basis of operational experience and their report on functional cooperation, proposals for elements to be included in the new Agreement defining the organization of the international activities of components of the Movement proposed in the report of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission;
3. *invites* National Societies to support the development of functional cooperation both in their relations with the International Federation and the ICRC, within the framework of their respective mandates, and through the development of their own capacities to be used in international cooperation.

#### 5

#### Children in armed conflicts

The Council of Delegates,

*recalling* Resolution IX of the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross (1986) entitled "Protection of Children in Armed Conflicts", Resolution 14 of the Council of Delegates (1991) entitled "Child Soldiers" and Resolution 4 of the Council of Delegates (1993) entitled "Child Soldiers",

*also recalling* with appreciation the study entitled "Child Soldiers" undertaken by the Henry Dunant Institute,

*recognizing* that the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols, as well as Articles 38 and 39 of the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, accord children special protection and treatment,

*deeply concerned* that children suffer particular hardship during armed conflicts,

*taking note* of the joint report of the International Federation and the ICRC on the implementation of Resolution 4 of the Council of Delegates (1993),

*deploring* that children under the age of 15 are used as soldiers in many parts of the world, in violation of international law,

1. *urges* the ICRC, National Societies and the International Federation to work for improved implementation, at the national level, of existing international legal standards and increased dissemination thereof;
2. *endorses* the Plan of Action for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, prepared by the International Federation and the ICRC in cooperation with the Henry Dunant Institute, which aims to promote the principle of non-participation and non-recruitment of children below the age of 18 years in armed conflicts and to take

concrete action to protect and assist child victims of armed conflicts;

3. *urges* all National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC to implement or support the implementation of the Plan of Action;
4. *requests* the International Federation and the ICRC, in order to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action, to establish a coordinating group comprised of representatives of the International Federation, the ICRC and five National Societies implementing or supporting programmes for children in armed conflicts;
5. *requests* the International Federation and the ICRC to report on progress in implementing the Plan of Action to the Council of Delegates in 1997.

## 6

### Information policy of the Movement

The Council of Delegates,

*having examined* the "Information Policy of the Movement, Work Plan 1995-1997" submitted to it pursuant to the request by the 1993 Council of Delegates (Resolution 10),

1. *welcomes* the increasing level of cooperation between the Communication divisions of the ICRC, the International Federation and individual National Societies;
2. *agrees* with the proposed action put forward in the Work Plan;
3. *notes* that, as communication is vital to the Movement's work, the information policy approved by the Movement in 1989 needs amending and updating;
4. *believes* that, in view of new technology in matters of communication and great competition from other non-governmental organizations, a revised policy is needed;
5. *is anxious to ensure* that the Movement does not lose its share of attention from the general public, governments and the media to other global organizations communicating in a highly sophisticated manner;
6. *invites* the ICRC and the International Federation to work skilfully with all National Societies to deliver clear and concise messages to the world, inspired by the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
7. *salutes* the important role that the international media has in highlighting violations of international humanitarian law and the interest they show in the actions of the components of the Movement;
8. *bears in mind* that, in order to be effective, communication needs adequate resources;
9. *notes with concern*, however, that the request by the 1993 Council of Delegates (Resolution 10, operative paragraph 2) to work towards a communication policy for the Movement as a whole has not been totally fulfilled;
10. *requests* the ICRC and the International Federation to analyse, in consultation with the National Societies, further development of the communication policy of the Movement, taking into account both existing policy and the proposals with regard to the Movement's vision and goals put forward in the paper on functional cooperation submitted to the Council of Delegates by the ICRC and the International Federation;

11. *therefore calls upon* the ICRC and the International Federation to convene a geographically representative forum of key communicators from National Societies and, with outside advisory assistance if necessary, to produce a set of coherent project plans to run from 1996 to the millennium;
12. *also calls upon* the ICRC and the International Federation Secretariat to recognize the interest of National Societies in being informed of direct contacts with national news agencies regarding campaigns or appeals; to include this matter as a subject for discussion at the above-mentioned forum at its meeting in 1996; and to report the findings to both the Executive Council of the International Federation and to the ICRC's Assembly at appropriate meetings;
13. *appeals* to all National Societies to support this forum;
14. *invites* the Executive Council of the International Federation and the ICRC's Assembly to regularly review these plans at their meetings;
15. *asks* that a status report be reviewed by the Council of Delegates at its 1997 meeting;
16. *emphasizes* the importance of communication at all levels in order to promote the humanitarian values of the Movement and to be able to advocate real concern for the world's most vulnerable groups and victims of armed conflict;
17. *renames* the document for this item the "Information Work Plan for the Movement 1995-1997".

## 7

### Financing of the ICRC by National Societies

The Council of Delegates,

*having taken note* of the report submitted by the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC,

*being aware* of the ever-increasing responsibilities of the Movement as a whole, and of the ICRC in particular, as regards implementing and promoting international humanitarian law and coping with the considerable expansion in operational activities stemming therefrom,

*recalling* the resolutions of successive International Conferences since 1948 and that of the Council of Delegates in 1991,

*wishing* to indicate its support for the ICRC in the pursuance of objectives to which the entire Movement is dedicated and which reflect the solidarity of all its components,

1. *renews* for two years the mandate of the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC, founded on the initiative of five National Societies;
2. *appoints*, as new members of the Commission, the National Societies of the Republic of Korea, Hungary, Lebanon and Zimbabwe;
3. *confirms* the mandate of the National Societies of Australia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Finland, Germany, Japan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Sierra Leone;
4. *requests* the Commission to review its role and working methods and to decide, together with the ICRC, upon the most appropriate procedures;
5. *thinks* the National Societies that provide support for the work of the ICRC;
6. *urges* all National Societies to take part in the effort to help the victims whom the ICRC has been mandated to protect and assist;

7. *requests* the Commission to report to it during the next meeting of the Council of Delegates in 1997.

**8**

**Henry Dunant Institute**

The Council of Delegates,

*appreciating* the 30 years of activity of the Henry Dunant Institute and its contribution to the strengthening of the Movement's unity and universality and to its development worldwide,

*affirming* the value of research and training,

*noting* the ever-growing number of efficient research and training institutions,

*realizing* the increasing possibilities of new information and communication technologies,

*taking note of* the fact that the ICRC, the International Federation and many National Societies have set up their own information, research and training systems,

1. *invites* the ICRC, the International Federation and the Swiss Red Cross, as the co-founding bodies of the Institute, to examine and redefine, before the end of 1996, the role and functions of the Henry Dunant Institute so as to devote its intellectual, financial and material resources to activities that serve to clarify and illuminate the policies and strategies that are common to the Movement;
2. *invites* National Societies to give full support to the redefinition and reinforcement of the Henry Dunant Institute;
3. *requests* the ICRC, the International Federation and the Swiss Red Cross to report on progress to the 1997 meeting of the Council of Delegates.

**9**

**Armed protection of humanitarian assistance**

The Council of Delegates,

*recalling* Resolution 5 of the 1993 Council of Delegates calling upon the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to form a joint working group to study the issue of armed protection for humanitarian assistance and asking that working group to report back to the ICRC and the International Federation, as well as to the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission,

*being aware of* the increased level of violence in many parts of the world which directly affects or is directed against victims

of disaster, war and situations of internal violence, the most vulnerable in a situation of chronic need and those who seek to alleviate their suffering,

*recalling* the fundamental need for all actions of the Movement to reflect a spirit of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence,

*being aware* also of the need to ensure that urgent relief is delivered in a timely fashion to those who need it most,

1. *takes note* of the report submitted by the ICRC and the International Federation on the basis of the findings and recommendations of the above-mentioned working group;
2. *reiterates* the basic principle that the components of the Movement do not use armed protection;
3. *endorses* the guiding principles laid down in Section III of the report and particularly the minimal criteria laid down for the exceptional use of armed protection of humanitarian convoys.

**10**

**Anti-personnel landmines**

The Council of Delegates,

*deeply alarmed* by the increasing number of innocent civilians affected by anti-personnel landmines,

*taking into account* Resolution 3 of the 1993 Council of Delegates,

1. *expresses* its great concern about the indiscriminate effects of anti-personnel landmines and the consequences for civilian populations and humanitarian action;
2. *urges* all components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in accordance with their respective mandates and within their capabilities, to work for a total ban on anti-personnel landmines which, from a humanitarian viewpoint, is the only effective solution;
3. *invites* National Societies to intensify contacts with their respective governments in order to obtain a total ban on anti-personnel landmines;
4. *encourages* all measures to alleviate the suffering of victims and to remove mines already in place;
5. *requests* the ICRC and the International Federation to report to the 1997 meeting of the Council of Delegates on progress made in introducing a total ban in international law and in alleviating the suffering of victims.

## 2.6 LIST OF REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE 1995 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

- Draft provisional agenda (95/CD/3/1) [*drafted jointly by the ICRC and the International Federation*]
- Report of the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace on its activities since the 1991 Council of Delegates (95/CD/5/1) [*Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace*]
- Supplementary report of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace on the conclusions of its meeting on 20 October 1995 (95/CD/5/2) [*Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace*]
- Future of the Movement: Report of the Policy and Planning Advisory Commission (95/CD/6/1) [*Policy and Planning Advisory Commission*]
- Report of the ICRC and the International Federation on their functional cooperation (95/CD/6.2/1) [*joint report by the ICRC and the International Federation*]
- Information policy of the Movement: Work Plan 1995-97 (95/CD/7/1) [*joint report by the International Federation and the ICRC*]
- Children in armed conflicts (95/CD/10/1) [*joint report by the ICRC and the International Federation*]
- Miscellaneous: Follow-up to Resolution 5 (Armed Protection of Humanitarian Assistance), Resolution 6 (A Code of Conduct for Organizations taking part in Disaster Relief Operations) and Resolution 7 (The Movement, Refugees and Displaced Persons) of the Council of Delegates (1993) (95/CD/12/1) [*joint report by the ICRC and the International Federation*]
- Activity Report of the Henry Dunant Institute 1993-1995 (95/CD/9/1) [*Henry Dunant Institute*]
- Report of the Commission for the financing of the ICRC (95/CD/11/1) [*Commission for the Financing of the ICRC and the ICRC*]



**III**  
**26th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

3-7 December 1995

**3.1 ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**OPENING CEREMONY**

Sunday 3 December 1995

5.00 p.m.

**PLENARY MEETINGS**

Monday 4 December 1995

9.00 a.m. **FIRST PLENARY MEETING**

1. Opening of the plenary meeting
2. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary-General, and two Assistant Secretaries-General of the Conference

In conformity with Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure, the Chairman of the Standing Commission shall chair the first plenary meeting until the Chairman of the Conference has been elected and he shall also present the proposals of the Council of Delegates.

3. Appointment of the Conference's subsidiary bodies
  - 3.1 Commission I: War victims and respect for international humanitarian law
  - 3.2 Commission II: Humanitarian values and response to crises
  - 3.3 Drafting Committee
4. Adoption of the agenda of Commission I and Commission II
5. Information on the procedure for electing the members of the Standing Commission
6. Humanitarian challenges on the eve of the twenty-first century:
  - 6.1 Keynote address by the President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
  - 6.2 Keynote address by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

7. Other business

Wednesday 6 December 1995

5.00 p.m. **SECOND PLENARY MEETING**

Election of the members of the Standing Commission

Thursday 7 December 1995

9.00 a.m. **THIRD PLENARY MEETING**

1. Report and resolutions of Commission I
  - 1.1 Report of Commission I
  - 1.2 Adoption of resolutions
2. Report and resolutions of Commission II
  - 2.1 Report of Commission II
  - 2.2 Adoption of resolutions
3. Any other business

Amendment to the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Movement

In 1991, the 8th Session of the General Assembly of the (then) League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies decided that the new name of the organization should be the "International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies". With a view to amending the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Movement to include the new name of the organization, all proposals regarding the change of its name were circulated to all the members of the 26th International Conference which was due to, but did not, take place in Budapest in 1991. Consequently, the International Federation proposes that the 26th International Conference amend the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Movement in order to bring them into harmony with the decision of the International Federation's General Assembly referred to above.

4. Place and date of the 27th International Conference

**NOTE**

Due to the limited time available for discussion in the Commissions, written reports will be submitted to the participants under item (3) *Any other business* of the third plenary meeting on the following subjects:

- Report of the Chairman of the Standing Commission
- Report by the Joint Commission for the Empress Shôken Fund

**MEETINGS OF COMMISSIONS**

- A. COMMISSION I:**  
War victims and respect for international humanitarian law

Monday 4 December 1995

2.30 p.m. **FIRST PLENARY MEETING**

1. Election of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteurs
2. International humanitarian law: from law to action-Report on the follow-up to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims

On the initiative of the Swiss government, an International Conference for the Protection of War Victims was held from 30 August to 1 September 1993. The States present at the Conference expressed their refusal to accept the inevitability of serious and large-scale violations of international humanitarian law, which cause suffering, destruction, destitution and death, especially among the civilian population.

At the request of the Conference, the Swiss government then brought together an Intergovernmental Group of Experts open to all States. The group adopted by consensus a series of practical recommendations aimed at promoting full respect for international humanitarian law. These recommendations, which were forwarded to

the States, will be submitted to the International Conference by the Chairman of the Group of Experts on behalf of the Swiss government. A supplementary document will be provided, indicating ways in which the various components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement could contribute effectively to implementing the recommendations.

A draft resolution concerning the recommendations will also be submitted to the Conference. It will include proposals for action on the recommendations that require specific measures of implementation and application.

### 3. Protection of the civilian population in wartime

The most acute problems that have arisen in recent conflicts with regard to the protection of the civilian population concern above all women and children. Countless acts of violence, including rape, have been committed against women. These acts must be considered as war crimes in accordance with international humanitarian law. Awareness of the situation of women in war must be heightened so that measures can be adopted, in addition to the general provisions which already exist for the protection of civilians, to increase protection specifically for women. Children are also a highly vulnerable group in armed conflicts. Often left to their own devices, many are recruited or volunteer to become soldiers. Measures must also be adopted in this area, including ways of providing children with more support and facilitating their reintegration in society.

Among the most serious problems arising in connection with armed conflict and the protection of the environment are the use of starvation and preventing access to or contaminating water supplies as methods of warfare. The widespread use of landmines, which cause untold suffering among the civilian population, is another serious problem. Special attention should therefore be focused on examining the results of the Review Conference of the 1980 United Nations Weapons Convention and on discussing various measures that could be taken to fight this scourge.

A report will be submitted that includes an overview of each of these problems, a brief reminder of the applicable law in force, a summary of the activities of the various components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and proposals aimed at increasing the protection afforded war victims.

A draft resolution containing these proposals, in particular, will be submitted to the International Conference.

### 4. Any other business

## B. COMMISSION II

Humanitarian values and response to crises

Monday 4 December 1995

### 2.30 p.m. FIRST PLENARY MEETING

1. Election of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteurs
2. Principles of and response in international humanitarian assistance and protection

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, by addressing the needs of the most vulnerable groups worldwide, advocates and acts upon its founding values and principles. This agenda item concentrates on the practice of humanitarian assistance, in particular the Movement's response to the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons, and the ethical principles and professional standards which the Movement believes must be applied during humanitarian assistance operations.

A background document on recent international developments affecting humanitarian assistance will, *inter alia*, examine the Movement's concern with preventing and mitigating suffering during humanitarian crises and with improving both the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance and protection. The document will also explore the relationship between, on the one hand, appropriate diplomatic and political action by States and international institutions and, on the other hand, the need to preserve a neutral and impartial environment in which humanitarian action should take place.

A draft resolution will contain, *inter alia*, a number of recommendations specifying the Movement's expectations of governments, in particular to preserve the independence of its action. Endorsement will be sought for the newly revised "Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Relief" as well as for the "Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief".

### 3. Strengthening the Movement's capacity to assist and protect the most vulnerable groups

At the national and local levels, commitment to the Movement's Principles and values is demonstrated and advocated in the day-to-day programmes of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on behalf of the most vulnerable groups in their countries. To function as effective, independent auxiliaries to their governments in emergency situations and in providing community services, the National Societies must have strong and clear structures and mandates, and the necessary resources.

A background document will outline priorities for the institutional and operational development of National Societies. These include, in particular, the issues of strengthening global and regional networking, upholding and advocating the characteristics of a well-functioning National Society and reviewing the statutes of National Societies with a view to preserving their integrity.

A draft resolution will, *inter alia*, call on governments to confirm the mandate of the National Societies as auxiliaries able to fulfil their humanitarian mission within their communities in accordance with the Movement's Principles and values. It will also call on governments to renew their commitment to supporting National Society development, structures, services and disaster preparedness activities.

### 4. Any other business

## 3.2 CONFERENCE OFFICIALS

### 3.2.1 CONFERENCE CHAIRMANSHIP

*Chairwoman:*

Prof. Astrid N. Heiberg  
President of the Norwegian Red Cross

*Vice-Chairmen:*

Ambassador Tej Bunnag  
Permanent Representative of Thailand in Geneva  
Ambassador Mohamed Ennaceur  
Permanent Representative of Tunisia in Geneva  
Dr Hugo Palazzi  
President of the Bolivian Red Cross

*Secretary-General:*

Ambassador Jean-Daniel Biéler  
Commissioner of the 26<sup>th</sup> International Conference

*Assistant Secretaries-General :*

Ms Yolande Camporini  
Head, Governance Support Unit  
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent  
Societies  
Mr Olivier Dürr  
Head, Division for Principles and Relations with the  
Movement  
International Committee of the Red Cross

### 3.2.2 CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE'S SUBSIDIARY BODIES

#### A. COMMISSION I

*Chairman:*

Ambassador Hisashi Owada  
Permanent Representative of Japan in New York

*Vice-Chairmen:*

Mr Miguel Carmona Jiménez  
President of the Costa Rica Red Cross  
Ambassador Tichaona Joseph B. Jokonya  
Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe in Geneva

*Rapporteur:*

Prof. José Manuel Carrilho Ribeiro  
President of the Portuguese Red Cross

#### B. COMMISSION II

*Chairman:*

Mr Ousmane Diagne  
President of the Senegalese Red Cross Society

*Vice-Chairmen:*

Mr Kenneth Monplaisir  
President of the Red Cross Society of Saint Lucia  
Ambassador Ludwik Dembinski  
Permanent Representative of Poland in Geneva

*Rapporteur:*

Mr Jaime Yambao  
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the  
Philippines in Geneva

### C. DRAFTING COMMITTEE

*Chairman:*

Ambassador Philippe Kirsch  
Legal Advisor to the Canadian Department of External  
Affairs and International Trade

*Vice-Chairman:*

Mr Jim Carlton  
Secretary-General, Australian Red Cross

### 3.2.3 BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE

Prof. Astrid N. Heiberg  
Chairwoman of the 26<sup>th</sup> International Conference

Prince Botho of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein  
Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross  
and Red Crescent

Mr Cornelio Sommaruga  
President of the International Committee of the Red  
Cross

Mr Mario Villarroel Lander  
President of the International Federation of Red Cross  
and Red Crescent Societies

Ambassador Hisashi Owada  
Chairman of Commission I

Mr Ousmane Diagne  
Chairman of Commission II

Ambassador Philippe Kirsch  
Chairman of the Drafting Committee

Ambassador Jean-Daniel Biéler  
Secretary-General of the 26<sup>th</sup> International Conference

Mr Yves Sandoz  
Director, International Committee of the Red Cross

Mr George Weber  
Secretary-General, International Federation of Red Cross  
and Red Crescent Societies



*Mr Mario Villarroel Lander, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies giving his keynote address to the Conference. Seated from left to right (front row): Dr Hugo Palazzi, President of the Bolivian Red Cross and Vice-Chairman of the Conference, Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Amb. Jean-Daniel Biéler, Secretary General of the Conference, Prof Astrid Heiberg, Chairwoman of the Conference, Ms Yolande Camporini and Mr Olivier Dürr, Assistant Secretaries General of the Conference, and Botho, Prince of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.*

ICRC/T. Gassmann

### 3.3 OPENING CEREMONY

3 December 1995

5 p.m.

**SUMMARY:** Programme — Welcoming address by Prince Botho of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent — Address by Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross — Address by Mr Mario Villarroel Lander, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies — Address by Mr Kaspar Villiger, President of the Swiss Confederation — Address by Mr Olivier Vodoz, President of the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva.

#### *Programme*

#### 17:00 **Welcome**

Screening of a multivision slide show

#### **Reading of the Fundamental Principles**

By the pupils of Contamines Primary School, Geneva

#### **Statement by Prince Botho of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein**

Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

#### **Statement by Mr Cornelio Sommaruga**

President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

#### **Statement by Mr Mario Villarroel Lander**

President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

#### **Dissimilis**

Production by a group of Norwegian young people in cooperation with the Norwegian Red Cross and the International Disability Foundation, Geneva

Helene Hovland: *Ved Rondance* by Edvard Grieg

Chris Alexander Henrikson and Gry Lillian Nilssen:

*Girl from Ipanema* by Jobin

The Dissimilis Choir: *We are the world*

#### **Testimonies:** Ms Harriett Kraatz-Belhadj, actress

Mr Omar Porras-Speck, actor

Mr Philippe Lüscher

#### **Statement by Federal Councillor Kaspar Villiger**

President of the Swiss Confederation

#### **Statement by State Councillor Olivier Vodoz**

President of the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva

#### **Orchestra of the secondary schools of Geneva**

#### **Choir of Calvin and Candolle secondary schools**

Conducted by Mr Philippe Béran

*Montaigus et Capulets* from *Romeo and Juliette*, Serge Prokofiev (1891-1953)

*Hallelujah* from the *Messiah*, in the transcription by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, for chorus and orchestra, Georg Friedrich Haendel (1685-1759)

#### 18:45 **Reception given by the Swiss Federal Council, the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva and the Administrative Council of the City of Geneva**

Hotel Noga-Hilton — 19, quai du Mont-Blanc — Geneva

#### **WELCOMING ADDRESS BY BOTHO, PRINCE OF SAYN-WITTGENSTEIN-HOHENSTEIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMISSION OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

(Original English):

Mr President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr President of the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva,

Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, I have the great honour to welcome you all whole-heartedly. Thank you all for responding to the convocation of the ICRC and the International Federation to this important meeting. We feel specially honoured to welcome the President of the Swiss Confederation Mr Kaspar Villiger, who will kindly address us in a few minutes. Let me express our deepest gratitude to the Swiss Government for its generous financial and logistical contribution, which supported the convening of this Conference in a decisive manner.

We take great pleasure in welcoming Mr Olivier Vodoz, President of the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, whom we ask to convey our thanks to the Council of State and the citizens of this beautiful town for its kind hospitality. We greatly enjoyed the ceremonial prelude on Saturday evening. We really appreciate this sign of solidarity.

We also express our thanks to our friends of the Swiss Red Cross and their Geneva branch who have so often provided effective support to our work.

We thank the Government Delegations who are joining this Conference. We are very pleased of having once again the opportunity to exchange views on problems and experiences in the humanitarian field, and particularly to discuss our expectations and claims concerning the implementation of and respect for international humanitarian law, confident that our hope to achieve some improvements will be fulfilled.

For more than 130 years we have been trying to help people in distress and danger, and therefore demand the unconditional support of Governments, even though conditions have changed. Often enough our humanitarian work has been affected by setbacks and hindrances, and this especially during recent years. We deplore that the access to victims of conflict is often hampered or even obstructed. We therefore repeat our claim that Red Cross and Red Crescent relief workers and delegates be granted free access to victims, whatever the circumstances may be. Devoted to our Fundamental Principles, we promise to provide relief without discrimination, guided solely by existing needs and focused on the most urgent cases of distress.

Assistance may sometimes be in vain, but it can never be wrong!

We share Henry Dunant's vision, that humanitarian action will help to establish peace on earth. Based on our long record of effective action, we are convinced that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is able to make a substantial contribution towards the basic needs of mankind. Thus I appeal to Governments to facilitate our work and to support our permanent efforts to strengthen humanitarian aid and social assistance. The establishment and sustained development of efficient National Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies shall remain one of our priorities as long as there are needs to be met.

Let us unite in our obligation to counteract violence and oppression wherever they appear and to safeguard the respect for human life, health and dignity of man.

This is a goal pursued by many millions of Red Cross and Red Crescent members, volunteers and professionals, and our urgent appeal to all governments is to afford better opportunities for humanitarian action to be carried out.

“Per humanitatem ad pacem” (“Through Humanity to Peace”) is our vision, and you are invited to make it come true.

(Applause)

**ADDRESS BY MR CORNELIO SOMMARUGA,  
PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS**  
(Original French):

My dear friends of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

Once again, we are gathered together for an international conference. Yet another one, you might well say. How many have there been since the end of the Cold War? How many times have States come together to reflect on the major questions of our time, and to discuss international relations and the issues which unite or divide them on the eve of the second millennium, when every word, every decision weighs so heavily in the balance?

First there was Vienna, then Geneva, then Cairo. Later on there was the world summit in Copenhagen and the Beijing Conference. More recently there was Vienna, again. At each gathering the matters discussed were crucial: human rights, the protection of war victims, development and population growth, economic and social rights, women's rights, prohibitions and restrictions on certain conventional weapons. Each time the core issue was the same: the future of humankind. A future fraught with questions to which there are no ready answers, a future filled with promise yet overshadowed by uncertainty, inequality, injustice, economic and cultural disputes and armed conflict.

The international community, divided for decades by the Cold War, must now find new bearings and strike a new balance. This is a complex task in an increasingly tight-knit world, where communication is instantaneous, where abject poverty exists side by side with opulence, where the individual interests of States collide, as witnessed daily, with the common interests of all humanity. It is of course impossible to shake off overnight, in one miraculous burst, a long heritage of fierce intransigence and mutual distrust. However, it is not enough merely to wish for the peace we have dreamt of for so long. Peace must be painstakingly built and rebuilt, day after day, in a world where people can live in harmony. All those who, like ourselves, are striving to make this possible know that to achieve peaceful coexistence — and thereby a new world order — we must change people's hearts and minds. We must foster the cultural differences that make up the rich heritage of mankind, without jeopardizing each nation's right to ensure the security and welfare of its citizens. We must also, in a spirit of solidarity, eradicate virulent nationalism, violent fanaticism and blind selfishness, which inevitably breed exclusion, xenophobia, racism and, ultimately, war. Peaceful coexistence is our key to the only future possible.

All the international conferences that have taken place since 1989 have endeavoured to find universal values that can transcend individual interests and differences of opinion and enable all men and women, living together on the same

planet, to express their individual identities and to achieve self-fulfilment in a climate of mutual respect and understanding of their common humanity. However, as all can see, our ability to live together is especially threatened today by hatred which is steadily gaining ground, bringing in its wake a plethora of conflicts and a new wave of barbarity.

Mr President of the Confederation, Mr President of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, Representatives of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions, Representatives of the Red Cross and Red Crescent institutions and allied organizations, what must we do, all of us who are gathered here today? What can we do? This Conference is certainly the right place to address humanity's most urgent priority, which is to contain the current surge of violence and prevent and alleviate the suffering of the victims by restoring greater respect for human rights and for international humanitarian law.

Our Conference has a unique dimension and an indispensable role to play. Created more than a century ago, it was the cradle of humanitarian law; it gave the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement its strength and its *raison d'être*; it also enabled the Movement to affirm its cohesion in the very midst of diversity by uniting so many different National Societies around the common principles of humanity, impartiality and independence. Through the resolutions it has adopted, the Conference has gradually fostered the emergence of a universal humanitarian conscience whose demands no one, especially today, can deny. Lastly, by bringing together the States party to the Geneva Conventions and the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, our Conference is also the incarnation of a modern concept of the international community, in which civil society can make its voice heard. Indeed, through the ICRC, the National Societies and their International Federation, it is the victims of conflicts, natural disasters, social injustice and exclusion who speak out and address the States. In these troubled and violent times, it is our responsibility, and it is indeed a solemn one, to ensure that this dialogue is productive, for the sake of all the victims. In this forum, therefore, we must rise as one above our quarrels, political disputes and selfish interests, summon up the resolve and find the means to ensure that the notions of compassion, tolerance and respect for the individual, which are at the very heart of international humanitarian law, are upheld even in times of conflict.

I am deeply convinced that to deny our fellow human beings the right to exist is tantamount to denying our own humanity. On the strength of that conviction, which I am confident you share, what I should like us to do here is simply to prepare the ground for a new contract of humanity, one for which each of us feels personally and fully responsible. And I should like us to stand by our decisions so that they do not ring hollow for all the victims who are counting on us for what they need most: acknowledgement and restoration of their human dignity.

Esteemed Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is up to all of us, from this moment on, to demonstrate that a new humanitarian mobilization is under way, and that nothing and no one can stop it.

(Applause)

**ADDRESS BY MR MARIO VILLARROEL  
LANDER, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED  
CRESCENT SOCIETIES** (Original Spanish):

President of the Swiss Confederation, President of the Canton and Republic of Geneva, Government representatives, Dear friends of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

I should like to join the Chairman of the Standing Commission in expressing my thanks and gratitude to the Swiss Confederation and the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva for their invaluable help in bringing the 26th International Conference to fruition.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement was founded over 132 years ago, and its worldwide membership now stands at 131 million volunteers. Its activities have made it possible to save lives and to alleviate suffering.

Humanity is becoming more and more frequently entangled in situations of violence; instead of holding out a helping hand, human beings seem to be intent upon killing and destroying.

As Shimon Peres, Nobel Peace Prize winner, said, "Words are not enough to praise the efforts made by the International Federation since 1919 to mitigate the suffering of innocent people, holding out a hand across borders and overcoming natural and man-made obstacles to bring assistance to the weak and to those in distress".

In order to carry out its mission as defined in its Statutes, the Movement draws inspiration from its Fundamental Principles, and there are numerous examples of its action and commitment to the cause of those who suffer.

I should like to draw the attention of the government representatives present here today to the fact that, in each and every country, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies represent a committed and disinterested force for the alleviation of social problems.

The future is not bright; if the number of victims of natural and man-made disasters continues to increase at the present rate, the figures will reach astronomical heights in the 21st century.

Our strength lies in the devotion and enthusiasm of our volunteers. They are an example for us all, and we are fully aware that all our work bears the stamp of the potential for peace and solidarity which they represent. We must do everything within our power to attract and train more of them for the successful performance of the tasks with which we entrust them.

Thanks to the selflessness and dedication of men and women of vision inspired and motivated by Henry Dunant, citizen of Switzerland and of the world, we are able today in Geneva to face the challenges of the future with fortitude and hope.

The obstacles to be overcome in order to reach the objectives we have set for ourselves cannot be overemphasized, neither is it possible to quantify all the efforts that will be required to fulfil the mission we have undertaken in order to live up to the ideas of Henry Dunant, which form the very foundation of our worldwide Movement.

The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent is one of the world's major events on the humanitarian front. It forges links between States and the components of the Movement, namely, the National Societies, 169 of which have been recognized to date, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Conference's composition makes it an admirable forum for a *political dialogue* where humanitarian matters of common interest are discussed.

Allow me to recall the words of another Nobel Peace Prize winner, Yasser Arafat: "The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, by virtue of its humanitarian work, which is free of all discrimination, cannot but help bring about lasting peace, and this is what it has been doing for the good of all humanity".

As the 20th century draws to a close, I urge the participants in the 26th International Conference to do everything within their power to see to it that the Fundamental Principles of the Movement are reinforced and that respect for human dignity and humanitarian values is enhanced, in order to strengthen our capacity to assist vulnerable groups throughout the world.

On behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and on the occasion of the 26th International Conference of our Movement, I should like publicly to express my gratitude to the some 130 million volunteers who devote themselves so selflessly to the performance of the Movement's fundamental task, which is to prevent and alleviate human suffering in all circumstances and to protect human life and health in times of armed conflict and in other emergency situations.

May the results of this Conference be commensurate with the efforts deployed.

Thank you very much.

(*Applause*)

**ADDRESS BY MR KASPAR VILLIGER,  
PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION**  
(*Original French*):

Mr Chairman of the Standing Commission, Mr President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Mr President of the Geneva State Council, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all here in Geneva on behalf of the Swiss Government. The Swiss Federal Council is most gratified that the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent is being held in the city that gave birth to the Red Cross, which in turn was at the origin of the numerous organizations working in the humanitarian field today. Indeed, no other city in the world has so many people dedicated to the humanitarian cause.

The International Conference is a unique forum. It is the only gathering where States, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies can engage in a dialogue so crucial to the formulation of joint solutions to the most pressing humanitarian issues. It is also a venue where around one hundred humanitarian organizations can join the States and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in sharing these concerns.

This is the first time in almost ten years that the States party to the Geneva Conventions and the components of the Movement have come together to discuss common issues relating to humanitarian action. The States, working along with the members of a united Movement, are here to find answers to the problems created by violations of the humanitarian rules and responses to the challenges facing international humanitarian assistance in its attempts to help the most vulnerable. We government representatives have the opportunity to listen to what this important part of the humanitarian community, namely the components of the Movement and the various observer organizations, have to say. The experience they have acquired will undoubtedly be of great benefit to us. We must take advantage of this chance to gain a better understanding and knowledge of the issues that will be discussed here.

There have been major changes on the international scene since the previous Conference held in 1986. The Cold War is now over, but East-West tension has given way to innumer-

able new crises and conflicts, most of them of an internal nature. The international community and all those involved in humanitarian action are beset by human crises and are often at a loss when it comes to working out appropriate solutions. Civilians have all too often become the deliberate target of military operations, although the Geneva Conventions are specifically designed to safeguard them from the hazards and ravages of war. We observe with dismay that civilians are being used as an instrument of military and political action. This is a serious violation of international humanitarian law and of the most elementary rules designed to ensure respect for the human being.

In an attempt to counter this trend, the international community and the humanitarian agencies in particular have deployed unprecedented efforts to alleviate the suffering of victims of war. Millions of people have received assistance and protection; they have been saved from famine and disease thanks to the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and of other organizations dedicated to the same cause. This in itself is an outstanding achievement, but it is not enough. In spite of the importance of their task, the humanitarian agencies, and the ICRC, the International Federation and the National Societies first and foremost, are experiencing ever-greater difficulty in fulfilling their respective mandates. They are frequently denied access to the victims. Their freedom of movement is restricted or even denied. The latitude they need to work in a neutral and independent way is too often called in question. In this context it is all the more important for the ICRC to be able to fulfil the mandate of protection and assistance entrusted to it by the Geneva Conventions.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these problems call for a vigorous reaction on our part. We, as the representatives of governments whose policy it is to support these organizations and to undertake to improve the plight of suffering individuals, must mobilize all our resources. If we do not do so now, the danger is that we will have to face even more serious crises in the future. Switzerland, for its part, more than ever sees commitment to the humanitarian cause as one of the priorities of its foreign policy. That was the spirit in which it organized the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims held in this same city in 1993, and it hopes that the Conference opening here today will ensure that a follow-up is given to that meeting. Switzerland moreover stands ready to implement the relevant recommendations, and in particular the recommendation that proposes the holding of periodic meetings devoted to general problems of implementation of international humanitarian law. If we all make a firm commitment to respect humanitarian law there will be less suffering and less tragedy among the victims of conflict.

The reason why we are all gathered in Geneva is that we are convinced that no country is safe from conflict or disaster. If we are to provide better protection for the victims, we must give new impetus to humanitarian action. But, to be effective, humanitarian action needs to be properly prepared. We must therefore all work to implement a new humanitarian approach. I am sure that each and every one of us is convinced that efforts must be stepped up so that respect for the human being is promoted more actively within our respective communities. It is the way in which the humanitarian message is received that needs rethinking. Politicians and the members of the armed forces must acquire the humanitarian reflex. This is crucial if we are to prevent humanitarian crises, instead of having to cope with them once they erupt. The States are showing signs of fatigue in the face of proliferation of such crises. What we need to do is to reverse the order of priorities and focus on preventive action,

using all the means at our disposal. And when a crisis does erupt, it is essential to ensure that the independence and neutrality of humanitarian work are respected. We are at the outset of a major undertaking. Ladies and Gentlemen, the four days that lie ahead of us will be decisive and I wish you every success in your proceedings.

Thank you.

*(Applause)*

**ADDRESS BY MR OLIVIER VODOZ,  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE  
OF THE REPUBLIC AND CANTON OF  
GENEVA (Original French):**

Presidents of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Chairman of the Standing Commission, President of the Swiss Confederation, Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Geneva, the capital of the borderless kingdom of humanitarian work, the cradle of the universal idea which brings you here today within its walls and which underlies your admirable and untiring work throughout the world, Geneva is proud and honoured to welcome you on the occasion of your 26th International Conference.

At this solemn opening ceremony, the point of convergence for the human conscience, Geneva says thank you. Thank you for your unwavering commitment. Thank you for looking with humanity on all those who are victims of conflicts and disasters around the world. Thank you for giving support and hope to the many people who count on you. Last but not least, thank you for never being discouraged by the magnitude of your unfortunately never-ending task.

You represent, Ladies and Gentlemen, what is best in man: his capacity for compassion, his desire to help, his understanding that all men are human. Your fight for recognition of the basic rights of every man, woman and child on the planet, for respect for the universal principles underlying your work, is the most demanding of all battles.

Your presence in Geneva today will serve to remind the whole world that your struggle on behalf of the victims is a permanent one, one which unfortunately has no end.

You, the men and women of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, who represent the millions of people committed to this ideal, you are the moral conscience thanks to which man can retain hope and dignity.

The growing gap between humanitarian needs and available resources means that the world must mobilize even further to provide you with the means you need to fulfil your mission.

Geneva, for its part, again wishes you to know that it is ever available and determined to join you in this demanding struggle. The Geneva authorities, this evening, thank you, President of the ICRC, President of the International Federation, Secretary-General, and each and every one of you the delegates, for your courage and your determination. May the 26th International Conference strengthen your convictions, confirm the crucial importance of your work and advance the cause of international humanitarian law which is so badly needed by all.

May the spirit of Geneva strengthen your resolve.

Thank you.

*(Applause)*



### 3.4 FIRST PLENARY MEETING

4 December 1995

9.15 a.m.

**SUMMARY:** Opening of the plenary meeting by the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent — Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, Secretary-General and two Assistant Secretaries-General of the Conference — Establishment of the Conference's subsidiary bodies; election of their presiding officers and adoption of their agendas — Official announcements by the Chairwoman of the Conference — Information on the procedure for the election of the members of the Standing Commission — Keynote address by the President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies — Keynote address by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

#### **OPENING OF THE PLENARY MEETING BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMISSION OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

Prince BOTHO of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein (Chairman of the Standing Commission) (*Original English*):

I hereby declare the first plenary meeting of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent open.

The expectations as to the results of the 26th International Conference are high. More than 130 million Red Cross and Red Crescent members are hoping for decisions and recommendations that will improve the protection of conflict victims and the efficiency of humanitarian assistance. It would cause disappointment and bitterness if this Conference were used as a platform for political controversy or as an occasion to glean benefits for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The question that needs to be at the heart of our deliberations is how to better protect and assist the most vulnerable. The people who need our attention and advocacy are the victims of war and natural disasters, the underprivileged, the disabled, the elderly, women and children. Therefore, distinguished delegates, let us set to work in a spirit of solidarity and mutual understanding. In choosing "Keeping hope alive" as its motto, the Conference is saying to the world, "In spite of the odds, we can work for a better future".

#### **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS, SECRETARY-GENERAL AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE**

It is now my pleasure to move on to Item 1 on the agenda, the election of the Conference Chairperson, the Vice-Chairpersons, the Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretaries-General. In accordance with Rule 15, paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure, I call on the Chairman of the Council of Delegates to give us the Council's proposals.

Mr C. SOMMARUGA (ICRC) (*Original English*):

In accordance with the proposal of the Standing Commission, the Council of Delegates recommends that Professor Astrid Heiberg, President of the Norwegian Red Cross, be elected Chairwoman of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

(*Applause*)

(*Prof. Heiberg takes her place on the rostrum*).

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

Mr Chairman of the Standing Commission, Excellencies, delegates, dear friends within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and dear friends of the Movement, although we in this large hall seem far apart, in our hearts we are very close and I thank you from the bottom of my heart

for the honour you have done by electing me to chair this Conference. I promise to serve the goals of the Conference to the best of my ability. However, the success of the Conference will depend on all of us. The Conference will be what we choose to make it and we are all accountable for its results.

I give the floor back to the Chairman of the Council of Delegates to continue with the first item on our agenda, namely the election of the Vice-Chairmen.

Mr C. SOMMARUGA (ICRC) (*Original English*):

In accordance with the proposal of the Standing Commission, the Council of Delegates recommends that the Conference elect as Vice-Chairmen of the Conference Dr Hugo Palazzi, President of the Bolivian Red Cross, Ambassador Mohamed Ennaceur, Permanent Representative of Tunisia in Geneva, and Ambassador Tej Bunnag, Permanent Representative of Thailand in Geneva.

(*Applause*)

(*Prof. Heiberg invites the three Vice-Chairmen to take their seats on the podium*).

As Secretary-General, the Council of Delegates proposes Ambassador Jean-Daniel Biéler, Commissioner of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and as Assistant Secretaries-General, Ms Yolande Camporini of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Mr Olivier Dürr of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

(*Applause*)

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

I interpret your applause as approval. I now ask the Chairman of the Council of Delegates to give us the proposals of the Council of Delegates for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference.

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONFERENCE'S SUBSIDIARY BODIES, ADOPTION OF THEIR AGENDAS AND ELECTION OF THEIR PRESIDING OFFICERS**

Mr C. SOMMARUGA (ICRC) (*Original English*):

The Council of Delegates recommends, on the proposal of the Standing Commission, that the work of our Conference be entrusted to three subsidiary bodies as provided for in Article 10, paragraph 8 of the Statutes, namely two Plenary Commissions and a Drafting Committee.

Commission I will discuss the subject: "War victims and respect for international humanitarian law".

Commission II will discuss the subject: "Humanitarian values and response to crises".

Lastly, the task of the Drafting Committee, which is open to all members of the Conference, will be to finalize the five draft

resolutions which are in your folders and any other draft resolutions which the Bureau may submit to it for examination.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Council of Delegates, and I consider these proposals to be entirely acceptable to the Conference. The three bodies have thus been constituted.

I am now going to suggest a rather unusual but actually very simple procedure which will enable us to complete the Bureau.

Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure stipulates, in paragraph 1, that the Bureau shall include the Chairmen of the plenary commissions. Paragraph 2, however, stipulates that each Commission shall elect its Chairman.

Elections must therefore be held in each Commission.

In order to complete the Bureau as quickly as possible, I suggest that we proceed with these elections right now, in this room, without leaving our seats.

The Conference members meeting here in plenary will mentally regroup themselves as Commission I, for the few minutes it will take to elect the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur. They will then regroup again mentally as Commission II, for the few minutes it will take to hold the elections for that Commission, so that at the end of the process the whole Bureau will have been constituted. We shall then resume our work as the Conference meeting in plenary.

If you agree, we will now mentally meet as Commission I.

Mr C. SOMMARUGA (ICRC) (*Original English*):

For Commission I, the Council of Delegates, on the basis of the recommendations made by the Standing Commission, proposes as Chairman Ambassador Hisashi Owada, Permanent Representative of Japan in New York; as Vice-Chairmen Mr Miguel Carmona Jiménez, President of the Costa Rica Red Cross, and Ambassador Tichaona Joseph B. Jokonya, Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe in Geneva; and as Rapporteur, Professor José Manuel Carrilho Ribeiro, President of the Portuguese Red Cross.

(*Applause*)

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

Now we will mentally change from Commission I to Commission II, and I must admit, I have never before been able to make people change their minds so quickly. So we now regroup as Commission II.

Mr C. SOMMARUGA (ICRC) (*Original English*):

For Commission II, the Council of Delegates recommends, on the proposal of the Standing Commission, the appointment as Chairman of Mr Ousmane Diagne, President of the Senegalese Red Cross Society; as Vice-Chairmen, Mr Kenneth Monplaisir, President of the Red Cross Society of Saint Lucia, and Ambassador Ludwik Dembinski, Permanent Representative of Poland in Geneva; as Rapporteur, Mr Jaime J. Yambao from the Philippine Permanent Mission in Geneva.

(*Applause*)

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

And now we regroup as the plenary Conference to elect the individuals who will be assuming official duties as part of the Drafting Committee. To this end, I again give the floor to the Chairman of the Council of Delegates.

Mr C. SOMMARUGA (ICRC) (*Original English*):

The Council of Delegates, again upon the recommendation of the Standing Commission, proposes as Chairman of the

Drafting Committee Ambassador Philippe Kirsch, Legal Advisor to the Canadian Department of External Affairs and International Trade, and as Vice-Chairman Mr Jim Carlton, Secretary-General of the Australian Red Cross.

(*Applause*)

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

I look forward to working with all these eminent people during the course of the Conference.

With your approval, I consider the agendas of the two Commissions as proposed by the Council of Delegates to be adopted.

## OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRWOMAN OF THE CONFERENCE

Ladies and Gentlemen, let us, throughout the Conference, be aware of the people for whom we are here: the victims of war and disaster and the most vulnerable in our societies. Let us not forget this in our discussions. This hall, in which virtually the entire world is represented, is a mirror of cultural and political diversity. Let us place the wealth of this diversity at the service of humanitarian issues during the days to come and ensure that our discussions do not deviate from those issues.

The Conference was prepared in the same spirit. After several consultations that took place before the Conference, we have been asked to make the following statements:

1. The Conference considers that the participation of the Yugoslav Red Cross, as a member of this Conference, does not have any bearing on the legal succession of the Former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.
2. The appellation "Palestine" is used in place of the designation "Palestine Liberation Organization" and this appellation has no territorial connotations in the context of the present Conference.

The Standing Commission, when examining the form and content of the Conference, consulted all the National Societies and many governments. This consultation clearly revealed the desire for a Conference lasting no longer than three or four days. So, you yourselves decided that the Conference should be short. The organizers have taken this into account. They have organized the Conference in such a way as to allow us to cover a vast range of topics in a short time. Two Commissions and one Drafting Committee will meet simultaneously. It is now up to us to show, in these few short days, that we can rise to the challenge. This implies that we must have moderate and disciplined debates. I am very grateful to you for this.

I would like to make a few comments on the work of the subsidiary bodies.

You have all received the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which include those applicable to our Conference.

In this connection, I wish to draw your attention to Rule 2, which stipulates that the rules of the International Conference shall apply to its plenary commissions and other subsidiary bodies *mutatis mutandis*. This rule also applies to the Drafting Committee, which is another subsidiary body of the Conference, with some necessary adjustments such as the waiver of the quorum requirement which cannot apply to a body which is open-ended.

More generally, this rule means that the Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Conference have the same powers and duties in those bodies as the Chairwoman of the

Conference does in plenary. These include the responsibility to ensure strict compliance with Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Statutes, which I will read out, as it is so important: "In order that the debates of the International Conference shall command the confidence of all, the Chairman and any elected officer shall ensure that none of the speakers at any time engages in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature". In practice, it is also important to note that the chairmen have the discretion to limit the duration of speeches, and to determine the form and time constraints applicable to proposals and amendments.

In this context I would draw your attention to Rule 9, paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure, stating that observers have the right to speak only on the invitation of the Chairman.

You are all aware that we have very little time. I therefore urge each delegate taking the floor in Commissions I and II not to exceed the five-minute limit given to him or her by the Commission Chairman. Although we hope not to, we may well have to meet in night sessions. It is therefore all the more important that each of us bears in mind the successful outcome of the Conference and the need to conduct our debates in an orderly manner. We attach considerable importance to the position taken and commitments made in the Commissions on the basis of the documents that have been sent out to all participants. Summary reports on the debates will be prepared under the responsibility of the Chairman and the Rapporteur of each Commission. These documents will be submitted to the final plenary meeting but will not be formally adopted. I should also like to remind you that it is customary to invite the members of the press to attend the Commission debates. Unless the Commissions themselves are of another opinion, television cameras will not be authorized in the Commission meeting rooms.

The establishment of an open-ended Drafting Committee is a testimony to the determination of the Standing Commission to ensure that all interested delegations have an opportunity to contribute to the finalization of the draft resolutions that are now before you. You will appreciate, of course, that the length of the draft resolutions, the very limited time available and the high number of delegations present at the Conference necessarily impose practical constraints on drafting during the Conference. The organizers have attempted to facilitate our task by giving the participants at the Conference the possibility to comment on the drafts two months ago. We all are extremely grateful to the many delegations which availed themselves of the opportunity thus given them. The draft resolutions have, as you have seen, been modified to take their comments into account. We hope that the delegations will now exercise restraint in suggesting further changes.

As I said earlier, the Drafting Committee is open-ended, meaning that all the delegations are invited to take part. There will be no nameplates and the debates will be informal. So that the Drafting Committee may run smoothly, it has been set up in such a way as to be able to establish a simultaneous drafting working group on specific issues should this become necessary, with all necessary services. Provision has also been made for extended and night meetings in case of need. More informal consultations may also be required. All those decisions will depend on the circumstances and are best left to the Drafting Committee itself. I would simply request at this stage that all delegations keep in mind the magnitude of the task to be accomplished, and extend their full cooperation to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Drafting Committee throughout the Conference.

Considering the possibility that the Drafting Committee and the subsidiary drafting working group may have to meet simultaneously, I suggest that, should the need arise, the

Chairman of the Drafting Committee be given the authority to appoint alternative presiding officers on a temporary basis.

Finally, the delegates may sit wherever they wish in the Commission meeting rooms; the nameplates with the names of their delegations may be picked up on the way in. There will be no nameplates for the Drafting Committee, as is appropriate for a body of this nature.

#### **INFORMATION ON THE PROCEDURE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

We have now reached Item 4 on the agenda, which concerns the procedure for the election of the members of the Standing Commission. I ask the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr Olivier Dürr, to explain that procedure.

Mr O. DÜRR (ICRC) (*Original French*):

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. Delegations will find in their files a brief note bearing the reference number 95/PII/1, entitled "Explanations of the procedure for the election of members of the Standing Commission". Rule 21, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement reads as follows:

"Nominations for the Standing Commission shall be delivered in closed envelopes, with the curriculum vitae of each candidate, to the Chairman of the Bureau, forty-eight hours before the opening of the meeting in which the election will take place. The Bureau shall circulate the curriculum vitae of each candidate at least twenty-four hours before that meeting. When nominating candidates, personal qualities and the principle of fair geographical distribution should be taken into account".

The election of members of the Standing Commission will take place at the meeting to be held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

I should therefore like to remind delegations that nominations should reach the Chairman of the Bureau of the Conference before 5 p.m. today, Monday, 4 December 1995. The curricula vitae will be circulated to delegations tomorrow afternoon, before 5 p.m., on Tuesday, 5 December 1995, in the three working languages.

I would remind you once again that under Rule 21, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Procedure, personal qualities and the principle of fair geographical distribution should be taken into account when nominating candidates.

Since elections take some time and the Conference is of short duration, the Bureau, which under the Rules of Procedure determines the agenda of each meeting, will consider the possibility of dealing Wednesday evening between two rounds of elections with the items of other business scheduled for the last plenary meeting on Thursday, 7 December. Delegations will be duly informed if that is indeed to be the case.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

Thank you, Mr Dürr. I would now like to give the floor to the Presidents of the two organizations hosting the Conference for their keynote speeches. I call first on the President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

#### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

Mr M. VILLARROEL LANDER (International Federation) (*Original Spanish*):

Madame Chairwoman, your Excellencies, Government Representatives, dear Red Cross and Red Crescent Col-

leagues, observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Friends, I shall speak today of a bright prospect for our world which can become a reality if we all believe in it and work together for it.

I express this hope in the same spirit that prevailed at the first International Conference – convened 132 years ago – which overcame the misgivings of the sceptics and led to the creation of the initial Geneva Convention. That treaty conferred protection on wounded and sick soldiers in time of war and on those who cared for them. Since then, the same protection has been given in international law to wounded and sick members of the armed forces at sea, prisoners of war, civilians in wartime and – to some extent owing to the change in the nature of conflict over recent decades – vulnerable victims of civil strife.

Prior to the adoption of the Geneva Conventions, few would have believed this possible. But now in this era, many do not know of their existence, some ignore their provisions and others apply them inadequately.

Meanwhile, the spirit of selfless dedication that saw the light of day in 1863 has grown into a network of 169 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with some 20 more in the process of formation, two international bodies that, each in its own sphere, aid millions of vulnerable people every year, and 186 States signatory to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, a good number of which have signed the Protocols additional to those Conventions.

Therefore, thanks to the humanitarian impetus of the States gathered here and the international network of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, there is an enormous force in the world today directed towards caring for the most vulnerable. It is because this force exists and works that I can speak here of hopes and be sure that they will be fulfilled.

I envisage a world in which the numbers of people killed or injured in natural or man-made disasters can diminish rather than continue to increase at a rate of some 10 million a year, threatening to exceed half a billion by the beginning of the twenty-first century.

How, you will ask, can such a hope become a reality? Can earthquakes and typhoons, erupting volcanoes and flooding rivers be stopped? No. But frightening headlines aside, the fact is that there is little change in the number of natural disasters from one year to another. The disaster toll rises because more and more people build their homes in places that may be the only areas available – on earthquake faults, on lowlands subject to storm and river flooding, on slopes subject to lava flows, mudslides and avalanches. So many people do not have the resources to cope with or recover from a disaster.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent bodies can encourage and States can promote safe-area building practices and disaster-resistant construction. People can be helped to develop disaster-preparedness measures. Emergency relief operations can be conducted in such a way that rehabilitation programmes and sustainable development are built-in from the very first assessment of the victims' needs. States, in their generosity to the emergency relief agencies, can insist on relief actions being designed and carried out in such a way as to strengthen people's self-reliance rather than their dependence.

In this optimistic perspective, there would no longer be such a troublesome distinction between emergency response and development funding – with emergency response funding on an upward trend and development funding on a downward course. Indeed, all funds raised for the world's most vulnerable must meet the twin purpose of healing wounds

and strengthening people in their ability to care for themselves and for others. How to accomplish this in all situations is going to take some careful thinking, but the practical examples we have are already showing good results.

Another of my hopes for the coming years lies in encouraging people to embrace the volunteer spirit and translate it into action. Every nation would thus have a core of volunteers ready to help whenever an emergency arises and to find ways to improve the situation of vulnerable individuals.

In some countries there is already a long-standing tradition of volunteer work. In others this tradition is more recent. In any event, a moment of reflection will make it clear to any State or person that when trained volunteers are ready to help in an emergency, the cost of assistance is less and aid is more efficient. This sets an excellent example of what everyone can do for others and also builds up the community's capacity to respond, binding its members in the common goal of mutual assistance.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, working on the basis of the Movement's Fundamental Principles, can certainly give genuine and practical meaning to their mission, especially in their capacity as "auxiliaries to the public authorities". Every National Society can play a vital role, however scarce its material resources. Every State that cares about its people should look to its National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society as a useful partner in building up capacity for self-reliance in all sectors of the population, so that they can take autonomous action whenever accident, disease or disaster strikes.

People in general need to think of volunteer work as a career parallel to their regular jobs and as a long-term commitment. This too is possible.

Another role that I foresee for the International Federation and for the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is to take the lead in reflecting on and advocating humanitarian issues. Red Cross and Red Crescent leaders have sometimes been wary of such a role, fearing it to be too political.

Yet, who else but ourselves is in a better position to observe and assess the adverse effects of ethnic strife, discrimination against minorities, natural disasters and UN sanctions that inadvertently affect innocent people?

Was Henry Dunant too political in advocating the lessons to be drawn from his experience at Solferino before all the courts of Europe? Was Henry Davison too political in seeking the support of governments for the action of the League of Red Cross Societies in devastated Europe after the First World War? We need to follow their examples with courage and do our best to develop humanitarian action in a sensitive and discriminating way and exercise our influence to make sure that it is implemented. By this I mean that the Red Cross and Red Crescent should be the spokesman of the world's most vulnerable, a voice that is heeded by all peoples and States.

Now let me put forward some ideas on how we can work together to improve our cooperation in the future.

First of all, the Conference itself meets far too rarely. Nine years have elapsed since the last Conference. That is too long. Because there is no dialogue between the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the States, in our opinion the latter have begun looking elsewhere for a venue to discuss protection of the vulnerable, and peace-keeping and peace-making issues.

Could we not imagine that in the period between two Conferences there would be a working group made up of representatives of States and of the components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, mandated to develop proposals to

be submitted for adoption at the next Conference? I believe that it would be possible to organize and finance a process of this nature if we are all determined to achieve that goal.

The world is undergoing great upheaval, and we in the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are ready to hear views other than our own, hoping that in turn State representatives and our Red Cross and Red Crescent colleagues are ready to listen to ours.

The number of unresolved questions of humanitarian import is perhaps greater now than ever before. We need to be more aware that while we discuss the various matters on our agenda and debate our resolutions people are suffering all over the world; we must strive ever harder to find solutions.

For example, we should give more regular and substantive thought to the humanitarian consequences of sanctions and peace-making operations.

It is not the role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to decide whether peace-making operations or sanctions are justified, but it is our business to examine with the States the problem of the humanitarian consequences of such measures.

In this connection, perhaps we need an internationally accepted code of conduct which applies to all situations of this type. A code of conduct in disaster situations has been drawn up by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with the help of several organizations, and is being endorsed by a growing number of international emergency relief agencies. Would it not be possible to design something similar to deal with unforeseen consequences of sanctions and peace-making operations?

We need to go on working together, given that we each play a complementary role in addressing the needs of victims of both man-made and natural disasters. We must also explore other possible means of limiting the risk of conflict.

These are but a few examples of unresolved humanitarian issues facing all of us, whether we belong to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement or to the humanitarian agencies operating in the various States.

There are other issues as well. Let us ask ourselves, for example, if we need all of the international organizations that are now working in the humanitarian field, aren't all of them to some degree or another duplicating each other's efforts? Or should we return to the essence of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, with National Societies acting as auxiliaries to the public authorities, as is required in the recognition process, and establish more reliable support structures and a greater level of Red Cross and Red Crescent accountability?

In our International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies we have learned over our 76 years of existence that mankind's greatest achievements have been attained by caring, diligent people working together, each with a talent of his own, in an atmosphere of cooperation and respect. It is by standing united that we – States, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – shall find the humanitarian answers that are needed.

I have no illusions that my proposals will be easy to implement.

I do not claim to know the answers to many questions facing us in our search for humanitarian solutions. But what I do know is that the Red Cross and Red Crescent must put these difficult questions to the States and must use common sense to solve them and propose solutions. Hence my suggestions.

Every day, we in the Red Cross and Red Crescent come to the aid of innocent people wounded in landmine explosions whose only wish is to resume their normal activities.

Among the millions of people we assist every year so many are refugees or displaced persons. Seventy percent of the cost of our field operations relate to helping these refugees and displaced persons. For many of them, shelter and food are not enough. Many are traumatised after being driven from their homes, assaulted, raped, and deprived of their human rights and dignity. In helping them we in essence have to restore to them the ability to contend with each day and to keep hope.

We need to help the world rediscover the values of civil society, and the worth of working together for the greater well-being of all. We strive for that goal in ways that might seem mundane: but the support they provide is important, however, in areas such as teaching first aid and looking after the sick, helping overcome epidemics, teaching how to care for the frail and elderly, AIDS sufferers and the disabled. A community where the discipline of caring is alive is a community less likely to go to war.

We therefore have an interest and a duty, in both emergencies and times of stability, in enhancing the capacity of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their own countries to be more effective servants of humanitarian needs, more effective auxiliaries to the public authorities, more effective catalysts in easing local tensions and differences that are a potential source of conflict and in reconciling the divided, so that they can play a leading role in the search for solutions to humanitarian problems and issues.

Clearly, we could not stand aside from such issues even if we wanted to. It is not that we in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are looking for more to do. We already have more than enough problems to solve. But as the world evolves it confronts us with these needs and concerns, saying: Do something for these people, help them, heal their wounds, find a way of bringing greater meaning and dignity to their lives.

If you fear that the responsibility is too great, then I would ask you to look again at the seven Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Read them and ask yourself what they mean in this troubled world where we are trying to give our compassion a tangible form on behalf of all mankind. We must redouble our efforts to give real meaning to those principles and the values underlying them in all countries, and to apply them in helping to rebuild countries torn by strife.

This is a task that no one can undertake alone. Only by pooling forces across the world, as is done in this Conference of States and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, is it possible to seek and find the compassion and care so badly needed in the world of today.

Hence my appeal to the States and organizations you represent: I ask the States to contribute to the quest for real solutions to the urgent humanitarian issues besetting the whole world and to help their National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies build their local programming and organizational capacities. I ask the international and national Red Cross and Red Crescent bodies to work together to bring relief to vulnerable people the world over, so that they can look to them as a source of help and protection.

And I urge both the States and all the components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to join together in a new and powerful worldwide network to seek practical solutions to the problems and consequences of human conflict, and to overcome deprivation and vulnerability, so that our joint

endeavour at this International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and in those to come will bear fruit in the form of an era of genuine peace and compassion.

Thank you.

(Applause)

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

Thank you very much, Mr Villarroel Lander, for these words. I now give the floor to the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Mr C. SOMMARUGA (ICRC) (*Original French*):

Madam Chairwoman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world is weighed down by the victims of too many tragedies. Today, at this 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, it is in the name of those victims, the sole reason for our presence here, that I am addressing the representatives of the States party to the Geneva Conventions and those of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Our Movement is faced with the challenge of protecting and assisting these hapless individuals, whose numbers, alas, are growing day by day. Moreover, the situations in which we have to take action are ever more complex: natural and technological disasters, armed conflicts and other forms of violence. It is our solidarity with the victims of these situations that gives us our strength — and this solidarity is expressed through the separate but complementary activities conducted by the National Societies, their International Federation and the ICRC. The complementary nature of our respective tasks, which is the result of experience and is enshrined in our Statutes, is precisely what makes us effective.

Within the International Movement of which it is the founding body, the ICRC, created 132 years ago to provide assistance to wounded and sick soldiers, bears historical and legal responsibility for taking humanitarian action on behalf of military and civilian victims of armed conflict. In order to carry out its task as effectively as possible, it works in cooperation with the National Societies, those vital components of our Movement whose activities and development must be given unstinting support.

In these troubled times, our entire Movement is more than ever in need of the backing and commitment of governments. If the Red Cross and Red Crescent are a beacon of hope, then this assembly bears a great responsibility indeed: let us not forget the unique importance of the International Conference, which is the main multilateral forum for debating humanitarian issues and a unique meeting place for the Movement and the world's governments. Rising above conflicts and differences of opinion, we must therefore resolutely stand together and act as one lest we disappoint the hopes that have been placed in us.

It is the tradition at International Conferences for the President of the ICRC to give a report covering the period since the previous Conference. In the present case, however, too much time has passed since the last Conference, in 1986, for me to present a systematic review of the various ways in which humanitarian law was either respected or, only too frequently, violated. Instead I should like to share a few thoughts which, I hope, will enable us to move forward together.

Some anniversaries are bound to evoke powerful memories. Much attention has already been paid to the events that are being commemorated this year, but how could I fail to mention the fact that the 26th International Conference is meeting 50 years after the world awoke from a nightmare? A deadly conflict which claimed millions of victims and left terrible scars, both physical and mental, on entire populations. At the heart of the nightmare was a plan to exterminate a whole people, together with other minorities, in a systematic and "industrial" way, simply because they existed. A failure for democracy, this has been called by some. A setback, indeed, for civilization itself. And also a setback for the Red Cross, which no doubt was thought to have more powers than it actually did, but which, despite the heroic exploits of some of its delegates, did not entirely escape the prevailing tendency to compromise.

Fifty years ago the first atomic bombs exploded over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, causing instant devastation on an apocalyptic scale. For the first time in its history, mankind had acquired the ability to destroy itself and wipe out the heritage of all civilizations.

"Never again!" These were the words on everyone's lips in the immediate aftermath of the war. A number of ideas were to emerge from the trauma of the holocaust and the horrendous destruction caused by the conflict, and some of those ideas took root. Henceforth, it was decided, States would cooperate within the brand-new United Nations Organization so as to prevent any recurrence of the cataclysm.

Pursuing aims that were both more modest and more realistic, the International Committee of the Red Cross set about having the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 adopted by the international community. These Conventions took up and expanded texts dating back to the nineteenth century and reflecting universal humanitarian traditions. Since it seemed unlikely that war would be done away with once and for all, the Conventions sought to ensure that certain basic principles of humanity would be respected even in the heat of battle. To keep pace with the changing times, the legal provisions they contained were, as you know, reaffirmed and supplemented in 1977 by two Additional Protocols.

Looking back, how should we assess the results of all these efforts? I would not venture to say whether the world is on the whole a better or a worse place than it was half a century ago. Scientific progress has substantially improved the health and living conditions of many people across the globe. The decolonization process has been completed. And the Cold War, which split the world in two so soon after the end of the Second World War, is now a thing of the past.

However, there is little cause for self-congratulation: from 1945 to the present, 22 million people have died in more than 120 conflicts. Moreover, mankind is faced with new challenges: the deterioration of the natural environment; rural depopulation and urban poverty; a number of major epidemic diseases have recently reappeared; and, in the poorest countries, millions of people have no access to education or health care. It is worth remembering that the chasm between the developed world and an ever-growing proportion of the planet's population is widening daily. Unless we take care, this glaring disparity will be the cause of tomorrow's conflicts.

The years that have elapsed since the last Conference saw sweeping changes and radical breaks with the past. The Cold War came to an end, and with it the balance of terror. Now we have entered a period in which the parameters have changed and we have no familiar landmarks. It is hardly surprising that

at a time of political crisis humanitarian values should go by the board. However, let us not forget the immense surge of hope that arose when the division of the world into two antagonistic blocs, opposed in every respect, came to an end: indeed, there was reason to believe that the world would now move in the direction of greater unity, humanity and solidarity.

I welcome the favourable developments that have come about in Africa, particularly in Ethiopia, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique and South Africa — a country that has recently rejoined the international community after having peacefully brought to an end the unjust system of apartheid; in Latin America, and here I am thinking of El Salvador; and in Cambodia, as far as the continent of Asia is concerned. There are also grounds for optimism in regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict, a situation in which former foes have established relations that we hope will be constructive, and to Northern Ireland, where violence has given way to dialogue. Progress has been made in other parts of the world as well.

Yet, alongside these encouraging events, a multitude of tragic situations remain unresolved, pointless suffering and wanton destruction continue unabated, and many new crises loom on the horizon. As I speak, more than 30 conflicts are raging around the globe: power struggles, territorial disputes, ethnic and religious strife. All these situations require the best efforts of the ICRC and of numerous National Societies.

Everyone knows about these conflicts and I do not intend to list them all here. However, sixteen years after the dreadful events in Cambodia, where a whole people was decimated far from the media spotlight, how can I fail to mention what took place in Rwanda? Once again, horror knew no bounds, but this time, appalled, we were able to watch it happen on our television screens, those mirrors of so much barbarity and depravity. In Rwanda, the ICRC was alone. Its delegates were able to save a few thousand lives, but could do nothing to halt the carnage all around them. Nor can I keep silent about what I saw in Sarajevo, in the midst of those terrifying events that have cast a pall over a large part of what used to be Yugoslavia — now a land of infamy, grief and sorrow where increasingly bitter resentment has taken root in people's hearts. Finally, how can I not speak of the upheavals and human tragedies that ensued from the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics? Or of those in Afghanistan, a martyred nation where fighting among warlords is still causing suffering, or of those in Sri Lanka, Somalia, Sudan and Sierra Leone... It would take too long to mention all the countries in which the events taking place at this very moment are deplorable evidence of man's inhumanity to man.

While it is true that war is made up of countless individual incidents that are impossible to foresee, at the same time the demagogic voice of racism and xenophobia is fanning strife and passion all over the world, with the results we know only too well. First among them is the revolting policy of "ethnic cleansing" — a hideous term that is the very embodiment of hatred and rejection.

Let it be said: what we have seen in recent years is nothing short of barbarity, and a return to methods that everyone had thought belonged to the dim and distant past. Violence has reached a level far beyond anything we have seen in a long time.

Moreover, in many of the new conflicts that have broken out since the end of the Cold War there has been an upsurge in predatory and lawless behaviour, war and banditry have become inextricably linked, and the "belligerents" are often very young and poorly organized. While the ideologies and objectives involved in many conflicts are difficult to define, the chief aim is to destroy the other side, whether for racial, religious, nationalistic or economic reasons. Front lines no

longer exist, and the traditional and vital distinction between combatants and non-combatants is all too seldom recognized.

In such conflicts, there is no clear chain of command and the most basic standards of humane behaviour are often flouted. What we see is a total breakdown of State structures and a proliferation of warring parties, not to speak of the multitude of armed groups answerable to no apparent authority and the hidden snipers who take innocent civilians as their targets. Civil war and ethnic strife sweep across vast areas where chaos and anarchy prevail. Moreover, there is far less scope for exerting outside influence to put an end to such conflicts and to find political settlements.

For humanitarian organizations such as ours, operating in such contexts has become highly dangerous, and also very frustrating. The hazards involved are aggravated by the proliferation of weapons and the flourishing arms market, which is as accessible to armed bands and fringe groups as it is to the military. This massive and unsupervised flow of weapons, still fed by the vast stocks which were built up during the Cold War and are now often looted, can fan tensions until they erupt into fully-fledged armed conflicts.

Since by the nature of its mandate, the volume of the ICRC's activities constitutes a sort of barometer of the state of the world, it is interesting to note that between 1987, the year in which I became its President, and 1993 the institution's total expenditure soared from less than 300 million Swiss francs to more than 800 million. During the same period the value of the relief supplies it distributed increased fivefold and the number of its staff almost doubled.

Faced with such widespread violence, humanitarian law has proved its sterling worth amidst all the fire and the passion. Throughout the conflicts in which we have deployed our full range of activities, the Geneva Conventions, in particular Article 3 common to all four of them and applicable to non-international armed conflict, and their Additional Protocols have rendered and continue to render invaluable services in providing legal protection for war victims. Nevertheless, we have also witnessed innumerable *violations* of the Conventions and of basic humanitarian principles, leading to untold suffering and grief which could have been avoided if the laws and customs of war had been respected. Another effect of all these violations and their extremely grave consequences is to make the restoration of peace much more difficult. Such occurrences do not stem from any shortcomings in the humanitarian rules; they reflect a lack of willingness to respect those rules and even in many cases a disturbing contempt for the elementary principles of humanity.

Murder, torture, degrading treatment and arbitrary detention, often in conditions of extreme deprivation, have been the lot of countless victims. The taking of hostages, in violation of a basic rule of humanitarian law, has assumed alarming proportions. The family unit, the cornerstone of any society, has been seriously endangered by the calamities that befall the civilian population as, with increasing frequency, families are split up. Women are often among the first victims of such situations, and we are horrified by the practice of rape used as a method of warfare. Children, the most vulnerable of all, are often marked for life by what they have endured. Their lives fall apart when they see their parents killed and their homes destroyed before their eyes. Children are also indoctrinated and encouraged to take part in the violence. These youngsters, taken away from their families at a tender age, know no law but that of the gun. Some boys are already war veterans at fifteen. These child soldiers represent a tragedy for humanity that, far from being eradicated, is spreading.

The mass population movements that we thought were a thing of the past are with us again: several sources put the number of refugees in the world at more than 23 million, and the number of people displaced within their own country at over 29 million.

The use of certain methods and means of warfare is another area where the consequences are increasingly dramatic. Every year, as President Villarroel has pointed out, more than 20,000 people, many of them children, are killed or maimed by anti-personnel landmines. The ICRC's medical teams are surrounded by the anguished cries of those who have had a limb mangled or a relative killed by these instruments of blind terror. I invite you to think about the fact that, according to the United Nations, there are currently more than 100 million landmines already laid in 64 countries.

Other causes for concern are attacks on water supply systems, which are very often damaged either deliberately or as an incidental effect of the hostilities. In some conflicts denial of access to water is used as a fearsome and cruel weapon.

Then again there are terrorist attacks, which strike blindly at defenceless innocents. Such acts must be condemned without reservation, for they are diametrically opposed to the most basic humanitarian principles. On the other hand, it is unacceptable for governments to denounce their opponents as terrorists out of hand, so as to deny them their right to humane treatment when they are captured or arrested.

The balance of terror, sustained by the prodigious arms stocks of which we are only too well aware, nevertheless gave rise to a number of measures under international law to limit the indiscriminate effects of some terrifying developments in weapons technology. Such was the case, for example, with regard to chemical and biological weapons. As for nuclear weapons, which are a denial of all life and thus of all humanitarian action, suffice it to say that the dire threat they represent has increased because they are falling into all sorts of unauthorized hands during the current period of geopolitical upheaval.

That being said, at a time when genocide can be perpetrated with nothing more than machetes, perhaps the debate on methods and means of combat should not be our primary concern. In the profound changes now taking place, I am convinced that what we are facing is a human problem. Why, we may well ask, has the progress achieved thanks to human intelligence not enabled us to put an end to barbarity? The answer is that violence is part of human nature, and progress on the moral level has not kept up with scientific and technical advances.

In these circumstances, we must breathe new life into humanitarian law. The infinitely tragic plight of war victims demands that our Conference find responses to the major issues I have raised today. On the eve of the third millennium, I humbly expect a commitment on the part of governments to work with our Movement so that together we can rise to the challenge of Louis Pasteur: "The future belongs to he who does the most for suffering humanity".

First and foremost we must close the gap between moral progress and scientific and technical advances. By promoting a new sense of solidarity worldwide, we must restore tolerance and respect for others to their proper place and create among ourselves an awareness of our collective responsibility. In view of the dangers looming over mankind, it is essential that we rebuild the system of values that is at the heart of the Red Cross and Red Crescent ideal: the rights of victims, the right to receive assistance, and respect for humanitarian endeavour.

The basic problem, in my opinion, is to ensure respect for humanitarian law in internal armed conflicts. To this end, States must be convinced that they are not the only ones concerned by the law. Above and beyond inter-State relations and the mutual interest that prompts the parties to a conflict to comply with certain rules, the law is intended to protect all victims. No category of belligerent is exempted from meeting humanitarian obligations. Moreover, suffering is indivisible and it would be absurd, and indeed immoral, for a State to tolerate acts directed against its internal opponents — its own citizens — that would be prohibited in the event of an international conflict.

What is important is to rediscover the basic rules, such as Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions, which applies to non-international and thus internal conflicts and constitutes a sort of miniature Convention in its own right. These rules express principles that transcend cultural barriers and are common to all civilizations; no one would ever contest them. "You must not do ill to others, and you must not take life unless it is absolutely necessary", declared Buddha. "The perfect man is the one who is most helpful to others", says the Koran. "Enemies taken prisoner in the course of a war must not be killed; on the contrary we must treat them like our own children", advises the Mahabharata, echoing a Kenyan proverb: "When you are the victor you must not crush the vanquished". And in the words of St. James: "Faith without works is dead". These ideas are simple, clear and just; they apply to everyone.

In recent years, increasingly frequent references have been made within the United Nations, regional organizations, the non-aligned Movement and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to international humanitarian law. The States you represent have clearly and repeatedly expressed their determination to see the texts they have ratified applied in practice. The ICRC for its part can only welcome the States' resolve to mobilize in favour of respect for the law and in defence of the victims.

To give this apparent community of interests and sentiments an opportunity to express itself in a practical and constructive manner, the Swiss Government, acting on the initiative of the ICRC, convened the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims which was held in Geneva in August/September 1993. The event was quite a success, and proved to be extremely useful as a forum for preparing the present International Conference. The 1993 Conference's Final Declaration concluded, in substance, that *jus est ars boni et aequi*. I should like to quote the following passage from it: "We confirm our conviction that, by preserving a spirit of humanity in the midst of armed conflicts, international humanitarian law keeps open the way to reconciliation, facilitates the restoration of peace between the belligerents, and fosters harmony between all peoples".

With 186 States now party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, those treaties can be considered as practically universal in scope. The same cannot yet be said, however, for the 1977 Additional Protocols. Indeed, to date only 141 States are party to Protocol I, which relates to international armed conflicts, and 132 to Protocol II, which relates to non-international armed conflicts. This state of affairs is difficult to accept more than eighteen years after the signing of the two treaties. In view of the barbarity we are witnessing today, I must say, on behalf of the victims, that the time has come for every State that has not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Protocols. After all, respect for international humanitarian law depends to a large extent on its universality.

Distinguished Delegates, the States that you represent have pledged, under the terms of Article 1 common to the four



Geneva Conventions, not only to respect but also to ensure respect for the provisions of those Conventions in all circumstances. This is an obligation of universal solidarity vis-à-vis all war victims. The victims' right to receive assistance and protection, whoever they are and wherever they may be, this inalienable right laid down by law, therefore concerns each and every one of us.

If rules are to be applied, they must be known. The dissemination of humanitarian law, "to include the study thereof in (...) programmes of military and, if possible, civil instruction, so that the principles thereof may become known to all [the] armed forces and to the entire population", as stipulated in the Third Geneva Convention, is an essential precondition for compliance with its provisions. The States party to these treaties cannot evade this fundamental obligation.

To provide support for efforts made by States in the sphere of implementation and dissemination, the ICRC has, among other things, set up a unit to offer advisory services in international humanitarian law. The States, and of course the National Societies and any other interested body, are invited to make wide use of these services.

The Group of Experts convened at the request of the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims asks States, among other things, to "act, jointly or individually, in situations of serious violations of international humanitarian law in cooperation with the United Nations and in conformity with the United Nations Charter". Indeed, what is the use of rules and principles, and what can be the practical impact of the law that embodies them, if they can be violated with impunity? Apart from the collective responsibility of the States party to the Conventions, there is the individual responsibility of those who have to apply the provisions of humanitarian law or see that they are applied. It must be made perfectly clear that criminals will be punished. I should like to point out that the Geneva Conventions enjoin the States party to search for, prosecute and try persons accused of having committed or having issued orders to commit any of the grave breaches listed in the Conventions, as an obligation of solidarity. In this connection, the international tribunals set up to prosecute the large-scale violations of international humanitarian law and human rights committed in the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda offer the prospect of putting an end to the reign of impunity. The ICRC earnestly hopes that an international criminal court with worldwide jurisdiction will also be established. Allow me to emphasize, however, that judicial measures are complementary to humanitarian action, and that the two should not be confused. Indeed, humanitarian organizations cannot act as judges and certainly not as prosecutors.

Some States have not yet made the declaration accepting the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission provided for in Protocol I to enquire into any allegations of grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions or the Protocols. These States may nevertheless use the services of the Commission. It is at their disposal in particular to open an enquiry, with the consent of the parties concerned, in the event of grave violations of international law in the context of non-international armed conflicts. Why, then, is such a possibility not put to more frequent use?

Earlier I mentioned the tragedies caused by widespread use of anti-personnel land mines, and I think what I had to say was quite clear: this carnage must stop! There is only one way of achieving this end, and that is to impose a total ban on the production, stockpiling, transfer and use of landmines. The

few military advantages they offer are in no way commensurate with the terrible effects they have on civilians. We can only hope that when the Vienna Conference resumes next January the discussions will be open-minded and far-sighted enough to break the current deadlock regarding Protocol II to the 1980 United Nations Weapons Convention; I believe that the resolution adopted in this room on Saturday by the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, insistently calling for a total ban on landmines, should be extremely useful for those discussions. On the other hand, we welcome the adoption of a fourth Protocol to that Convention banning blinding laser weapons. This is the first time since the 1868 Declaration of St Petersburg, which prohibited exploding bullets, that it has been possible to ban a weapon before it has been used. I trust that the States represented here will become party to the new Protocol without delay.

I also mentioned the devastating effects of a phenomenon which has grown steadily ever since the end of the Cold War: the proliferation of weapons, especially light weapons, all over the world. The danger is that all these weapons, which can often be had for a nominal sum, will become perfectly commonplace objects. This must not be allowed to happen! These death-dealing devices must be strictly controlled, with due regard to moral principles. The ICRC is deeply concerned by this matter and, in close consultation with the other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, intends to examine the link between arms transfers and violations of international humanitarian law.

After these considerations regarding legal provisions and problems of application of international humanitarian law, the time has come to review humanitarian action carried out by the ICRC, the National Societies and their International Federation in accordance with their respective mandates. Nowadays the term "humanitarian action" is given a wide range of meanings. Indeed, a large part of the response to conflict situations is currently labelled "humanitarian": military peace-keeping units engage in humanitarian operations; governments conduct their own humanitarian activities directly, through operational government structures and under their national flags. In some cases, such as that of Somalia, operations blazoned as humanitarian have gone astray. To me, this bandying about of the term "humanitarian" seems to reflect increasing uncertainty and confusion about roles and responsibilities within the international community. Some clarification is therefore needed.

Everything points to the fact that international control mechanisms have not yet adapted to the realities of today's conflicts, in which anarchy and chaos prevail to a vastly greater degree than was the case during the Cold War period. In this new context humanitarian agencies, and also politicians and generals, have no clear points of reference. Governments seem to find it difficult, if not impossible, to reach a realistic consensus on political or military options or operations. A humanitarian operation offers the opportunity to act and thus to fill the vacuum. This type of activism serves to ease the pressure brought to bear on governments by the media and public opinion, but in fact all it does is perpetuate the ambiguity relating to the respective mandates of the various players on the international scene.

I wish to reaffirm in the strongest terms here today that humanitarian action must be conducted in parallel with political or military action. It must not and cannot be a substitute for the latter. If it is used as an extension of foreign policy, it is deprived of the neutrality which should be its

essential attribute. Ultimately humanitarian action loses its identity and can even become the target of armed attacks.

The integrated approach whereby political, military and humanitarian activities are launched in response to emergency situations could, by means of the synergy created among the different players, increase the international community's effectiveness without there being any need for additional resources. This is the right approach, I feel, for conflict prevention. The same type of synergy can come into play in the post-conflict phase.

But I am convinced that the integrated approach is not appropriate during the acute phase of a conflict. At this stage humanitarian work focuses on the immediate effects of the crisis and cannot take political or military problems into account. To be effective, what we need is a neutral and impartial humanitarian approach and room for independent humanitarian action, without any political motivation, so that we can reach all the victims with the consent of all the parties.

In such situations, only truly independent, neutral and impartial organizations can reach those in need of assistance and protection. Indeed, the States were fully aware of this when they drew up and signed the Geneva Conventions, which stipulate the neutral and impartial nature of humanitarian action.

For the sake of efficiency, should we not concentrate on the special skills of the different entities working in present-day conflict situations, each acting according to its own competence? In my opinion there is a pressing need to put an end to the confusion currently prevailing in this regard. The respective responsibilities of the humanitarian agencies and of politicians, generals and judges must be defined more clearly.

The growing magnitude of the task before us and the proliferation of players make it more necessary than ever to strengthen the process of consultation and cooperation among the various organizations involved in humanitarian work. Within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, it is the ICRC's role to coordinate humanitarian operations in situations of armed conflict. The ICRC engages in this permanent consultation process with its partners in the field in a spirit of openness, complementarity and solidarity, with due respect for each entity's specific mandate.

Through cooperation and complementarity, an effort must be made to improve the planning of humanitarian action in terms of time and space. The concentration of agencies in the same theatres of operation, spotlighted by the media, then their withdrawal without any gradual progression to reconstruction and development programmes, are examples of poor coordination and planning, and it is the victims who pay the price.

Agencies specializing in emergency operations and those more concerned with reconstruction and development programmes must come to an arrangement among themselves, creating a continuum: the former must prepare the way for the latter to take over. The ICRC feels that it is unacceptable to simply abandon the victims; assistance programmes must be carried through to the end. Indeed, this is one of the strengths of our Movement, since its component parts can relay each other and thus ensure the continuity of humanitarian action. More important than assistance itself is the way in which it is provided, to my way of thinking. Assistance must make a contribution to protection, to upholding the dignity and integrity of the individual. The ICRC's work, often conducted in cooperation with National Societies, encompasses all victims: the sick and wounded, prisoners, displaced persons, women and children, the elderly, and members of dispersed families.

The ICRC's mandate is to help all victims of all conflicts. It cannot act in accordance with priorities set by its donors if they are not prompted by humanitarian considerations. The ICRC is an independent organization which takes action in all situations where human beings are suffering at the hands of their fellows. The funding for its operations is a secondary consideration. The institution does not intend to change that approach, which is not without risk. Yet we must be able to count on financial support, in the future as in the past. Here, on behalf of all conflict victims, I should like to express my warmest thanks to the generous donors — governments, National Societies and private individuals — who in recent years have enabled the ICRC to discharge its mandate and meet ever-growing needs, and urge them not to slacken their efforts at this difficult time when funds are often hard to come by. I earnestly hope that the governments will not force us to abandon the victims by cutting back on their funding of our activities.

The implementation of international humanitarian law is a matter for the entire Movement. The magnitude of humanitarian needs has led the Movement to adapt and to strengthen its components while reaffirming its Fundamental Principles, proclaimed thirty years ago by the International Conference in Vienna. We are thus celebrating another particularly symbolic anniversary today. The Principles, of which the ICRC is the acknowledged guardian, are more than ever the cement that holds the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement together and provide the guidelines for its action. All of us — the National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC — are duty bound to apply them to the letter. For the ICRC, with its specific mandate to work for the victims of armed conflict, the principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence are crucial. The governments which approved the Movement's Statutes have to respect at all times the obligation of all its components to observe the Fundamental Principles.

Times change and with them the focus of humanitarian needs; with courage and imagination we must constantly adapt our activities to the realities of the day. The role of the Movement is more essential than ever, especially in preventive action. By actively combating all forms of hatred, fanaticism, racism and exclusion we can do more, on the international level as well as that of every country represented here, to promote the value of tolerance, which alone can spare coming generations from evils even greater than those we are witnessing today. For tolerance implies subscribing to certain standards of civilization and culture, an art of living in the sense of coexisting on a daily basis and observing recognized and accepted principles, based on listening and dialogue.

To respond to the vast challenges I have outlined, the objective of this Conference must be to ensure that humanitarian action is universally respected. As the expression of a common and long-term resolve, I invite you to subscribe to a new contract of humanity, whereby States and the entire international community undertake to give their unreserved support to efforts aimed at applying international humanitarian law. This implies, among other things:

- speeding up the process of ratification of the existing instruments of humanitarian law;
- intensifying efforts to disseminate the law;
- reaffirming that it is unacceptable that rules applicable in international conflicts should not apply in internal conflicts and, hence, applying and ensuring the

application of Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions;

- doing everything possible, in the event of violations of international humanitarian law, to remedy the situation, in the spirit of Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions and Article 9 of Protocol I, and imposing penal sanctions on those who commit grave breaches of that law, as stipulated in the Conventions.

I know that we are inspired by the same conviction and that we are capable of fulfilling the terms of the contract of humanity I have the honour to propose to you today. On behalf of the victims, I thank you for your commitment. In the final analysis, the principle that counts for the Red Cross and Red Crescent is that every human being is responsible

for the suffering of his fellows. I thank you for your attention.

*(Applause)*

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) *(Original English)*:

Thank you very much, Mr Sommaruga, for those words.

Any comments on these stirring speeches by our Presidents should be brought to the attention of the Commissions, because these two speeches encompass in a highly stimulating manner, the main elements of the discussions that are going to take place there.

We have now reached the end of the first plenary meeting. The meeting is over.

*(End of the First Plenary Meeting at 11.15 a.m.)*



### 3.5 SECOND PLENARY MEETING

6 December 1995

5.10 p.m.

**SUMMARY:** First round of the election of the members of the Standing Commission — Amendment to the Statutes of the Movement — Report of the Standing Commission — Report of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund — Second round of the election.

#### FIRST ROUND OF THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

You have been notified of the Bureau's proposals for the agenda of this meeting that we start right away with the procedure for electing the members of the Standing Commission, and use the time available between the two ballots to discuss the points raised under "Other business" at the last plenary meeting, namely:

- Amendment to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the Movement
- Report of the Chairman of the Standing Commission
- Report of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund

If you agree, this will be the procedure for the meeting.

I take your silence as showing your agreement.

As indicated at the plenary meeting on Monday morning, candidacies had to be submitted 48 hours before this meeting, and this was done. You have received copies of the curriculum vitae of each candidate. Let me remind you that the last sentence of Rule 21, paragraph 1 states: "When nominating candidates, personal qualities and the principle of fair geographical distribution should be taken into account". And this is also printed at the bottom of the ballot that you are going to receive soon.

Elections are always a matter of high emotional tension and I have just been informed that the candidate from Congo has decided that she wants to withdraw her candidacy and would like to make a statement in that connection. I give her the floor.

Ms I.V. NZE (Congolese Red Cross) (*Original French*):

Adding my support to that of previous speakers, I should like to welcome your election to chair the 26th International Conference. Thanks to the combined efforts of all the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the representatives of certain governments, including Switzerland, we have at last been able to meet again in Geneva, a city dedicated to promoting peace. Madam Chairwoman, my name appears on the list of candidates for the Standing Commission. If I was selected for inclusion on that list, I assume it is because I met the strict criteria set out in the document of the Advisory Commission, item 6 of the Council of Delegates. Integrity, experience, motivation, availability and a strong personality are indeed necessary to serve as a member of the Standing Commission. Personally, I have been in the service of the Red Cross for over 20 years. In the course of my work with the Movement, I have met interesting people, highly motivated by the humanitarian cause, and I should like to thank all those who have shown me the trust they place in me, and their friendship. As the idea of my candidacy was suggested by friends who believed in my ability, I should like to thank them most sincerely for this token of their regard for me. Looking

at the list of candidates, however, I note that there are 15, when only five are required, and that there are six women, including two for Africa. I therefore feel I ought to withdraw my candidacy out of solidarity for other candidates who might benefit from my votes. I also feel that, as you have just said, we should take account of geographical distribution. Lastly, I should like to wish every success to the five candidates whom we shall choose in this election.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

Thank you, Ms Nze. This name therefore has to be erased from the ballot which you will soon be receiving.

We also recently heard that the candidate from the Moroccan Red Crescent, Mr Mehdi Bennouna, has decided to withdraw his candidacy. He announced this in advance, so his name has already been erased from the ballots.

So, the ballots that you are about to receive now contain fourteen names. But, as I should like to remind you again, the name of the representative from Congo, Ms Ida Nze, has to be erased. You will therefore choose from among thirteen candidates. I am now going to read out the names of these candidates on the official ballot and ask you to excuse my pronunciation, which will not always be correct.

- Miss Ayodele Akiwumi (Ghana Red Cross Society)
- Dr Ebraheem M.H. Behbehani (Kuwait Red Crescent Society)
- Prof. Mamoun Yousif Hamid (Sudanese Red Crescent)
- General Georges Harrouk (Lebanese Red Cross Society)
- Dr Byron Reuben Hove (Zimbabwe Red Cross Society)
- Mr Darrell D. Jones (Canadian Red Cross Society)
- Mr Tadateru Konoe (Japanese Red Cross Society)
- Prof. Emíla Kováčová (Slovak Red Cross)
- Lady Sylvia Limerick (British Red Cross)
- Ms Christina Magnuson (Swedish Red Cross)
- H.R.H. Princess Margriet of the Netherlands (Netherlands Red Cross)
- Mr William A.E. Mboumoua (Cameroon Red Cross Society)
- Dr Guillermo Rueda Montaña (Colombian Red Cross)

Let us now begin the election procedure.

According to Rule 20, paragraph 6 of the Rules of Procedure, the Chairman shall appoint from among the delegates of the members of the Conference three tellers who shall proceed to a count of the votes.

But since we will be voting in the upper and lower parts of the room simultaneously, I would like to have four tellers. I therefore call upon the following four persons: Ms Laura Dupuy, from the Permanent Mission of Uruguay in Geneva, Mr Ashraf El-Moafi, from the Permanent Mission of Egypt in Geneva, Mr Loani Ravu Henao, Former National

Chairman of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society and Ms Una McGurk, Chairperson of the Irish Red Cross Society. Would you please take your places and go to the ballot boxes.

The tellers will be assisted by Mr Jean-Louis Cayla of the ICRC and by Mr Jean-Claude Crepy of the International Federation.

In addition, Rule 21 established that for the purpose of determining the absolute majority required in the first ballot, a roll call of the members of the Conference shall be taken before voting begins. In other words, the absolute majority is calculated according to the number of delegations that have replied to the roll call.

The first election is determined by an absolute majority, which means half of the votes plus one. If we are going to have a second ballot, it will go by a relative majority and irrespective of the results of the first ballot. That means that in the unlikely case that nobody gets an absolute majority, the second ballot will then be determined by a relative majority.

Let me also remind you of our Statutes, Article 9, paragraph 3, which stipulate that: "A delegate shall belong to only one delegation".

I would now like to ask Mr Dürr, the Assistant Secretary-General, to proceed to take the roll call and the vote.

Mr O. DÜRR (Assistant Secretary-General) (*Original French*):

I shall now proceed with the roll call. When a delegation answers the call, it will receive a ballot paper, containing the names of the candidates. Please enter a cross in the box alongside the names of the candidates you have chosen. As far as the voting is concerned, I would remind you that there are five persons from the National Societies to be elected. On each ballot paper, therefore, no more than five names should be selected and no one name may receive more than one vote. Any ballots containing more than five names or on which names have been given more than one vote will be considered invalid. I shall proceed with the roll call, and when a delegation answers, it will be given a ballot paper. We shall begin with the National Societies.

*(Roll call of all delegations, beginning with the National Societies, followed by the States, then the ICRC and the International Federation.)*

The roll call is now complete. We have 299 delegations which have answered the call and are present in the room. The absolute majority is therefore 150 votes.

Ballot boxes have been placed on the upper and lower floors of the conference room. On the ground floor, the ballot box is situated just in front of the rostrum, to my left and therefore to your right. On the upper floor, the ballot box is situated to your left, near the entrance.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

Just a small comment on the absolute majority. It is based upon the number of votes, not upon the number of delegations that have answered the roll call. Normally that would be the same number, so probably it will be 150, but we shall see when the vote is there.

Mr O. DÜRR (Assistant Secretary-General) (*Original French*):

In accordance with Rule 20, paragraph 5, of the Rules of Procedure, the delegations from the National Societies will vote first, then the delegations from the States, then the delegations from the International Committee and the International Federation. We shall draw lots to choose the name of the National Society and State which will vote first in

their category. As soon as the heads of delegation or their substitutes hear the name of their delegation called, I would ask them to come and deposit their ballots in the ballot box. For purposes of identification, they are requested to wear their badges when they do so. I would also remind you that no one can belong to two different delegations and that no delegation may represent or vote for any other delegation.

I would remind you again of the announcement made by the Chairwoman at the beginning of the meeting, to the effect that Ms Ida Nze has withdrawn her name from the list contained on the ballots. Please bear this in mind when making your choice.

I shall now ask the Chairwoman to draw lots to decide which National Society shall vote first.

I shall call the National Societies one after the other and I would ask heads of delegation or their substitutes, when the name of their Society is called, to come and deposit their ballots in the ballot box.

*(Lots are drawn; the roll call is taken and the delegations vote.)*

Has any Society not yet voted?

As this is not so, we shall move on to the vote by the States, following the same procedure, drawing lots to decide which State shall vote first.

*(Lots are drawn; the roll call is taken and the delegations vote.)*

Are there any States which have not been called or which have not deposited their ballots in the ballot box?

I now call the ICRC and the International Federation to vote.

I admit that this procedure is somewhat cumbersome, but would point out that it applies only to the first round of the elections. This first round has now been completed.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

I now ask the tellers and their assistants to kindly withdraw to proceed with the counting, and I suggest that we adjourn the meeting for one hour, until 8.30 p.m., when we will go on with the agenda and should then have news about the elections.

*(The delegates adjourn until 8.30 p.m.)*

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

There has been some discussion during the break as to whether the way of electing people to the highest office is traditional, sincere, dignified, out of date, and so on. There seem to be a lot of different opinions about this. Some people suggest that it might be a good thing for the newly elected Standing Commission to consider a different way of speeding up the election process. So that could be a good start for the new Standing Commission.

*(Applause)*

I am not in a position to formulate and suggest, I am just conveying what other people have been saying. Also I can assure you that if there is going to be a second ballot, it will not be preceded by a roll call. We are discussing how we could try to speed up the election procedure if necessary.

*(Applause)*

Thank you, there seems to be a consensus on this. We should receive the first results within fifteen minutes, so in the meantime we are going to move on to the item "Other business". We shall begin with the third point, which is simply a proposal that the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement should be amended by replacing all references to the "League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies" by "International

Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies". I give the floor to the Legal Adviser of the International Federation, Dr Fritz Wendl.

### AMENDMENT TO THE STATUTES OF THE MOVEMENT

Dr F. WENDL (International Federation) (*Original English*):

In accordance with Article 20 of the Statutes of the Movement, the International Federation submits an amendment to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the Movement. This amendment was presented to the Standing Commission in May 1991 and circulated by the Standing Commission to all the members of the Conference in conformity with Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure, to be submitted to the 26th International Conference in 1991 in Budapest. The amendment concerns the change of the International Federation's name from "League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies" into "International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies" as decided by the eighth session of the General Assembly in Budapest. The intention was to submit the amendments to the 26th International Conference in Budapest in 1991, however the Conference did not take place and was postponed *sine die*. Consequently, the amendment has to be submitted to the Conference now and is necessary to bring the Statutes of the Movement into harmony with the Constitution of the International Federation. I refer to document 95/P.II/4/1 in which the parts to be amended are summarized.

First of all, it is necessary to amend the preamble, the first lines of which read: "Proclaims that the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies". We propose to replace "League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies" there by "International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies".

In Article 1, concerning the definition, reference is again made to the "League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies" and, in brackets, "hereinafter called "the League"". This should be replaced by the "International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies" and in brackets "hereinafter called "the Federation"".

In Article 6, there is a slight, grammatical change. At present the definition in Article 6 reads: "the League is the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies". It acts..." and so on. Now we have to change it to: "The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies comprises the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It acts...". The following words are unchanged.

Secondly, in paragraph 2, we have to change "The League is..." into "The Federation is...". Last, but not least, we have to adapt all the relevant articles of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and amend them accordingly, so that wherever the expression "League" appears, we should have "Federation".

This is the report of the meeting held in connection with the amendment to the Statutes of the Movement and to the Rules of Procedure of the Movement.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

I take it that there shouldn't be any comments on this, and am therefore very happy to conclude that the Conference has confirmed that the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has changed its name to International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

(*Applause*)

It is not very often that we take part in an historical moment and can tell our various successors that we were there.

### REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMISSION

We shall now proceed to discuss the second point, which is the report of the Standing Commission.

Prince BOTHO of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein (Chairman of the Standing Commission) (*Original English*):

You have found in your pigeon-holes the written report, document 95/P.II/4/2, on the work which has been done by the Standing Commission since 1986. In spite of the difficulties which arose from Article 18, paragraph 8 of the Statutes, in which the competences and initiatives of each of the components of the Movement are strictly safeguarded, the members of the Standing Commission tried to do their best. We have felt a special responsibility in carrying out our functions as the trustees of the International Conference. We are very glad that our preparations for the Conference and its convocation were successful and we are very grateful to all of you who assisted our work in the spirit of humanity. As we are also a very fair organization, I shall stop here and am ready to answer any questions, with your permission, Madam Chairwoman.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

Are there any comments or questions with regard to this report? No. Then I think we could show our appreciation by applause.

(*Applause*)

It is not up to me to comment on the excellent work that has been done by the Standing Commission in the nine years of strenuous efforts in the service of our Movement. But anyway, thank you again.

### REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMISSION OF THE EMPRESS SHŌKEN FUND

The last item on the agenda is the report of the Empress Shōken Fund. It has been in your files. Would anybody like to comment on it or ask any questions?

No? No questions.

The situation should have been that the tellers come in just at this moment, but the *deus ex machina* is sometimes a little bit late. Nonetheless, I do suggest that we do not now adjourn, but just stay in this room because they should be coming any time now.

I am very sorry that I have given you the wrong information by saying that the results should have been here a quarter of an hour ago. The message now is that there are still ten more minutes to wait.

Thank you very much for your applause, but I'm afraid it won't help to make the tellers work more quickly. We still have no messages as to what the difficulty is, and again I can only regret that this kind of procedure, which has a very long tradition in our Movement, is working out this way. Of course, there have never before been so many delegations to be counted and votes to be looked through, but I totally agree with you that it is really not an acceptable procedure.

(*Applause*)

But at this point, be calm, too, and think about it.

(*Pause*)

Thank you for the applause, but what has arrived is the new ballots and not the results of the tellers.

(Pause)

I believe in Santa Claus too, but I am a little bit more hesitant right now.

(Pause)

We have been discussing among ourselves whether there is going to be a second ballot, and looking into possibilities. In my opinion it is very probable that we have to have a second ballot. We then discussed how to speed up the procedure to maintain the secret ballot while saving as much time as we can. Through a relatively lively discussion, as you may have seen from the body language, we have come to a conclusion which we would like to present to the Conference to see whether it would be accepted, because it would not be absolutely in accordance with the Rules.

Amb. J.-D. BIÉLER (Secretary-General) (*Original French*):

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. With your permission, I would like to propose the following system: we could set up a table here at the foot of the rostrum with a chair facing towards us. On the right, two members of the Secretariat would sit at the end of the table, with a teller to check voters. The actual ballot box in which the ballots will be inserted would be placed at the other end of the table. The procedure would then be as follows: the Assistant Secretary-General would call the National Societies and governments together by country one after the other.

(Applause)

The National Societies and governments would come forward to be checked against the official list of voters. Once they have been checked, one after the other and as quickly as possible, they would come to this table, turning their back to the meeting, to fill in their ballots. They would then fold their ballots. Nobody would see them. And we may assure you that neither the Chairwoman nor anyone else on the rostrum would lean over to see how they are voting. Having voted and folded their ballots, voters will then move to the ballot box, where they will be checked once again by a member of the Secretariat and a teller, after which they may deposit their ballots in the ballot box. When the ground floor has finished, I would propose we proceed in the same way on the upper floor, where we would set up a table and use the same system, so that we may eventually all happily leave this room, hopefully before daybreak tomorrow.

(Applause)

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

I can hear from the applause that the Conference responds favourably to this new suggestion, which is not totally in accordance with the basic idea of the second ballot. Does anybody disagree with the solution proposed by the Commissioner? I take it that it has been accepted by the Conference.

(Applause)

There was a suggestion also that the wonderful choir from Latin America, which sang in the hall yesterday, could have a rehearsal in the meantime, to pass the time.

Amb. J. LEMA PATIÑO (Bolivia) (*Original Spanish*):

The procedure which has just been described is based on the assumption that none of the candidates obtaining the least number of votes will withdraw their names from the list. It is possible, however, that those candidates might actually withdraw their names and it is even possible that there might

be only five candidates left. If the losing candidates do withdraw, and if this is agreed on before the voting takes place, the procedure would be much simpler. This is a possibility which you did not mention. The other possibility is that, if a second ballot is necessary, an interval be provided during which delegations could exchange views regarding that ballot. Indeed, it would not be possible to proceed directly without some discussion and agreement on the reallocation of votes in view of the second ballot.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

Finally, we have the results of the first ballot. As you know, 299 ballots were distributed. A total of 289 votes were cast. There were no invalid votes, which means that the absolute majority is 145 votes. Four candidates have been elected by an absolute majority. Princess Margriet of the Netherlands has received 219 votes (*Applause*). Ms Christina Magnuson has received 173 votes (*Applause*). Dr Guillermo Rueda Montaña has received 162 votes (*Applause*). Mr Tadateru Konoe has received 161 votes (*Applause*).

We warmly congratulate the successful candidates (*Applause*). The other results are as follows:

Lady Sylvia Limerick: 111 votes  
Mr Darrell D. Jones: 91 votes  
Gen. Georges Harrouk: 82 votes  
Dr Byron Reuben Hove: 74 votes  
Dr Ebraheem M.H. Behbehani: 68 votes  
Prof. Mamoun Yousif Hamid: 61 votes  
Mr William A.E. Mboumoua: 39 votes  
Ms Ayodele Akiwumi: 26 votes  
Prof. Emíla Kováčová: 7 votes

## SECOND ROUND OF THE ELECTION

A second ballot would therefore be necessary to elect the fifth and last member of the Standing Commission. We already have four outstanding members. The fifth person is still to be elected. I would now like to ask whether any of the candidates would like to withdraw from the election procedure in the second ballot or would all of you like to go on for the second ballot?

There is somebody waiting on the upper floor but we can not yet see the name. — Slovakia.

Dr DOBIAS (Slovak Red Cross Society) (*Original English*):

I am very sorry that Prof. Kováčová, who intended to stand for election as a member of the Standing Commission, is not here. The President of the Slovak Red Cross, who is on my left, has proposed withdrawing her candidacy. If it were possible in her absence, we would do so. I am very sorry that Prof. Kováčová is not here. She had to leave Geneva very urgently. But I repeat, if the President of the Red Cross which proposed this candidacy could withdraw it, we would do so to facilitate a consensus on the fifth candidate.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

I know that anybody can propose a candidate, but I think that only the candidate herself or himself can withdraw. But I will give the floor to the Legal Adviser, who would be better able to advise on that. Would anybody else or the other candidates like to make a statement right now to the effect that he or she would like to withdraw? Would they like perhaps to have five minutes for consideration?

So, as decided by the Conference, we now go on with the second ballot. We have decided so far that since we have not received any message from Prof. Kováčová herself, she is still a valid candidate for the second ballot.



Mr A. K. BOUH (Red Crescent Society of Djibouti) (*Original French*):

I propose that the remaining candidates should try to reach some sort of agreement. This would be a means of saving time.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

This has been discussed on the podium, but we think that the most time-consuming procedure is the casting of the votes, so we shall go on with the voting right now.

Botswana asked for the floor.

Lady R. KHAMA (Botswana Red Cross) (*Original English*):

Seeing that we now have to elect only one person, does that mean that we just nominate one person?

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

That is what Mr Olivier Dürr is now going to explain to you. I give him the floor.

(*Pause*)

Mr A. K. BOUH (Red Crescent Society of Djibouti) (*Original French*):

Madam Chairwoman, we request a ten-minute adjournment to ensure that the principle of fair geographical distribution is respected for Africa. Speaking as an African country, I would like to say that we need to exchange views for ten minutes and that the meeting must therefore be adjourned.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

I think it is within my power to accept that, so we adjourn for ten minutes but not more. Then the election procedure starts.

If the African governments would please convene here in the back of this hall, on the lower floor, you will find your colleagues and friends discussing what to do right now. So if you are from the upper floor, representing African countries, come down to the lower floor and meet with your colleagues at the back of this room.

Could Sudan please come down from the upper floor to discuss with their African colleagues what action to take before the second ballot?

We have taken note that Lady Limerick would like to speak when the meeting starts again, but it has not yet resumed. This is an interlude.

(*Pause*)

Now let us continue.

As you may have observed, there have been some consultations in the meantime. The representative from Kuwait, Mr Ebraheem Behbehani, has withdrawn his candidacy.

(*Applause*)

The representative from Cameroon, Mr William A.E. Mboumoua, has also withdrawn his candidacy.

(*Applause*)

Two candidates have asked for the floor.

Mr D. JONES (Canadian Red Cross Society) (*Original English*):

As you know, I have a long association with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. My interest in presenting my candidacy for the Standing Commission was to further the aims and values of the Movement. I believe, however, that we will have a strong Movement by supporting the principle of fair geographical distribution. In the light of the results of the first ballot, I am concerned that this principle may be in

jeopardy. For that reason, I withdraw my candidacy, and would encourage all delegations to consider regional representation very carefully in the next ballot.

(*Applause*)

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

Thank you very much, Mr Jones. I give the floor to Lady Limerick.

Lady LIMERICK (British Red Cross) (*Original English*):

There are two excellent candidates elected from Europe whom I congratulate warmly. In the interest of fair geographical distribution and to make way for candidates from a region not yet represented, I withdraw. I would like to say, however, that I will continue to give all my support to the Movement and I thank all those who kindly voted for me.

(*Applause*)

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

That leaves us so far with the present list. We have as candidates for the second ballot: Ms Ayodele Akiwumi from the Ghana Red Cross Society, Prof. Mamoun Yousif Hamid from the Sudanese Red Crescent, General Georges Harrouk from the Lebanese Red Cross Society, Dr Byron Reuben Hove from the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, and we still have Prof. Emila Kováčová from the Slovak Red Cross.

That means that these five candidates are now on the ballot. And since we shall now be following the brand-new procedure of the new election process, I give the floor first to the Commissioner.

Amb. J.-D. BIÉLER (Secretary-General) (*Original French*):

I should like to run through the procedure we are about to follow, which will be relatively simple. I would first remind you that each delegate must vote for one candidate only. When the delegates are called by country, that is, first the National Society and then the State of each country, delegates will please rise and move to the right of the room (the left from where you are sitting), then proceed to the back of the room, where they will show their badges and where they will receive a ballot. They may then return to their seats, if they so wish, or stand at the tables if they prefer, and vote. They will indicate the candidate of their choice with a single cross and move on to the other side of the room, still at the back, where they will again show their badges and drop their ballots in the ballot box, with tellers supervising the beginning and end of the voting procedure. This is for the lower floor. For the upper floor, delegates are asked to descend on their left, that is on the right from where we are sitting, and approach the person who is standing at the table. They will show their badges there and will receive a ballot. They will then proceed to the tables along the wall between us, where some pens have been provided to mark the ballots. Once they have filled in their ballots, the delegates will go to the right of the room (the left from where we are sitting), where they will find the ballot box. As on the lower floor, the voting will be supervised by two tellers, one at the beginning and one at the end of the procedure. At the places set aside on both floors for voting you will see two signs indicating "National Societies" and "Government". This is simply to indicate where National Society delegates may vote and where the members of governments may vote. Delegates may of course enter a cross on their ballots as they proceed round the room, if they so wish.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

Before starting to call you to the urns, I think I can foresee that quite a number of delegates are planning to leave the

premises after giving their votes without waiting for the results. Therefore, while the audience is still so complete, I would like to say that the delay we had was in no way due to any fault of the tellers. It is simply that this procedure of counting by hand takes time. It is an old-fashioned procedure, I think it is a kind of procedure that paved the way for the industrial revolution. So, I would just like to state that the tellers have been working very hard and not making any mistakes. It simply took that amount of time. I would also like to thank our tellers most wholeheartedly for the very heavy chore that they have carried out.

*(Applause)*

Mr O. DÜRR (Assistant Secretary-General) *(Original French)*:

In this simplified form which you have accepted, I shall begin with the letter A.

*(Roll call of all delegations)*

We have now finished the list of Societies and States. I shall now call the ICRC and the International Federation.

Is there any member of the Conference, whether Society, government, ICRC or International Federation, which has not voted?

Evidently not. Then the second round of voting is complete and I return the floor to the Chairwoman.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) *(Original English)*:

Bravo. I think we have invented a new election procedure that seems to have been most efficient, and I also think that it is typical of the Red Cross and Red Crescent that they improvise out in the field. Before adjourning the meeting, I would like to remind you that the Conference has by no means ended. We still have the reports of the Commissions, and not least we have to adopt the resolutions that have been drawn up. So we shall start tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock as usual. The tellers are now going to work. I can not foresee how long that is going to take, but we can promise you that we will make a call over the loudspeaker when we are ready to

meet again to have the results of the second ballot. The meeting is adjourned. Thank you for your patience and for your high spirits.

*(Pause)*

I call to the meeting the survivors of the election procedure. We now know the results of the second ballot. To start with the number of votes cast, 254 ballots were distributed, 251 were collected and two of these were blanks. So we were left with 249. There is no absolute majority, but there is a relative majority according to the rules for the second ballot. Thus the results of these elections were as follows:

Dr Byron Reuben Hove got 123 votes.

*(Applause)*

We can congratulate Dr Hove on being elected as a member of the Standing Commission.

*(Applause)*

General Georges Harrouk received 68 votes, Prof. Mamoun Yousif Hamid 40, Ms Ayodele Akiwumi 13, and Prof. Emila Kováčová 4 votes.

*(Applause)*

So we now have a new Standing Commission.

*(Applause)*

I can only say a few very brief words to thank the members of the previous Commission for their work. It should really be a long speech in their favour, but that has to wait until a later occasion. I have a message for the new members of the Standing Commission namely, that you are invited to convene for your first meeting tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock with the new Chairperson and the new Vice-Chairperson. And that means, Ladies and Gentlemen, that this meeting actually has brought its very important work to an end. Thank you very much.

*(Applause)*

*(End of the Second Plenary Meeting at 11.45 p.m.)*

### 3.6 THIRD PLENARY MEETING

7 December 1995

9.25 a.m.

#### SUMMARY: Report of Commission I — Report of Commission II

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

We are now opening the last meeting of the Conference. Many people are interested to know what the timetable of today's agenda is going to be. To be able to adopt the resolutions, which is a major point of our agenda today, we depend upon agreement in the Drafting Committee. It is still working, and it is working hard. There are not many items left but, as you all know, the last items are the hard stone of the rock and very crucial points to be solved. As we cannot foresee when that will be accomplished, I propose a tentative agenda for today. That means that we shall start now with the reports from the Commissions. These reports are going to be general summaries. Each of the people who took the floor in the commissions are therefore not likely to find their words exactly quoted, because the reports give only the general lines of the discussions. As they are also regarded as introductory remarks to the resolutions, they will not be discussed, and comments on them today in the plenary will be made after the resolutions. Similarly, since the resolutions are omnibus resolutions, any comments that people would like to make after their adoption would be at the very end of the presentation of the resolutions.

There are three main items on today's agenda. The first, as I mentioned, are the reports of Commission I and Commission II. The written report of Commission I has been prepared already and is available. The written report of Commission II is being prepared and it will be available very soon, but even if the written reports are not yet here, I think we can have the oral report from the Rapporteurs.

The second item on our agenda is the adoption of the resolutions, which in terms of decisions, is the most important part of today's agenda. The third point relates very briefly to the date and place of the 27th International Conference.

Before giving the floor to the Rapporteur of Commission I, I would also like to remind you that we elected the new members of the Standing Commission yesterday and that it is my duty as Chairwoman of the Conference to convene this Standing Commission for its very first meeting, so as to enable them to elect the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson. As they have to be convened at 10 o'clock, my place here will be taken over by one of the Vice-Presidents, Mr Ennaceur, for the time I have to be away from the rostrum.

We will now start with the report from Commission I. I invite the Chairman of the Commission, Ambassador Owada, the Vice-Chairman, Mr Carmona Jiménez, and the Rapporteur, Professor Carrilho Ribeiro, to join us on the podium.

#### REPORT OF COMMISSION I

Amb. H. OWADA (Chairman of Commission I)  
(*Original English*):

Distinguished Delegates, Commission I was charged with the task of dealing with three items on the agenda: agenda item 2, International humanitarian law, from law to action — report on the follow-up to the International Conference on the Protection of War Victims; agenda item 3, Protection of the civilian population in wartime; and agenda item 4, Other business.

Commission I had four sessions starting in the afternoon of Monday, 4 December and concluding its work on Wednesday morning, 6 December. The report of the Commission has been prepared on the basis of these discussions by the Rapporteur of Commission I, Prof. José Manuel Carrilho Ribeiro. I now ask him to present the report.

Prof. J. M. CARRILHO RIBEIRO (Rapporteur of Commission I) (*Original French*):

Madam Chairwoman of the Conference, Mr Chairman of the Standing Commission, Mr President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Mr Chairman of Commission I, Government Representatives, dear friends of the National Societies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my duty as rapporteur to present the report of Commission I to the plenary. First of all, I would like to thank you for the honour you have done me and the Portuguese Red Cross in appointing me as Rapporteur. We have tried to do our best in this highly meticulous and professional atmosphere leading up to the Conference, to which I can personally bear witness. The Bureau as a whole, the ICRC, the International Federation and the National Societies deserve every success. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to my secretariat team for their hard work, and a general thank you to you all.

Report of Commission I: War victims and respect for international humanitarian law.

I. The election of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur was unanimously approved by the Commission, which met from 4 to 6 December 1995, as the Chairman said. The Commission elected the following presiding officers:

Chairman: Ambassador Hisashi Owada, Permanent Representative of Japan in New York

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr Miguel Carmona Jiménez,

President of the Costa Rica Red Cross

Mr Tichaona Joseph B. Jokonya,

Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe in Geneva

Rapporteur:

Prof. José Manuel Carrilho Ribeiro,

President of the Portuguese Red Cross

Ms Denise Plattner (ICRC),

Mr Luis Luna (International Federation),

Mr Ameer Zemmali (ICRC) and

Mr John Humphreys (International Federation)

were appointed as assistants to the Rapporteur.

In his opening statement, Ambassador Hisashi Owada pointed out that in the fifty years which had elapsed since the end of the Second World War there had been a proliferation of armed conflicts on every continent. As a result it had become a matter of utmost urgency for the international community to deal with the question of how to provide maximum protection to the civilian

population in times of armed conflict. Commission I should therefore focus, in accordance with its mandate and in a constructive spirit, on improving the tragic plight of war victims.

The Chairman of Commission I then gave the floor to the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims, whose statement is summarized in paragraph IV (A) below.

II. Statement by a representative of the ICRC

Mr Pierre Keller, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, began by saying that as events since the 1993 International Conference for the Protection of War Victims had shown, the problems identified on that occasion were far from being resolved. For their part, the ICRC and all the components of the Movement stood ready to honour the various mandates which had been and would be entrusted to them, in particular that of substantially strengthening the ICRC's advisory services with a view to helping States implement international humanitarian law at national level and promoting exchanges and dialogue in that area; that of stepping up efforts to enhance awareness of the law; and that of examining measures to ensure full compliance with its provisions, especially with regard to the protection of women, children, refugees and displaced persons and in conflicts without any clear structure.

The second item on the Commission's agenda dealt with the most crucial issues currently facing the ICRC. The plight of the civilian population in war-torn areas had worsened considerably, resulting in a sharp rise in the numbers of victims. It was therefore imperative for the Conference to stress that under international humanitarian law the civilian population must be protected against acts of war, and strongly to reaffirm that civilians in need must be able to receive impartial humanitarian assistance.

III. Statement by a representative of the International Federation

Professor Mamoun Yousif Hamid, President of the Sudanese Red Crescent, speaking in his capacity as Vice-President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, stressed that the public expected the International Conference to take decisive measures to alleviate the suffering of war victims, in particular civilians. With regard to item 2 of the Commission's agenda, the International Federation intended to develop as fully as possible the National Societies' potential for the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

The dissemination of that law was also relevant to agenda item 3. Family reunification was another source of concern to the Movement. As for anti-personnel mines, the International Federation's representative felt that the only satisfactory solution would be a total ban.

IV. Discussion on agenda items 2, 3 and 4

Following these statements, the Chairman of Commission I opened the discussion. Comments on agenda item 2, "International humanitarian law: from law to action — report on the follow-up to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims", are summarized in paragraph A (b) below. Those on agenda item 3, "Protection of the civilian population in wartime", are summarized in paragraph B below. Agenda item 4 is dealt with in paragraph C.

- A. International humanitarian law: from law to action — report on the follow-up to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims
- a. Statement by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims

Mr Lucius Caflisch, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims, began by recalling that the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, which had been held from 30 August to 1 September 1993, had requested the Swiss government "to convene an open-ended intergovernmental group of experts to study practical means of promoting full respect for and compliance with international humanitarian law, and pointed out that the eight recommendations submitted to the present Conference (95/C.1/2/1) were essentially pragmatic in nature.

He then reviewed the recommendations, saying that they were all timely, realistic and significant. He referred in particular to the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, the dissemination of international humanitarian law, which was a priority task, the creation of interministerial committees for the implementation of humanitarian law at the national level, and lastly the exchange of information on national measures to that effect.

He concluded by noting that the recommendations of the Group of Experts were based on a consensus reached by 108 participating countries and expressed his warmest gratitude to Ambassador Philippe Kirsch, to whom the success of the Group's meeting had been due in large part.

b. Discussions

Thanks were extended to the Swiss government for having organized not only the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent but also the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, held in Geneva from 30 August to 1 September 1993.

The delegations expressed overall support for the recommendations prepared by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts. Some supported them in general terms, while others commented on one or more of their aspects. A few delegations would have liked them to go further, particularly with regard to the proposals submitted to the Group following the preparatory meeting in 1994. One delegation, however, observed that they were not as modest as they might appear at first sight and that they represented a foundation on which it would be possible to build. In any event, recommendations which failed to obtain a sufficiently broad international consensus would have had limited political and practical scope. Lastly, a very large number of delegations drew attention to the paramount importance of preventing violations of humanitarian law.

Several delegations mentioned that their governments would be or already were instituting the procedures required for their countries to become party to the instruments additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, namely, Protocols I and II of 1977.

Representatives of States which had accepted the mandatory competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, within the meaning of Article 90 of Additional Protocol I, spoke on that subject. One

delegate in particular expressed strong support for the Commission's endeavours to persuade more countries to accept its competence.

With regard to Recommendation II of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, it was pointed out that very substantial efforts had been made since the middle of the nineteenth century to codify humanitarian law, which now consisted of written rules — that is to say international treaties — that were binding upon the States Parties. Customary law ought to be sought in the actual practices of States and in what was known as *opinio juris*, or the sentiment that the State must have of being legally bound.

Many delegations noted that most current armed conflicts were non-international. Emphasis was placed several times on the crucial need to comply with the fundamental rules of humanitarian law, which had become part and parcel of universally applicable international customary law. International humanitarian law was to be considered not as a recent phenomenon but as the incarnation and expression of age-old universal values. One delegate pointed out, however, that a clear distinction should be drawn between international and non-international armed conflicts.

In one statement, reference was made to the important part that the ICRC, together with government experts, could play in identifying customary rules applicable in internal armed conflicts, particularly with regard to the conduct of hostilities and the protection of the environment.

A very large number of delegates emphasized the imperative need for the dissemination of humanitarian law. Many of them described the measures they were taking in that regard, such as raising awareness of its rules among the armed forces or other forces that might be involved in combat, preparing military manuals or educational material, and establishing centres for the dissemination of humanitarian law. Some National Societies observed that spreading knowledge of humanitarian law was one of their main concerns. Frequent mention was made of the fact that dissemination programmes should also be directed towards informing young people about the principles of humanitarian law.

It was noted that humanitarian law advisory services should not be confined to a few countries or to specific geographical areas, but should cover all countries of the world without distinction. Reference was made to the important role played by such services in promoting humanitarian law. The ICRC's commitment to advisory services was commended in several statements.

Recommendation IV of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts was also favourably received by the delegates, who expressed support for the series of measures designed to foster the dissemination and teaching of humanitarian law. One delegate said that since 1989 military personnel taking the oath in his country undertook to respect the law of war and humanitarian law. Another speaker said that a special section of training courses and manuals used by members of the peace-keeping forces was devoted to applying rules concerning the rights of the person. In some statements, mention was made of military manuals in the process of being prepared.

The establishment of national committees to deal with the adoption of domestic measures for implementing humanitarian law was also mentioned in the statements.

An observer pointed out that interministerial committees specifically mandated to study the adaptation of domestic legislation to humanitarian law and comprising representatives of all sectors of the administration involved in the implementation of humanitarian law could play a key role in promoting that law.

A number of statements contained interesting details on the exchange of information relating to the implementation of humanitarian law, in some cases echoing aspects dealt with in Recommendations III and IV of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts. One delegate announced that the authorities of his country were in the process of drawing up a law on war crimes for incorporation in the body of national legislation. Another reported that the text of the Geneva Conventions and the Protocols additional thereto had been officially republished. The usefulness of exchanging information on the status of humanitarian law in the various bodies of national law was generally acknowledged. An observer stressed how important it was for the rules of humanitarian law to be incorporated in penal codes, both civil and military. Two delegates expressed the view that reports on national measures for disseminating and implementing humanitarian law should be studied by an impartial body such as a committee of experts.

A very large number of delegations favoured the establishment of an international criminal court, while reaffirming their support for the international tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. One delegate further reaffirmed the need for States to strengthen legal cooperation in order to secure the smooth functioning of the system of universal jurisdiction obliging States to search for, prosecute, try and, as appropriate, extradite persons having committed war crimes or having ordered such acts to be committed.

Many delegates who raised the question of the periodical meetings mentioned in Recommendation VII of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts declared themselves in favour of the principle of such meetings. However, they pointed out that those meetings should in no event be substituted for the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Several delegates referred to various aspects of Recommendation VIII. One viewed respect for international law as the best means of resolving the humanitarian problems created by armed conflicts. Another noted that humanitarian operations should be carried out in accordance with the principles of neutrality and impartiality. The importance of conflict prevention was also raised.

## B. Protection of the civilian population in times of armed conflict

### a. General comments

The representatives of governments, National Societies and various international bodies were unanimous in strongly condemning violations of the rules of international humanitarian law protecting the civilian population. Most of the delegates mentioned intolerable acts committed against civilians in certain recent conflicts, including torture, "ethnic cleansing", sexual assault, the taking of hostages and forced displacement. A number of speakers underscored the substantial discrepancy between existing humanitarian provisions and the reality of abominable acts perpetrated against civilians

and other victims, denouncing the lack of political determination to fulfil commitments undertaken.

Several speakers called for the adoption of adequate measures to put an end to violations of humanitarian law affecting civilians, and for greater support for the ICRC, the National Societies and their International Federation and other humanitarian organizations in their efforts to provide protection for the civilian population.

With regard to the situation of the most vulnerable population groups in times of armed conflict, speakers placed special emphasis on the plight of women and children.

#### b. Protection of women

The delegates who addressed the above topic stressed three main aspects: the need to condemn in the strongest terms all acts of violence committed against women (especially rape), the need to repress such acts and the need for measures to alleviate the suffering endured by the victims.

Considering that rape constituted a war crime, and in some circumstances, as stated by one delegate, a crime against humanity, various speakers called for rape to be firmly repressed, in accordance with the obligations laid down in international humanitarian law.

Delegates also underscored the need for measures to ensure that the crime of rape, qualified as "a dire threat to international humanitarian law", did not go unpunished.

Some delegates suggested specific measures to provide assistance to women who had been the victims of sexual assault. Psychological and moral support were among the first steps to be taken in that respect, and National Societies were called on to play a part in providing such support.

#### c. Protection of children

Stressing the serious nature of violations committed against children in current conflicts, and strongly condemning such acts, delegates drew special attention to two points, namely, the age at which children were recruited and the measures to be taken to prevent their active participation in hostilities.

A number of delegates pointed out that the minimum age permitted under international humanitarian law for the recruitment of children into the armed forces, namely fifteen, was frequently not respected. Furthermore, at that age a child's mental and physical abilities did not enable it to discern to any satisfactory degree the danger which its participation in fighting represented for itself and its victims. Several speakers therefore proposed that the minimum age for the enrolment or recruitment of children should be raised to eighteen.

Several delegates called for the formal prohibition of children's participation in hostilities, arguing that such a step would be the most effective means of limiting the dangers to which they were exposed in times of armed conflict.

A number of delegates stressed the importance of programmes to help children return to a normal life and of preventive measures to be taken in peacetime.

#### d. Family reunification

Referring to the situations in their own countries or regions, several delegates mentioned the tragic effects of

war on families, in particular the pain of brutal separation and the anxiety and uncertainty brought on by the absence of news from relatives and the lack of any means of registering information concerning them. In many situations the number of people affected was in the millions, and psychologically and humanely intolerable situations sometimes dragged on for decades.

The delegates who raised the problem called on governments to do everything possible to smooth the way for family reunification, to facilitate the efforts of qualified humanitarian organizations to trace missing people and to guarantee the right of all people to be informed of the fate of their relatives. Emphasis was also placed on the importance of notifying those entitled to such information.

#### e. Famine and war

Several speakers condemned the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare. They noted that it impaired the protection of civilians and was a breach of their right to humanitarian assistance. They fully endorsed the recommendations contained in the ICRC report and the draft resolution.

#### f. Water and war

Putting forward the same arguments as those used for the previous point, several delegations drew the Commission's attention to the effects of armed conflict on water. It was recalled that the destruction of water installations or water distribution systems had direct and long-term repercussions on the health of the civilian population and public hygiene, causing illnesses and epidemics. The speakers considered that the ideas expressed in the ICRC report and reflected in the draft resolution were appropriate.

#### g. Anti-personnel mines and blinding weapons

This subject predominated in the Commission's discussions, and all delegations that took the floor noted the dangers for civilian populations of the use of anti-personnel mines.

Recalling the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and the extent of the human and material damage caused by anti-personnel mines, which struck indiscriminately, the representatives of National Societies called for a total ban on their production, stockpiling, export and use.

Some government delegations regretted the failure of the Vienna Review Conference (September-October 1995) of the 1980 UN Convention to reach a total ban on anti-personnel mines. Others noted that the Review Conference had adopted a Fourth Protocol banning the use of laser weapons and that future work might lead to further improvements. A moratorium on the export of mines was proposed by a number of delegations, one of which asked that the necessary technology for mine clearance be transferred to countries needing it. Several delegates referred to their countries' experience in mine clearance on their own territory or abroad.

Lastly, some government delegates proposed the improvement of Protocol II to the 1980 Convention and its extension to non-international armed conflicts.

In referring to this subject, several representatives of governments, National Societies and international bodies stated that they were in favour of a total ban on nuclear weapons, since these were weapons of mass destruction.

## C. Any other business

A number of representatives of governments and concerned international bodies pointed to the importance of the *San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea* (adopted in 1994 under the auspices of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law of San Remo), noting that it reproduced the relevant customary rules. They expressed the hope that the *Manual* would be widely circulated and applied so that it would contribute to the protection of civilians and other victims of war at sea.

## V. Final statements by the representatives of the ICRC and the International Federation

Before bringing the work of Commission I to a close, the Chairman invited the representatives of the ICRC and the International Federation to make their final statements.

Mr Keller, Vice-President of the ICRC, expressed satisfaction at the atmosphere in which the Commission's work had been carried out and welcomed the information from participants on activities in their countries to implement and spread knowledge of international humanitarian law. He noted with satisfaction the ideas, proposals and remarks on the main subjects discussed, namely: the follow-up to the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, the protection of the civilian population as a whole, the plight of women and children in armed conflicts, and the attitude towards anti-personnel mines.

The Vice-President of the ICRC promised that the institution would strive to ensure effective implementation of the resolutions that were adopted.

On the International Federation's behalf, Mr Davey, Under-Secretary-General, expressed his satisfaction at the spirit in which the Commission's work had been conducted. He stressed the consequences of armed conflicts, even after the re-establishment of peace, referring in particular to the trauma caused to women and children and the dangerous residues of war, such as anti-personnel mines and light weapons. He called for the rebuilding of humanitarian values and added that, in close cooperation with the ICRC, the International Federation would help National Societies to solve the problems facing them. Furthermore, all the Movement's components should not only deal with emergencies but should also prepare for preventive action and disseminate the principles of the Movement. The International Federation would play its role actively and to the full to ensure that the resolutions adopted by the 26th Conference were applied and given practical effect with the assistance of all.

(Applause)

Amb. M. ENNACEUR (Vice-Chairman) (*Original French*):

I would like to thank the Rapporteur, Mr José Manuel Carrilho Ribeiro, for his excellent work and for the report he has just presented. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the Commission, Ambassador Owada, and its two Vice-Chairmen, Mr Jiménez and Mr Jokonya, for the remarkable way they conducted Commission I's proceedings. By your applause you have clearly expressed your interest in the report, which provides an introduction to the resolutions which will be submitted to you once they have been prepared by the Drafting Committee. I might mention that the report was prepared under the responsibility of the Rapporteur alone. Before giving the floor to the Rapporteur of

Commission II, I would remind you that the Bureau has decided to exclude cameramen and photographers in order to avoid disturbing the Conference's proceedings. At this point, however, if you have no objection, we might admit the photographers, though not film cameras, for a few minutes before resuming our proceedings. You may therefore let them come in for a couple of minutes, with the Assembly's permission of course, after which we shall go on to consider the report of Commission II.

(Pause)

Ladies and Gentlemen, we may resume our proceedings, now that the journalists have done their work, which we respect and which we should help and encourage. I should like once again to thank Ambassador Owada, the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur of Commission I on your behalf for their excellent work. I would now ask the Chairman of Commission II, Mr Diagne, the two Vice-Chairmen of that Commission and the Rapporteur, Mr Yambao, to come to the rostrum. Will Mr Yambao please present Commission II's report.

Mr Diagne will give a brief introduction, after which Mr Yambao will present the report in more detail.

## REPORT OF COMMISSION II

Mr O. DIAGNE (Chairman of Commission II) (*Original French*):

Mr Chairman, I think I can say that, when we arrived in Geneva, most of us were torn between a feeling of happiness and one of anxiety. We were happy at last to see the International Conference meeting after nine years of uncertainty, but we were also concerned about the turn the Conference might take. At the very first plenary meeting, however, once we had heard the statement by the Chairwoman of the Conference and the speeches by the President of the International Federation and the President of the ICRC, these concerns were largely dispelled. It was in the meetings of the Commissions, however, that we began to feel completely sure that we were heading for a successful Conference. I have kept my colleague in Commission I regularly informed about our work, the enthusiasm of participants, the very substantive nature of the statements made, in other words the highly conscientious attitude adopted by all those who had agreed to take part in the Conference's work.

As Madam Chairwoman said, the Commissions' reports in effect had to be conceived as no more than a kind of introduction to the important resolutions we shall be considering shortly. In other words, they could provide only a summary presentation, but as everyone knows it is much more difficult to prepare a summary than a full report. This means that the Rapporteur for Commission II, as well as the Rapporteur for Commission I, had to show a great sense of analysis and conciseness. Our Rapporteur will now present the results of this work, which we trust you will receive in good spirit.

(Applause)

Amb. M. ENNACEUR (Vice-Chairman) (*Original French*):

I would like to thank Mr Diagne for his introduction. I now give the floor to Mr Yambao, Rapporteur, who will present the report of Commission II.

Mr J. YAMBAO (Rapporteur of Commission II) (*Original English*):

It is my great honour to report on the work of Commission II which had sessions in the afternoon of Monday, 4 December,

the morning and afternoon of Tuesday, 5 December, and the afternoon of Wednesday, 6 December. The officers of the Commission are:

Chairman:  
Mr Ousmane Diagne,  
President of the Senegalese Red Cross Society

Vice-Chairmen:  
Mr Kenneth Monplaisir,  
President of the Red Cross Society of Saint Lucia  
Amb Ludwik Dembinski,  
Permanent Representative of Poland in Geneva

Rapporteur:  
Mr Jaime Yambao,  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
of the Philippines in Geneva

After the elections by acclamation, the Commission immediately started its work. In his opening remarks, Mr Diagne reminded the Commission that statements would be made according to the speakers' list. Speakers were asked in their statements to address the two substantive items on the agenda. He stressed that speakers had been asked by the Chairwoman of the Conference not to speak for longer than five minutes, and asked that this be respected.

On the first item of the agenda, the Commission heard statements from the representatives of the International Federation and the ICRC.

Lady Limerick, speaking in her capacity as Vice-President of the International Federation, noted that the work of Commission II dealt with a broad panorama of humanitarian issues and practice. She briefly outlined the main issues covered in the two background papers.

Mr Roethlisberger, Vice-President of the ICRC, drew attention to the wide range of humanitarian concerns covered by this Commission.

Both stressed that it was vital that the actions of the Movement continue to be guided by its Fundamental Principles, particularly those of neutrality, impartiality and independence, and cited the importance of the Code of Conduct, which aims to reinforce the professionalism and credibility of humanitarian work. Both remarked that the Movement's capacity to assist and protect the most vulnerable was also an essential element of humanitarian action of the international community.

#### The Commission's substantive agenda

The body of this report is a summary of the main points made by delegations in Commission II relating to the subject of the Commission, "Humanitarian values and response to crisis," and to the substantive items on the agenda of the Commission, namely:

Item 2. Principles of and response in international humanitarian assistance and protection.

Item 3. Strengthening the Movement's capacity to assist and protect the most vulnerable groups.

#### General remarks

Many delegations cited the importance of the Red Cross Movement and the humanitarian values it represents. Four delegations from different continents mentioned the harmony between these values and traditional humanitarian values in their countries. A number of delegations paid tribute to the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the dedication of their members and volunteers, especially to those who had sacrificed their lives. Delegations

condemned the targeting of Movement personnel and called for greater security for them.

Several delegations cited the International Conference as a unique opportunity allowing governments and National Societies to speak on the same platform in the interests of civil society.

A number of delegations remarked that the world had seen a great number of changes since the last International Conference. Man-made and natural disasters had been on the increase. Nightmarish situations had developed in several parts of the world, of which the Commission heard an account from a number of delegations.

Many delegations mentioned the need to reaffirm the Fundamental Principles of the Movement. Several delegations cited the crucial role of education in the promotion of an international humanitarian culture. One delegation drew attention to the importance of the ethical and religious dimension to inspire respect for humanitarian values and solidarity with victims.

Many government delegations reaffirmed their support for the Movement. One government delegation announced a donation of about 3.5 million Swiss francs to help cover the ICRC's deficit and urged other governments to respond also. In order to reinforce the presence of international delegates in situations where breaches of international law might take place, one government delegation pledged a substantial additional amount.

#### Agenda item 2: Principles of and response in international humanitarian assistance and protection

A considerable number of delegations expressed support for the draft resolution under agenda item 2.

A number of representatives of governments and National Societies called attention to the dramatic increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons due to conflict and the number of countries affected by conflicts and other types of disasters. One government delegation called for a crisis strategy to deal with the problem, with all actions based on the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

Several delegations cited the primary responsibility of the government in the observance and implementation of international humanitarian law.

The importance of access for the various components of the Movement and other humanitarian agencies to victims, especially women and children, was emphasized by a number of delegations.

One delegation reaffirmed the principle of *non-refoulement* of refugees.

Several delegations underlined the burden borne in particular by refugee women, who were left to care for their families and were subject to various forms of abuse; the plight of children and the elderly was also stressed.

While calling on third-country governments to respond favourably to requests for asylum, delegations drew attention to the need to find solutions for the problems of refugees and displaced persons, including repatriation in appropriate cases.

Several delegations spoke of the need for cooperation and coordination among different agencies in addressing the needs and problems of refugees and displaced persons. The important role played by the Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on internally displaced persons was recorded. Another delegation said that the



ICRC's special mandate under the Geneva Conventions and their Protocols should in particular be respected.

Some delegations mentioned that States in disarray constitute a major new challenge for the international community.

One government delegation welcomed the ICRC's intention to organize a meeting on situations where State structures had disintegrated as a result of non-international armed conflict. However, another delegation felt this matter required further consideration and study.

A number of delegations mentioned the need for the elimination of landmines, which *inter alia* endangered returning refugees and displaced persons.

The subject of technological disasters was raised by a number of delegations. One National Society delegation recalled the Chernobyl disaster ten years ago and recounted the grave consequences on the health of two-thirds of the population in the area. The delegation thanked the international community for the assistance provided so far, but stressed the need for follow-up and further international assistance. Two National Society delegations suggested that the Movement and National Societies be more aware of the possibility of technological disasters, and while the primary responsibility for prevention, relief, and the rehabilitation of victims rested with the government, National Societies could contribute by establishing appropriate programmes. One delegation called for an end to the race to acquire various forms of weapons that could cause technological disasters.

With regard to the Principles and Rules for Disaster Relief, several delegations indicated their full support for the revised text drawn up by the International Federation. One National Society mentioned the need to clarify the Movement's relations with other agencies, including those of the United Nations, on the subject of disaster relief. Another National Society delegation cautioned that the proliferation of UN agencies and NGOs engaging in disaster relief operations could cause inefficiencies in the use of limited resources.

Several delegations spoke of the importance of building longer-term developmental perspectives into humanitarian assistance. A number of them called for the involvement of those affected and of local organizations because of the limitations of international interventions and the future preventive effect such involvement could have. The need for close collaboration among agencies to ensure an effective transition from relief to rehabilitation, as well as the efficient use of increasingly limited resources, was also mentioned.

A call was made for adequate funding of disaster preparedness programmes, including support for the training programmes of National Societies. One delegation asked international financial institutions to better adapt their support to the developmental relief needs of countries.

A large number of delegations welcomed the Code of Conduct promoting professional norms for relief organizations and focusing on the needs of victims. Delegations from governments and National Societies underscored the relevance of the Code to their humanitarian efforts. Reference was made to its usefulness in training aid workers.

One government delegation pointed out that the Code could be instrumental in reducing unnecessary friction between humanitarian and political players, and several National Societies said that it could facilitate dialogue with governments.

It was reported that the Code had gained support among NGOs in a number of countries.

One National Society delegation proposed that governments consider the Code as a guide in allocating resources for relief agencies.

Several delegations expressed concern about the humanitarian effects of economic sanctions, particularly on the most vulnerable. One government delegation described the magnitude of the suffering inflicted on such sections of the population in its targeted country. The National Society delegation of that country appealed to the Conference to assist the civilian population of countries under economic sanctions. Another delegation pointed out that adverse humanitarian consequences of sanctions were not limited to the target country but also affected neighbouring countries whose economies were closely linked to the former. An observer delegation appealed for particular attention to the effects on children.

One delegation spoke of the ultimate responsibility for the well-being of the civilian population as resting with the target government.

Several delegations spoke of the need to keep humanitarian action distinct and independent from political and military action. In the field, too close a relationship between political, military and humanitarian action can lead to humanitarian action being politicized and can jeopardize the Fundamental Principles and personnel of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

One government delegation asserted that political and humanitarian issues could not be easily separated from each other. Another pointed out that humanitarian action could not be a substitute for the necessary political action by governments and stressed the importance of political action to help prevent conflict and lessen the need for humanitarian assistance. A National Society delegation said that political and humanitarian actions could occur in parallel but not at the acute stages of an emergency.

A government delegation, supported by three delegations from other countries, proposed the establishment of a group of experts, both governmental and non-governmental, to draw up a set of recommendations for consideration at the next International Conference and giving clear guidance on how to separate humanitarian activities from political and military ones.

Agenda item 3: Strengthening the Movement's capacity to assist and protect the most vulnerable groups

A considerable number of delegations also expressed support for the draft resolution under agenda item 3.

A number of National Society delegations spoke of their programmes and activities to assist and protect vulnerable groups, and some of them from developing countries cited the increasingly inadequate resources at their disposal to address a widening array of needs and problems of these groups. One delegation pointed out that as auxiliaries to the government, National Societies not only play relief roles in times of emergencies but also render manifold social services in normal times. Several delegations mentioned their work in many new areas such as "street children," HIV/AIDS, new epidemics such as Ebola fever, and others.

National Society delegations called for increased support from the government and increased overseas assistance.

Some delegations touched on the role of National Societies as cost-effective service providers. One government delegation underscored the role of National Societies in disaster preparedness. Another spoke of the role of National Societies

in post-conflict situations involving the demobilization of combatants.

A number of delegations touched on the need to take innovative approaches because traditional responses were no longer adequate. A delegation called for the involvement of the vulnerable themselves in the solution of their problems.

One mentioned the need for National Societies to adapt their services to changing conditions such as taking into account ecological concerns.

Delegations spoke on creating a favourable operating environment for the Movement. National Society delegations called for governments to give their support by strengthening the legal bases for the work of National Societies.

A number of delegations reported on the enactment of new laws guaranteeing the independence of action by National Societies. Two government delegations mentioned the passage of a law on respect for the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem.

There were several appeals for funding support.

Delegations spoke on strengthening the network of National Societies. Two government delegations underlined the importance of supporting the International Federation's efforts in developing National Societies. Several delegations called for the strengthening of the organizational structure and activities of National Societies around the world.

Several delegations underscored the important complementarity of the National Societies' work and the support provided by sister Societies from the outside, particularly in times of disaster. They mentioned cooperation among National Societies within a region as an effective way of promoting a favourable environment for National Society development and responsiveness to the needs of vulnerable groups. Some delegations reported on their activities in this regard. Regional conferences could serve as important elements in ensuring commitment to joint plans and activities for strengthening the work of the Movement.

Several delegations called on strong National Societies to help the weak ones.

Several National Society delegations stated that the responsibility for strengthening the capacity of National Societies rested with the National Societies themselves.

The International Federation's institutional development programmes were welcomed by delegations. One National Society delegation said that the booklet "Characteristics of a Well-Functioning Society" promoted more transparent structures and functioning and enabled the government and the public to better understand the nature of a National Society.

The Chairman of the Commission then asked the International Federation and ICRC representatives to make their concluding remarks.

The International Federation representative thanked the Conference for the strong support and encouragement given to the whole Movement. He urged governments to provide the support that had been expressed for the development of National Societies. He was also encouraged by the commitment of governments to protect the integrity and independence of National Societies. The International Federation would do its utmost to promote the endorsement of the Code of Conduct by all humanitarian organizations in order to improve the overall quality of humanitarian assistance. The proposal by one government to establish an expert group on the separation of humanitarian and political and military

issues was strongly supported by the International Federation. In its future work the International Federation would give particular importance to working to improve the situation of the most vulnerable and promoting human dignity and the Red Cross and Red Crescent principles, as well as protecting the Movement's independence of action. Finally, he thanked the Chairman of the Commission for the manner in which he had presided over the meeting.

The ICRC representative also offered his thanks to the Chairman of the Commission for his chairmanship. He drew attention to the specific neutral role of the ICRC in conflicts and other situations of violence and the crucial role that the National Societies also play. He underscored the importance of support for National Societies as well as the need to avoid duplication among different organizations that should work in complementarity. He said that the ICRC was most willing to accept the offer of one government to create a group of experts for thought to be given, in cooperation with the International Federation, to the separation of humanitarian and political and military issues, and reminded the assembly of the paramount importance of dissemination of IHL. Finally, the ICRC shared concern about the effects of economic sanctions on the most vulnerable sections of the population.

In conclusion, the Chairman of the Commission thanked the delegations for the cooperation and support that they had extended to the chair.

As Rapporteur for Commission II, I would now like to express my appreciation here for the firm and fair stewardship of the Chairman and the cooperative spirit and discipline of the delegations. The Commission's proceedings proved to be an interesting and constructive exchange of experience and ideas, particularly on how the Movement will continue its missions of assistance to humanity in need, especially the vulnerable and the suffering. Thank you.

*(Applause)*

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) *(Original English)*:

I wish to thank you, Mr Yambao, as Rapporteur, for your outstanding work, and also the Chairman, Mr Diagne, and the Vice-Chairman, Mr Monplaisir, for the remarkable way in which they have conducted the Commission's discussions.

We have now taken note of the Commission's report. It was written under the personal responsibility of the Rapporteur and his team, who worked together so efficiently. So again, we want to thank you for your excellent work.

*(Applause)*

As you know, at the beginning of this Conference we agreed that we would not have cameras of any kind in our plenary sessions and Commissions because they tend to disturb our discussions. That has been fully respected by the journalists and by the camera people. We do want to have attention given to what we are doing, because we think it is important and therefore like having the journalists here. We should therefore allow a very limited time for the camera people because their work is more readily visible than that of the journalists. So, I ask the Conference to let the camera people now enter the hall again to have a chance to do their work just for a few minutes.

*(Applause)*

I shall meanwhile inform you of the further tentative agenda for today.

The Drafting Committee is still at work. The most optimistic scenario was that we would have the draft resolutions by now.

We could then have continued with them and completed this agenda item at an early hour.

Optimistic predictions normally do not materialize and that is also the case right now. Any of you who have taken part in negotiations knows that they can continue up to the last minute. But we do want to have good and sound resolutions as a result of this Conference, to use as guidelines for the future. So the meeting will probably be convened again at around two o'clock. The exact time will be announced over the loudspeakers. Again, I think it is really not up to me to make excuses for this kind of procedure, because it is a procedure that we have all adopted by consensus. In the meantime, let's stay on in the room and go on with our internal discussions until we get the signal from the camera people that they are satisfied. Thank you very much for your understanding.

The Secretary-General of the Conference asked me to mention also, as you have already seen on the board outside, that a brief press conference is planned for around three o'clock, depending on when the reports and resolutions are ready.

The final ceremony is not really a ceremony, it is more of a closing session during which we give the floor to the Chairwoman of the Conference and to the Chairwoman of the new Standing Commission to outline how they feel this Conference has gone and the main course to be followed for the next four years until the next Conference.

*(The Chairwoman closed the meeting after reading a few entertaining quotations).*

*(Applause)*

*(End of the Third Plenary Meeting at 10.50 a.m.)*



### 3.7 FINAL PLENARY MEETING

7 December 1995

14.35 p.m.

**SUMMARY:** Report of the Drafting Committee — Adoption of the resolutions and comments of participants — Date and place of the 27th International Conference.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends, I am very happy to welcome you back. It will be the last plenary meeting at this International Conference. We have allowed the press to be here just at the opening for the first two minutes, to take the shots that they need to have for the newspapers and their briefings to the rest of the world. After that they will be leaving this room and will be invited to come back for the closing ceremony. So I now ask the camera people to please say good bye and we shall welcome them back later.

The agenda for this final plenary has three items. The first is to adopt the resolutions. The second is actually very brief and has to do with the 27th International Conference, as already stated in this morning's plenary. And then we shall have the closing ceremony. So we are going to start with the discussion on the resolutions. Rather, the idea is that it will not really be a discussion. We have decided to proceed as follows. First the floor will be given to Ambassador Philippe Kirsch, who will go through the main points of the draft resolutions. There are, as you know, five in all. They have so many interrelated parts that it will be much more useful to describe the essence of the resolutions to give a general, comprehensive view of them. After that, we will invite the Conference to adopt them by consensus. The reason why I take the liberty to anticipate such a possibility, is that these resolutions have now really and miraculously been adopted by consensus in the Drafting Committees, working day and night. I don't know if sleep deprivation is an acceptable means of reaching consensus or whether this borders on terrorism or torture, but anyway they have been adopted as they now stand by the Drafting Committees. There would have to be something very exceptional for anybody to make an objection to them. According to our rules, it will be possible for people who want to make a very short comment on their position to do so after the resolutions have been adopted by consensus. At this late hour, I wouldn't say they will be invited to do so, but I would say it will be allowed, subject to a very strict time limit of a maximum of three minutes and preferably less than that. And I have a gavel!

So with these thoughts in mind, I have the great pleasure of giving the floor to the hero of the last few days. Philippe Kirsch, you have the floor.

(*Applause*)

#### REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Amb. Ph. KIRSCH (Chairman of the Drafting Committee) (*Original English*):

I hope that your ruling on three minutes will not apply to my statement. I was not prepared for that.

The Drafting Committee's task was to give expression to the great number of ideas and the concrete proposals put forward during the debates in Commissions I and II, and to reflect the commitments made by delegations in those commissions. The method followed by the Drafting Committee has been to work its way through the resolutions by systematically listening to all opinions on each section once, twice, and

sometimes three or more times, and trying to reach as near a consensus as possible in the plenary of the Drafting Committee before redrafting each resolution. Because of the workload and very tight schedule to which we had to work, I established a sub-group which was very competently chaired by Mr Carlton, the Vice-Chairman of the Drafting Committee and Secretary-General of the Australian Red Cross, to study the resolutions emerging from Commission II. This sub-group then brought the revised text back to the full meeting of the Drafting Committee for a final reading. All resolutions have been through three readings, each reading involving a period of discussion, a redrafting of the resolution text in a number of private consultations and a renewed presentation to the Drafting Committee. I should add that throughout this at times difficult and lengthy process there has been an excellent spirit of cooperation and willingness at all times to accommodate in order to produce a text which will be acceptable to all.

For the purposes of clarity, I perhaps should mention the documents that you have before you. For Commission I these are, PR/95/C.I/2/Rev.2, which concerns international humanitarian law, from law to action, and is a report on the follow-up to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims. You also have PR/95/C.I/3/Rev.2 on the protection of the civilian population in periods of armed conflict, and PR/95/C.I/4/Rev.2 on international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts at sea. Regarding Commission II, you have PR/95/C.II/2/Rev.3 (and for the French version/Rev.4) on principles and action in international humanitarian assistance and protection, and finally PR/95/C.II/3/Rev.2, on strengthening the national capacity to provide humanitarian and development assistance and protection to the most vulnerable.

I do not propose to give you a description of the full text of each draft now. I merely intend to focus on the major changes that have been made for the benefit of those who have not been able to follow the work of the Drafting Committee.

The first text to be presented relates to agenda item 2 of Commission I and is entitled "From Law to Action — Report on the follow-up to the International Conference for the protection of war victims". The Drafting Committee adopted this draft subject to relatively minor changes to the main operative parts of the text. These are: a commitment of states to respect and to ensure respect for international humanitarian law, an endorsement of the final declaration of the 1993 War Victims Conference and an endorsement of the recommendations drawn up by the intergovernmental group of experts. The Committee redrafted the reference to recommendation 7, which concerns periodical meetings of States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions to discuss general problems regarding international humanitarian law. The explanatory document of the Swiss authorities has been mentioned in the preambular paragraphs, and I should add on this point that it has been agreed that adoption of this first draft resolution would be supplemented by a statement to be made at this plenary meeting by the Swiss government delegation. The new draft also includes the "Martens clause" and a reminder of the importance of activities at the regional level.

I now turn to agenda item 3 of Commission I, protection of the civilian population in periods of armed conflict.

This is a particularly complex text which covers a number of different issues relating to the protection of the civilian population in armed conflicts. After prolonged and sometimes difficult negotiations, but always conducted in the spirit of compromise already mentioned, the Drafting Committee proposes a text which comprises the main points suggested in the first draft but has also undergone important changes. The main issues were the following: in the preambular paragraph, the paragraph on the prohibition of terrorism has been redrafted and a reference has been made to the obligation of protected objects belonging to the cultural or spiritual heritage of people and to the obligation to pay compensation in the event of violations of international humanitarian law.

In section A of the same draft resolution on the civilian population, several points have been added, such as the condemnation of systematic and massive killing of civilians, the need for clarifying international humanitarian law applicable to peace-keeping operations and in international enforcement actions, an appeal to respect minimum humanitarian standards in all circumstances and a reference to the role of civil defence organizations.

Still regarding the same resolution, section B on women has been strengthened by giving clear expression to the universal condemnation of all practices of sexual violence, in particular of rape, as an instrument of terror.

In section C on children, the Drafting Committee spent considerable time on the question of the age limit for arming children and finally reached a compromise on that question.

Some amendments were made to section D on reunification of families. The present text underlines the importance of the separation of families in war.

Section E on civilians affected by famine, now includes a strong condemnation of starvation of the civilian population as well as a reference to the provisions of international humanitarian law, which has clarified the conditions under which relief operations must be accepted. A new paragraph recalls the urgent necessity to maintain conditions enabling the civilian population to provide for its own needs.

The wording of section F on depriving the civilian population of water has been amended in minor ways only.

With respect to the difficult issues of anti-personnel landmines and blinding weapons, the subject of sections G and H of this draft resolution, the Drafting Committee established an informal working group under the chairmanship of the ICRC representative, Mr Pfanner, to work out an agreed text. After difficult negotiations, the group submitted an agreed draft proposal on both issues to the Committee, which after more lengthy discussions I seem to recall — it was fairly late last night — approved two texts without further amendments.

Next is the final item on Commission I's agenda, item 4 on international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts at sea. After some discussion, this draft resolution found general approval and no changes were made to its wording.

I now turn to Commission II, item 2, document C.II/2, where some changes were made. Several of them, which I shall not describe, improved the wording of these paragraphs. In terms of substance, I would perhaps mention that in preambular paragraph 5, a reference has been included to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. A new preambular paragraph 6 has been added reaffirming the principle of *non-refoulement*. The preambular

paragraph which previously recorded that the provision of humanitarian assistance does not affect the sovereignty of States has been removed, after a long discussion. A new preambular paragraph has been added, making reference to religious and ethical values, similar to the text adopted by the January 1995 intergovernmental group of experts meeting.

In section A on internally displaced persons and refugees, references to the 1951 Conventions relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol have been added, as well as a reference to the principle of *non-refoulement*.

Section F dealing with the humanitarian consequences of economic sanctions has been reworded in order to arrive at the text which is before you.

In section G, an important change has been made. Sub-paragraph c has been extended to clarify the Movement's stance towards armed protection. That, I believe, summarizes the major changes in the resolution for Commission II, item 2.

Now, let me move on to the last draft resolution on item 3 of Commission II. That resolution has had fewer changes than the previous one. The title of the resolution has been altered and I understand that, as the title was an integral part of the provisional agenda for this Conference and was therefore accepted in our first plenary meeting, you, distinguished delegates, now need to approve this new title as well as approving the changes to the body of the draft resolution.

Operative paragraph 3 on the model law of recognition of National Societies has become more specific.

The original paragraph 4 on the International Federation's role to promote the establishment and development of National Societies has been split into two. New paragraph 4 has been expanded to include references to States, the ICRC and the International Federation and now also makes reference to meeting the statutory conditions for recognition and subsequent admission to membership of the International Federation. New paragraph 5 carries on the meaning of the old paragraph 4 with specific reference to strengthening National Societies.

And finally, a new paragraph requests the International Federation in cooperation with the ICRC, to report on the implementation of this Resolution.

That concludes the presentation of the changes to the draft resolutions that were put before you at the opening of this Conference.

I should like to make a couple of additional observations. One is that the draft resolutions that are now before you are clearly the result of extensive negotiations and do not reflect fully the positions of any delegation. They are, however, an attempt to strike a balance which I hope will be acceptable to all in the spirit of cooperation that has characterized the deliberations of this Conference throughout. I feel it is important that the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent should send a united and clear message to the rest of the world that it is determined to do all it can to alleviate the suffering of victims of armed conflicts and other disasters. Compared with that message, individual words pale in significance.

My second observation, and this is a purely personal one, is that I have heard it said a number of times, during preparations for this Conference and at the Conference itself, that we represent two cultures assembled here, namely: governments and National Societies. Well, if I had not been told this before, I would not have been able to discover it through our work. It is fair to say that in the Drafting Committee — and I cannot judge by anything else —

governments and National Societies have worked as one team, in harmony and cooperation, without any perceptible differences. For that very reason we have now achieved a great result, the product of one single Conference working together towards one single goal. I think this is an important point.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks as concisely as I can, first to the Vice-Chairman, Mr Carlton, who did an absolutely outstanding job in the negotiations which he chaired; to the Secretariat and the interpreters who had extra-short nights and extra-long days; to all the delegations which really, without any exception, showed very great cooperation towards me and Mr Carlton; to the ICRC and the International Federation from the Secretary-General and the Presidents to every member of those teams which helped us enormously; and finally, last but not least, to you, Madam Chairwoman, and to the other members of the Bureau, who extended unfailing support to us throughout the Conference. Without that support, I would probably not be here, in a position to convey the results of the Drafting Committee. Thank you very much.

*(Applause)*

#### **ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTIONS AND COMMENTS OF PARTICIPANTS**

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) *(Original English)*:

Thank you so much, Ambassador Kirsch. I think the best way the Conference could honour the work done by you and Mr Carlton and the rest of this exceedingly hard-working group is to adopt the resolutions by consensus.

*(Applause)*

But for the sake of democracy and in accordance with our rules and regulations, if any delegation wishes to make its position known following this consensus, the floor will be given to them but, as I said, for as short a time as possible and for a maximum of three minutes. I think the Swiss delegation came first.

Amb. U. ZISWILER (Switzerland) *(Original French)*:

The Swiss delegation welcomes the mandate entrusted to the depositary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions by the resolution under item 2 of Commission I's agenda, and would like to state that the meetings mentioned in Recommendation 7 of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will be convened on the basis of extensive consultations and a broad consensus regarding both the desirability of convening them and the issues to be raised. These will not be related to any specific situation, but will be very general in nature, so as to be of interest to all States.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) *(Original English)*:

Thank you very much. Again I would just like to say that we are not opening a discussion, but just giving people an opportunity to make their position known.

Next on the list, I have Hungary (Red Cross Society), Bosnia-Herzegovina (government), and Brazil (Red Cross Society). Hungary has the floor first.

Ms A. JANTSITS (Hungarian Red Cross) *(Original French)*:

There is one small question I would like to put to the Rapporteur. The Hungarian Red Cross has endorsed all the resolutions, especially Commission II's resolution under item 3 of its agenda. We listened attentively when the text of the resolution was read out, but when it came to paragraph 7, we

had the impression that the last part of the sentence was not read out. The English version of the part we did not hear, but which appears in the text which was circulated, reads as follows: "... on the basis of information received from National Societies and States". We wonder whether this was an omission by the Rapporteur in his oral introduction or whether the distributed text is different.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) *(Original English)*:

Again, I remind you that we are collecting questions and seeing how far we can get, then we shall give feedback to them.

Amb. M. BIJEDIC (Bosnia and Herzegovina) *(Original English)*:

First, let me thank you, Madam Chairwoman, for your honourable and excellent guidance of the Conference, and also those who have worked less visibly than us to produce the excellent document we have adopted. I should like first to make a short explanation, second to suggest some action that should be given further consideration, and third to express a few personal observations on the issues discussed.

My explanation will be very brief. I was unfortunately interrupted, because the procedure was followed too strictly without sensitivity to the case of my country, which has experienced the worst genocide and aggression since the holocaust. In fact, we wanted to say that we know for sure who caused our tragedy. We wanted to say where the areas of appeasement and tolerance of genocide lie. We wanted to say why the work of the humanitarian organizations was limited and ineffective. We wanted to point out these facts for three reasons: to broaden the framework of humanitarian organizations to enable them to work better; to help the victims and give improved and timely protection to all victims of war, regardless of their national or cultural origin; and to avoid big mistakes or rather to learn from mistakes. I would like to point out that nobody has the right to be too touchy about their own mistakes. Everybody must be prepared to be criticized and corrected.

What do I suggest? That the procedure preventing so-called politicization be made more flexible, because I assure you that after two universities, two courses of post-graduate study and 42 years' experience, I still don't really know what it means. Politicization could go in many directions.

Why should the procedure be made more flexible? Because it now gives some people a chance to hide facts, because it does not allow attention to be drawn to crucial issues that are not on the agenda of this honourable body, but could be of tremendous importance for those who are working here to protect victims. We must protect victims better. There are more and more of them. And we must be flexible about procedure to alert others to those causes that are out of our reach in order to defend them, and to send the strongest possible message from this body to those who are deciding about victims and to those who are protecting victims.

Ms M. HARMON (Brazilian Red Cross) *(Original English)*:

The Brazilian Red Cross would like to state that we are very happy at the way this International Conference has ended with a consensus among so many different people, so many different ethnicities, nationalities and religions. We would just like to make two small observations. We are very pleased that ethical and religious values are mentioned in PR/95/C.II/2, because the difference between an animal and a human being lies in those moral, ethical, spiritual and religious values of ours, which are nothing more than the Fundamental Principles of our Movement. We would like to

make one request. We asked in both commissions that reference should not be made to "street children", because those children are not children of the streets, they are in the street. We ourselves would not like to become women of the street or men of the street. I therefore asked in both commissions that we should talk about needy children, but never street children because they are not street children, they are in the street temporarily because of economic reasons. I think that the worst thing we can do is to use a pejorative adjective for children by calling them street children, so I ask you Madam, since both commissions seem to be agreeable, that we do not use the term "street children" in our documents but instead refer to them as "needy children".

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

Thank you's are very nice, but at this point I think we should be a little bit more practical and just make our positions known as to the way we have accepted the resolutions.

Dr O. FASEHUN (Nigeria) (*Original English*):

Nigeria agrees with all the resolutions, but we would, however, like to place on record that the resolution of Commission II/2 paragraph B deals with natural disasters. It is the view of Nigeria that we should always take cognizance of the relevant sections of the Yokohama strategy and plan of action adopted in Yokohama in 1994 on natural disaster reduction. Why we say this is that most of our countries have drawn up their disaster management plans based on that Yokohama strategy. I therefore repeat our view that whatever we are doing should take cognizance of that plan of action.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

We now have three questions. One from the Hungarian Red Cross, one from the Brazilian Red Cross and one from the Nigerian government.

Would any of you like to answer the questions that have been put forward from the representatives?

Mr J. YAMBAO (Rapporteur of Commission II) (*Original English*):

The question that pertains to me, I believe is the one on calling children "street children". It will be noted in the report that I placed the term "street children" between quotation marks. I understand the point raised by the Brazilian Red Cross delegate that this may be pejorative and her proposal that instead of "street children" the phrase should be "needy children". In my view, however, "needy children" seems to be a very general term that would gloss over many children in different situations. However pejorative it may seem to some people, the term "street children" is known to many people as referring to a phenomenon of children who are found mostly in the streets. I don't know how useful it will be to solve the problems of these children by simply changing the nomenclature.

## **PLACE AND DATE OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

That completes this item. So we can move to the next one on the agenda, namely the place and the date of the 27th International Conference.

Normally the place and the date for the next Conference should be decided by the preceding Conference, that is by us. But for some strange reason we have not yet been flooded with invitations and really have no good proposals to put forward to you. The Bureau therefore decided today that we would ask you to invite the newly elected Standing Commission to handle that job. This is also consistent with our Statutes. Thus the Standing Commission could select the date and place for the next International Conference which should be held in four years time. Do I have your agreement?

(*Applause*)

And that has now brought us to the closing session. There has been a discussion as to whether it should be called a closing ceremony or a closing session. I think the only thing that would make it a ceremony is to allow the press and cameras to come in so that we are once again in the eyes of the world.

(*End of the Final Plenary Meeting at 15.15 p.m.*)



### 3.8 CLOSING CEREMONY

7 December 1995

3.15 p.m.

**SUMMARY :** Final remarks and thanks from the Chairwoman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent — Address by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross — Address by the President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies — Address by the Conference Chairwoman and the Conference Vice-Chairman.

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are waiting for the Chairwoman of the Standing Commission to come down and take her place here.

I received a very nice letter today from the Chairwoman of the Standing Commission saying: "As you know, the Standing Commission met today convened by you and I was elected Chair...man".

(*Applause*)

But that is how the Statutes put it.

"We elected as Vice-Chairman of the Standing Commission Dr Byron Reuben Hove."

I think the best way to warmly congratulate you would be to give you the floor. Princess Margriet, the floor is yours.

H.R.H. PRINCESS MARGRIET OF THE NETHERLANDS (Chairman of the Standing Commission) (*Original English*):

Madam Chairwoman of the International Conference, Mr President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

"Keeping hope alive" was the slogan for this Conference. We, the components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as the States party to the Geneva Conventions, we have the duty to serve the many men, women and children around the world who need our service. Through our participation in the Conference we have undertaken to give them hope and committed ourselves to promoting mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace among all people. The Standing Commission, as the trustee of the International Conference between two conferences, has the duty to keep this hope alive. The Commission has, among others, the task of encouraging and furthering the implementation of the resolutions of the International Conference as well as promoting harmony within the Movement. On behalf of the members of the new Standing Commission, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Conference for the confidence that it showed in us last night. We assure you that we will work to the best of our ability to fulfil the mandate entrusted to us. The Standing Commission cannot do this alone — we will need the help of all those who were represented at this Conference. We count on your cooperation and your support.

I would be remiss if I would not take this opportunity to warmly thank Prince Botho of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein and all the outgoing members of the Standing Commission for their long years of devoted service and their work in making this very successful 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent a reality. In addition, we should recognize the five very productive meetings of the Council of Delegates that our Movement has held since 1986 and the many other delicate tasks which have been carried out by the Standing Commission with due

diligence, hard work and careful consideration. We all owe them a debt of gratitude and I invite everyone to join me in expressing my thanks.

The 26th Conference is coming to a close. All of us are grateful that this Conference has taken place after so many years since we last met in this hospitable city. We welcome the spirit of common understanding that has been shown by the participants during this Conference. Many statements in both Commissions have encouraged us in our commitment to help alleviate the plight of the most vulnerable people in our world. We look forward to a continuing dialogue both within our Movement and between us and the States party to the Geneva Conventions. I pledge the determination of the new Standing Commission to spare no effort in making the next Conference, before the end of this century, a success. Let us all return to our respective countries with the spirit of harmony and partnership that have inspired us this week.

Thank you.

(*Applause*)

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*):

I now have the honour to give the floor to the President of the ICRC.

Mr C. SOMMARUGA (ICRC) (*Original French*):

When I addressed you for the first time four days ago, during the inaugural ceremony, I expressed the hope that by our joint efforts we could show that a new humanitarian impetus had been created and that nothing and no one could halt its advance. Today, I realize that this hope has already been partly fulfilled. Indeed, the importance of the resolutions that we have adopted in a spirit of solidarity, the quality of our debates, the impact of our discussions and even the atmosphere in which we have been working during the last few days all lead me to conclude that, after too many long years of questioning and lack of continuity, humanitarian dialogue has now again found its rightful place. And this day is a happy one for me, because I also realize that the Conference has proved that the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is alive and will henceforth carry its message of humanity into the dawn of the third millennium and far beyond.

The Conference is a success because it has been well thought out and prepared for months, because it has been guided with elegant but firm authority — thanks to you, Madam Chairwoman, dear Astrid — and because practically all the participants were able to set aside their political interests and give precedence to the deliberations. It was also a first response to those victims whose distressing pictures we saw in this room on the first day. My dear friends, these victims are still all around us, still looking to us, still waiting and placing all their hopes in us. Above all, they expect us to be able in the future to give practical effect to the commitments we have entered into here, and therein lies the contract of humanity to which I invited you to subscribe a few days ago.

Today's humanitarian commitment must be one of both conscience and will. The development of international humanitarian law during this century and the new decisive steps that we have taken together this week serve as evidence of the substantial progress made in heightening awareness of the dictates of the human conscience. The strength of will continues to depend on the everyday reality of individual commitment. We shall assess the strength of this commitment together in 1999, at the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which I hope will be completely universal in terms of attendance both by States and by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Before we part, may I too be allowed to congratulate the people elected as members of the Standing Commission. I look forward to working together with them for several years in the interests of our Movement as a whole. I should like, above all, to express my thanks to the Chairwoman of this Conference, to the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Commissions, to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Drafting Committee, who guided some sensitive negotiations to a successful conclusion, to the Secretary-General of the Conference for his efficient diplomacy and especially to the Government of the Swiss Confederation for its political, financial and logistical support. My thanks also go to all those who, without necessarily being in the limelight, made the success of this Conference possible. Lastly, I wish to express my profound gratitude to all the government delegations and those of the Red Cross and Red Crescent institutions which, by their concerted efforts, make this Conference an absolutely unique and irreplaceable forum.

It is for each and every one of us to ensure that the voice that made itself heard during this Conference does not fall silent before its task is accomplished. Ladies and Gentlemen, whatever lies ahead, you now represent the voice of humanity.

*(Applause)*

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) *(Original English)*:

Thank you. I would now like to give the floor to the President of the International Federation.

Mr M. VILLARROEL LANDER (International Federation) *(Original Spanish)* :

Madam Chairwoman, distinguished Government Representatives, colleagues from the Red Cross and Red Crescent, observers, friends,

As we come to the close of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, I should like to express my appreciation and thanks to you all for the work you have accomplished, for your active participation and for your support, which have made it possible to hold this Conference with all the success we had hoped for.

I should especially like to thank our Chairwoman for her magnificent work, and all the members of the Conference Bureau, in particular the Conference's Commissioner.

I also wish to convey my appreciation to all those who have worked in the wings to help us complete our tasks and achieve our objectives so successfully.

Lastly, I should like to extend my warmest gratitude to the Swiss government for its invaluable support, without which this important event could not have taken place.

For almost five days we have exchanged ideas in this distinguished forum, and in long working sessions we have endeavoured to adopt resolutions which will enable us more

efficiently to help those who are suffering in the world, in particular the most vulnerable people.

For us, the end of the Conference signifies the beginning of our work. The National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies cannot afford the luxury of resting, but must continue working on their many programmes of assistance to the needy, keeping alive the idea which made the first International Conference of the Red Cross possible more than 130 years ago.

At this 26th International Conference, both States and National Societies have done their best to find solutions to the problems arising in the humanitarian sphere in an era of staggering change. Indeed, we are living in times when non-international conflicts are proliferating and when the civilian population is increasingly exposed to new dangers, which hamper coexistence and lead to the forced displacement of millions of people.

At the opening session, I already mentioned the perils facing entire populations obliged to live in conditions of overcrowding in unsuitable areas, the decline of law and order brought about by the emergence of urban guerrilla groups made up of criminal elements hostile to civil society, the exodus to neighbouring countries of people uprooted from areas laid waste by conflicts, the helplessness of millions in the face of anti-personnel mines and blinding laser weapons whose only aim is to mutilate victims for life.

Together we must try to ensure that these and other diabolical inventions of the arms manufacturers disappear for good.

We have made some headway in this respect and we must now make every effort, when we return to our countries, to form a humanitarian lobby in order to consolidate the progress we have achieved at this 26th Conference.

We must also maintain the dialogue and exchange of ideas initiated both on this occasion and in the interval between conferences, whenever there is joint work to be done by the Red Cross and Red Crescent and by States to bring help, protection and better living conditions to the most vulnerable people throughout the world, regardless of the reasons for their vulnerability.

At this 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, we have shown once again the need for all States and Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to share their views and to support one another, joining forces in a common commitment to humanitarian principles and action.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies all over the world have demonstrated their maturity, their broad experience and their shared ideas at this Conference. I trust that the international Red Cross and Red Crescent institutions, the International Federation and the ICRC, have also shown sufficient humility and awareness in the face of the need for change and for constant improvements in their enormous cooperative effort to bring effective aid, on behalf of humanity, to all those who need it in the world.

In the spirit of this Conference, my colleagues from the International Federation and from the 169 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies join me in a common pledge to continue our work responsibly, together with all those represented here. We shall pursue our endeavours to solve the problems and challenges that face us in our humanitarian work. We shall strive to contribute to the great efforts being made to achieve peace and security for the whole of humanity.

United we shall succeed!

Thank you very much.

*(Applause)*

Prof. A. HEIBERG (Chairwoman) (*Original English*) :

Dear Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, as this the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent draws to an end, it is worth noting and remembering that the first one took place in 1867, which means that we are only one link in a long chain of such Conferences. But I think that we have shown ourselves to be a bright and shining link.

This Conference was made possible because States party to the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement both expressed the need and the sincere desire to convene this humanitarian forum.

May I point out that this Conference has been noteworthy in more ways than one. Firstly, because it drew 300 government and National Society delegations and more than 50 observers. Never have so many people attended this Conference, a fact that demonstrates the interest and concern around the world for humanitarian issues. Secondly, because of the energy that all the participants put into the few days that we have been together here (and not least the long nights we had here), showing the motivation of each and every one of us. Finally, this Conference has been noteworthy for the quality of the statements made and the way in which many of the stands taken on the various agenda items have shown remarkable cohesiveness. They have demonstrated that we can arm ourselves with better means to implement international humanitarian law, and that it is also possible to clarify and strengthen the basis for humanitarian action.

The statements made do not, of course, represent a new contract between governments and civil society, and the Movement in particular. However, the views expressed, particularly by government delegations, should enable us to create the tools we need to better prevent and cure human suffering and to ease the burden of the most vulnerable sectors of the world's population.

The discussions in Commissions I and II were extremely fruitful. This was reflected in the more than 200 statements made on the various issues on the agenda. The Movement has thus received much support for its activities and for the stands and directions it has taken. And this has given it even greater impetus to persevere and to increase its efforts.

I would like to highlight what I feel to be the most important points addressed in Commissions I and II. Since I was not able to take part, I think it is fair that I should have a chance to voice them. There was unanimous agreement that the attacks on the civilian population that we have witnessed are intolerable and must be prevented by every possible means. Virtually all speakers made a point of condemning in the strongest possible terms the horrific practice of "ethnic cleansing". I am also gratified that sexual violence against women was condemned by all, with delegates stressing that rape committed in time of armed conflict is a war crime. Many States expressed their support for the draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which raises the permissible age of recruitment to 18 years.

I am also satisfied with the great interest that was expressed in better implementation of international humanitarian law and in preventing violations of the law. In particular, it was gratifying to see the broad support for the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims, and for the greater role that the Movement should play in increasing the respect due to war victims, especially in the field of dissemination. And again on the prevention issue, a very large number of speakers stressed the importance of prosecuting war criminals in order to avoid an atmosphere of impunity which undermines genuine respect for international humanitarian law.

As for Commission II, I was particularly pleased to see the support that the Movement received for the strength of its ethical principles, embodied in the Fundamental Principles. The essential role that National Societies play as auxiliaries to their governments was also reaffirmed, as was their need to work independently. It is important that States recognize their responsibility in providing an adequate framework for their National Societies to develop smoothly. Finally, I am satisfied that the issue of the ethics of humanitarian action was debated at length and that participants recognized not only the urgent need for all humanitarian actors to abide by a set of common ethical rules, as embodied in the Code of Conduct, but also the need to separate humanitarian action from political, military and economic considerations.

I would also like to point out that in addition to stating their views, which represents an important aspect of the Conference, participants have been able to reach a consensus on the main points of the resolutions. Consensus was reached after incredible work done in the Drafting Committee, as you now know so well, and now I dare to say that actually the results were beyond expectations. We have also taken a large step forward on the total ban of anti-personnel landmines, even if our goals have not yet been reached.

Each Conference is a new step forward, another brick in the humanitarian edifice. Thanks in particular to the numerous governmental declarations, we have been able, in these few short days, to gather together the material we were looking for so that we can put new impetus into the dialogue that needs to take place between States and the Movement.

I would now like to pay a special tribute to the Vice-Chairman of the Conference, Dr Hugo Palazzi of the Bolivian Red Cross; to Ambassador Mohamed Ennaceur from the Permanent Mission of Tunisia in Geneva; to Ambassador Tej Bunnag from the Permanent Mission of Thailand in Geneva; to the Chairman of Commission I, Ambassador Hisashi Owada, from the Permanent Mission of Japan in New York (who, I believe, has now returned to New York); to the Rapporteur, Professor José Manuel Carrilho Ribeiro; to the Chairman of Commission II, Mr Ousmane Diagne, from the Senegalese Red Cross Society; to the Vice-Chairmen, Mr Kenneth Monplaisir, from the Red Cross Society of St Lucia and Ambassador Ludwik Dembinski, from the Permanent Mission of Poland in Geneva; to the Rapporteur, Mr Jaime Yambao, Minister Counsellor from the Permanent Mission of the Philippines in Geneva. I hope I do not sound persistent, but again I would very much like to thank Mr Kirsch and Mr Carlton and their teams.

We should also express our gratitude to the Swiss Federal Council, and to the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, for the support and assistance that they have given in the preparation of the Conference, and not least the generous amount of money. We should express our particular thanks to Mr Kaspar Villiger, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Mr Olivier Vodoz, President of the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, for their participation in the opening ceremony. We should also convey our thanks to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as hosts of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and our gratitude for their invaluable contribution to the preparation and the holding of the 26th International Conference, which can really be considered a successful meeting, thanks to the dedication of many people employed since several months.

I would like to thank the outgoing Chairman of the Standing Commission, Prince Botho of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, as well as the outgoing members of the Commission.

I cannot conclude without thanking very warmly the Conference Secretariat, the wonderful interpreters, the translators, the technical personnel and others who so untiringly contributed to the smooth functioning of the Conference, which mostly ran quite smoothly. I would like to express my warm thanks to the Swiss Red Cross and all those who contributed to the success of the inaugural ceremony. May I, on your behalf and also in my personal capacity, express my gratitude and my thanks to Ambassador Jean-Daniel Biéler who, as Commissioner of the 26th International Conference and then as Secretary-General, has accomplished remarkable and successful work, dedicating himself tirelessly to his job with the cooperation of his two Assistant Secretaries-General, Olivier Dürr from the International Committee and Yolande Camporini from the International Federation. And again I think thanks must go to you, dear friends, working so hard day and night. For your patience,

your dedication, for your true humanitarian spirit. I am very happy to confer my powers back to the very capable hands of the new Standing Commission, under the leadership of Princess Margriet.

And now, the Conference comes to an end. And this is when our job starts to keep hope alive and to make hopes become a reality. I intended to stop there and to close but somehow, in my life I have never been given the last word. That maybe explains why I have been married so long. Therefore I give the floor to Ambassador Tej Bunnag.

*(Applause)*

Amb. T. BUNNAG (Conference Vice-Chairman) *(Original English)*:

Madam Chairwoman, on behalf of us all, I have the honour and pleasure to thank you for your superb chairmanship which has steered this 26th Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to a masterful conclusion. Thank you.

*(The Conference rose at 15.50 p.m.)*

### 3.9 RESOLUTIONS AND THEIR ANNEXES

(adopted at the Final Plenary Meeting on 7 December 1995)

#### I

##### **International humanitarian law: From law to action Report on the follow-up to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims**

The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*noting with great concern* the increasing number of armed conflicts taking place in various parts of the world,

*alarmed* by the gross and persistent violations of international humanitarian law that are being committed, particularly against civilians, including the most vulnerable,

*deeply concerned* about the grief and suffering resulting from such violations,

*deploring* the decrease in respect for international humanitarian law,

*noting* that States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and States party to the 1977 Additional Protocols have the obligation not only to respect but also to ensure respect for those Conventions and Protocols, and that all States must respect relevant customary international humanitarian law,

*recalling* that, in cases not covered by international agreements, the human person remains under the protection of the principles of humanity and the dictates of the public conscience,

*convinced* that all appropriate measures must be taken in order that all should know and understand the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law,

*recalling* that the Swiss Government convened in Geneva an International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, from 30 August to 1 September 1993, and an Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims, from 23 to 27 January 1995,

*having taken note* of the report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims,

*noting* the document drawn up by the Swiss authorities on meetings of the States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions to consider general problems regarding the application of international humanitarian law (Document 95/C.I/2/3),

*stressing the importance* of holding the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent at regular intervals to help improve the protection of war victims,

1. *strongly condemns* the violations of international humanitarian law taking place in various parts of the world;
2. *solemnly reaffirms* that every State must respect in all circumstances the relevant principles and norms of humanitarian law and that States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and States party to the 1977 Additional Protocols must ensure respect for the Conventions and Protocols;
3. *endorses* the Final Declaration of the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, adopted on 1 September 1993, which confirms the need to reinforce implementation of and respect for international humanitarian law and which is attached to the present resolution;

4. *also endorses* the Recommendations drawn up by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (Recommendations), which aim at translating the Final Declaration of the Conference into concrete and effective measures and which are attached to the present resolution;
5. *strongly urges* States to implement the Recommendations addressed to them, especially by adopting appropriate measures at the national and international level and supporting international organizations working in this field, and *invites* them to consider further steps towards the effective protection of war victims;
6. *encourages* States and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) to organize meetings, workshops and other activities on a regional basis to enhance the understanding and implementation of international humanitarian law;
7. *recommends* that the outcome of meetings convened by the Depositary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, including those mentioned in Recommendation VII of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, be transmitted to the next International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as well as to States party to those Conventions;
8. *urges* the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) and the National Societies to carry out the tasks entrusted to them by the Recommendations and *calls upon* States to give them adequate support in this regard;
9. *invites* States to respond generously to the annual Appeal made jointly by the ICRC and the International Federation in pursuance of Recommendation VIII of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the financing of concrete dissemination projects proposed by National Societies, to support financially the dissemination component of regular relief and development programmes of the ICRC and of the International Federation, and to support domestic dissemination programmes of the National Societies of their respective countries;
10. *invites* the ICRC, in cooperation with the International Federation, to report to the 27th International Conference on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### II

##### **Protection of the civilian population in period of armed conflict**

The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*deeply alarmed*

- by the spread of violence and the massive and continuing violations of international humanitarian law throughout the world,
- by the immense suffering this causes among the civilian population in cases of armed conflict or foreign occupation of a territory, and in particular by the spread of acts of genocide, the practice of “ethnic cleansing”, widespread murder, forced displacement of persons and the use of

force to prevent their return home, hostage-taking, torture, rape and arbitrary detention, all of which violate international humanitarian law,

- by the serious violations of international humanitarian law constituted by acts aimed at the expulsion of the civilian population from certain areas or even the extermination of the civilian population, or by compelling civilians to collaborate in such practices,
- by the serious violations of international humanitarian law in internal as well as international armed conflicts constituted by acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population and by acts of violence or of terror making civilians the object of attack,
- by the difficulties encountered by humanitarian institutions in performing their tasks in armed conflicts, in particular when State structures have disintegrated,
- by the growing disparity between the humanitarian pledges made by certain parties to armed conflicts and the profoundly inhumane practices of those same parties,
- by the rapid expansion of the arms trade and the uncontrolled proliferation of weapons, especially those which may have indiscriminate effects or cause unnecessary suffering,

*stressing* the importance of full compliance with and implementation of international humanitarian law, and *recalling* that international humanitarian law and international instruments relating to human rights offer basic protection to the human person,

*recalling* the obligation of States to repress violations of international humanitarian law and *urging* them to increase international efforts

- to bring before courts and punish war criminals and those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law,
- to establish permanently an international criminal court,

*reaffirming* that any party to an armed conflict which violates international humanitarian law shall, if the case demands, be liable to pay compensation,

*aware* that the urgency of alleviating the suffering of the civilian population in times of armed conflict should not distract attention from the pressing obligation to fight the root causes of conflicts and the need to find solutions to conflicts,

*alarmed* by the deliberate and systematic destruction of movable and immovable property of importance to the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples, such as places of worship and monuments of architecture, art or history, whether religious or secular,

*particularly concerned* by the plight of women, children, dispersed families, the disabled and elderly, and civilian populations stricken by famine, deprived of access to water and subjected to the scourge of anti-personnel landmines as well as other weapons used indiscriminately,

#### A. With regard to the whole of the civilian population:

- (a) *reaffirms* the obligation of all States to respect in all circumstances the relevant principles and norms of international humanitarian law, and of States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and States party to the 1977 Additional Protocols to ensure respect for the Conventions and Protocols;

- (b) *strongly condemns* the systematic and massive killing of civilians in armed conflicts;
- (c) *urges* States and all parties to armed conflicts to comply in all circumstances and to ensure compliance by their armed forces with the relevant principles and norms of international humanitarian law and, with the support of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement), to take the necessary measures to disseminate them;
- (d) *stresses* that international humanitarian law provides for the protection of the civilian population in case of foreign occupation and against attacks, the effects of hostilities and dangers arising from military operations;
- (e) *welcomes* the efforts being undertaken to develop the rules of international humanitarian law applicable to multilateral peacekeeping operations and enforcement actions;
- (f) *stresses* also the utmost importance, in all circumstances, of humanitarian standards and the necessity to respect applicable human rights norms;
- (g) *condemns* sexual violence directed against any person and *stresses* that rape and forced prostitution in the course of an armed conflict or instigated by any party to a conflict constitute war crimes;
- (h) *strongly reasserts* the right of a civilian population in need to benefit from impartial humanitarian relief actions in accordance with international humanitarian law;
- (i) *emphasizes* the importance for humanitarian organizations to have unimpeded access in times of armed conflict to civilian populations in need, in accordance with the applicable rules of international humanitarian law;
- (j) *invites* States party to Additional Protocol I to implement and disseminate the rules of the Protocol regarding civil defence and *recommends* that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in collaboration with the International Civil Defence Organization, encourage international cooperation in this field and the inclusion of this question in international meetings on international humanitarian law;
- (k) *urges* the ICRC, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation), in accordance with the requirements of their mandates, to intensify their efforts to disseminate those rules, and to assist and protect the civilian population in armed conflicts;

#### B. With regard to women:

- (a) *expresses* its outrage at practices of sexual violence in armed conflicts, in particular the use of rape as an instrument of terror, forced prostitution and any other form of indecent assault;
- (b) *recognizes* the fundamental link between assistance to and protection of women victims of conflict, and *urges* that strong measures be taken to provide women with the protection and assistance to which they are entitled under national and international law;
- (c) *strongly condemns* sexual violence, in particular rape, in the conduct of armed conflict as a war crime, and under certain circumstances a crime against humanity, and

*urges* the establishment and strengthening of mechanisms to investigate, bring to justice and punish all those responsible;

- (d) *underlines* the importance of providing appropriate training to prosecutors, judges and other officials in handling such cases, in order to preserve the dignity and interests of the victims;
- (e) *encourages* States, the Movement and other competent entities and organizations to develop preventive measures, assess existing programmes and set up new programmes to ensure that women victims of conflict receive medical, psychological and social assistance, provided if possible by qualified personnel who are aware of the specific issues involved;

#### C. With regard to children:

- (a) *urgently draws attention to* the obligation to take all requisite measures to provide children with the protection and assistance to which they are entitled under national and international law;
- (b) *strongly condemns* deliberate killing and sexual exploitation of, and abuse of and violence against children, and *calls for* particularly stringent measures to prevent and punish such behaviour;
- (c) *also strongly condemns* recruitment and conscription of children under the age of 15 years in the armed forces or armed groups, which constitute a violation of international humanitarian law, and *demand*s that those responsible for such acts be brought to justice and punished;
- (d) *recommends that* parties to conflict refrain from arming children under the age of 18 years and take every feasible step to ensure that children under the age of 18 years do not take part in hostilities;
- (e) *supports* the work being done by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the involvement of children in armed conflicts with a view to adopting an Optional Protocol to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, the purpose of which is to increase the protection of children involved in armed conflicts;
- (f) *takes note* of the efforts of the Movement to promote a principle of non-recruitment and non-participation in armed conflicts of children under the age of 18 years, and *supports* its practical action to protect and assist all children who are victims of conflict;
- (g) *encourages* States, the Movement and other competent entities and organizations to develop preventive measures, assess existing programmes and set up new programmes to ensure that child victims of conflict receive medical, psychological and social assistance, provided if possible by qualified personnel who are aware of the specific issues involved;

#### D. With regard to the reunification of families:

- (a) *demand*s that all parties to armed conflict avoid any action aimed at, or having the effect of, causing the separation of families in a manner contrary to international humanitarian law;
- (b) *appeals* to States to do their utmost to solve the serious humanitarian issue of dispersed families without delay;
- (c) *emphasizes* that family reunification must begin with the tracing of separated family members at the request of one of them and end with their coming together as a family;

- (d) *stresses* the particular vulnerability of children separated from their families as a result of armed conflict, and *invites* the ICRC, the National Societies and the International Federation, within the scope of their respective mandates, to intensify their efforts to locate unaccompanied children, to identify them, to re-establish contact and reunite them with their families, and to give them the necessary assistance and support;
- (e) *notes* that the form of a family may vary from one culture to the other, *recognizes* the aspiration of separated families to be reunited and *appeals* to States to apply criteria for family reunification in such a way that they take into account the situation of those family members who are most vulnerable;
- (f) *requests* that the legal status of family members in a host country be determined swiftly and in a humanitarian spirit, with a view to ensuring the facilitation of family reunification;
- (g) *calls upon* States to facilitate the tracing activities of their respective National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies by granting them access to the relevant data;
- (h) *encourages* National Societies to maximize their efficiency in carrying out tracing work and family reunifications by strengthening their tracing and social welfare activities and maintaining close cooperation with the ICRC, government authorities and other competent organizations, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in such work;
- (i) *calls upon* States to support National Societies in carrying out such tracing work and family reunifications;
- (j) *commends* the role of the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency (CTA) in tracing and reuniting family members, and *encourages* the CTA to continue to coordinate, whenever necessary, National Society activities in tracing and reuniting families and to train National Society staff in the principles and techniques of tracing;
- (k) *stresses* the need and the right of families to obtain information on missing persons, including missing prisoners of war and those missing in action, and *strongly urges* States and parties to armed conflict to provide families with information on the fate of their missing relatives;
- (l) *urges* States and parties to armed conflict to cooperate with the ICRC in tracing missing persons and providing necessary documentation;
- (m) *notes* the increasing importance of the psychological and social aspects of the needs of victims of armed conflict, and *encourages* the International Federation to advise and train National Societies in this field;

#### E. With regard to the civilian population affected by famine:

- (a) *strongly condemns* attempts to starve civilian populations in armed conflicts;
- (b) *stresses* the following provisions of international humanitarian law:
  - the prohibition on using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and on attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless, for that purpose, objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population.

- the prohibition on attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless any objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population,
- the general prohibition on forced displacement of the civilian population, which often causes widespread famine,
- the obligation to accept, under the conditions prescribed by international humanitarian law, impartial humanitarian relief operations for the civilian population when it lacks supplies essential to its survival;

(c) *urges* parties to conflict to maintain conditions in which the civilian population is able to provide for its own needs, in particular by refraining from any measure intended to cut it off from its sources of supply or access to its crops or arable land or generally depriving it of objects indispensable to its survival;

**F. With regard to the civilian population deprived of water:**

- (a) *stresses* that water is a vital resource for victims of armed conflict and the civilian population and is indispensable to their survival;
- (b) *calls upon* parties to conflict to take all feasible precautions to avoid, in their military operations, all acts liable to destroy or damage water sources and systems of water supply, purification and distribution solely or primarily used by civilians;
- (c) *requests* parties to conflict not to hinder access by the civilian population to water, and to facilitate access for the repair of water supply systems damaged by hostilities, also by ensuring the protection of personnel engaged in that task;
- (d) *requests* every State to encourage all efforts to bring back into operation water supply, purification or distribution systems damaged by military operations;

**G. With regard to anti-personnel landmines:**

- (a) *expresses deep concern and indignation* that anti-personnel landmines kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians, obstruct economic development and have other severe consequences for years after emplacement, which include inhibiting the return and rehabilitation of refugees and internally displaced persons and the free movement of all persons;
- (b) *takes note* of the fact that the Movement and a growing number of States, international, regional and non-governmental organizations have undertaken to work urgently for the total elimination of anti-personnel landmines;
- (c) *noting* also that the ultimate goal of States is to achieve the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines as viable alternatives are developed that significantly reduce the risk to the civilian population;
- (d) *welcomes* the unilateral steps which some States have taken towards eliminating all types of anti-personnel landmines and the moratoria on the export of anti-personnel landmines instituted by many States, *urges* States that have not yet done so to take similar unilateral measures at the earliest possible date, and *encourages* all States to take further steps to limit transfers;

(e) *regrets* that the Review Conference of States party to the 1980 United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, held from 25 September to 13 October 1995, could not complete its work;

(f) *urges* States party to the 1980 Convention and the Movement to redouble efforts to ensure that the resumed sessions of the above-mentioned Review Conference in 1996 result in strong and effective measures;

(g) *urges* all States which have not yet done so to become party to this Convention and in particular to its Protocol II on landmines, with a view to achieving universal adherence thereto, and further *underlines* the importance of respect for its provisions by all parties to armed conflict;

(h) *urges* all States and competent organizations to take concrete action to increase their support for mine-clearance efforts in affected States which will need to continue for many decades, to strengthen international cooperation and assistance in this field and, in this regard, to provide the necessary maps and information and appropriate technical and material assistance to remove or otherwise render ineffective mine-fields, mines and booby traps, in accordance with international law;

(i) *invites* the ICRC to continue to follow these matters in consultation with the International Federation and National Societies, and to keep the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent informed;

**H. With regard to blinding and other weapons:**

(a) *recalling* Resolution VII of the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross concerning the work on international humanitarian law in armed conflicts at sea and on land;

(b) *reaffirms* that international humanitarian law must be respected in the development of weapons technology;

(c) *welcomes* the adoption by the above-mentioned Review Conference of a new fourth Protocol on blinding laser weapons as an important step in the development of international humanitarian law;

(d) *emphasizes* the prohibition on the use or transfer of laser weapons specifically designed to cause permanent blindness;

(e) *urges* States to declare themselves bound by the provisions of this Protocol at the earliest possible date and to ensure they have in place necessary national measures of implementation;

(f) *welcomes* the general agreement achieved at the Review Conference that the scope of application of this Protocol should apply not only to international armed conflicts;

(g) *requests* States to consider, for example at a subsequent Review Conference, further measures on the production and stockpiling of blinding laser weapons prohibited by this Protocol and *requests* that other issues, such as measures concerning compliance, should be further considered;

(h) *underlines* that proper attention should be given to other existing conventional weapons or future weapons



which may cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects;

- (i) *concerned* about the threat to civilian shipping posed by free-floating naval mines, and *notes* that a proposal to deal with problems such as this has been under discussion;
- (j) *invites* the ICRC, in consultation with the International Federation and National Societies, to follow developments in these fields, in particular the expansion of the scope of application of the new fourth Protocol, and to keep the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent informed.

### III

#### International humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts at sea

The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*recalling* Resolution VII of the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross, which called for further efforts as to the reaffirmation, clarification and development of international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts at sea,

*noting* the report by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on this subject,

*noting with satisfaction* the efforts that have been made at the national level to draw up manuals specifying the content of international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts at sea,

*particularly welcoming* the completion of the *San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea* and its accompanying *Explanation*, and *appreciating* the efforts of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law of San Remo, the ICRC and the experts in the preparation of the *Manual* and the *Explanation*,

1. *urges* States that have not yet done so to draft manuals on international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts at sea;
2. *encourages* States to take into account, whenever possible, the provisions of the *San Remo Manual* when drafting manuals and other instructions for their naval forces;
3. *invites* the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to promote knowledge of contemporary international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts at sea.

### IV

#### Principles and action in international humanitarian assistance and protection

The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*conscious* that the number of people in need of assistance as a result of disasters, and the number of refugees and internally displaced persons in need of assistance and protection, has increased dramatically over the past decade,

*conscious* of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's (Movement) unique position as a global, neutral and independent provider of assistance and protection to victims of disaster and war victims, benefiting from the complementarity of its components,

*desirous* to improve the framework in which humanitarian organizations, in particular the components of the Movement, perform their humanitarian activities, and *welcoming* the standing invitation to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) to participate in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee of the United Nations convened by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, as a means of ensuring operational cooperation by humanitarian organizations in the delivery of humanitarian assistance,

*recalling* that, according to the Statutes of the Movement, each component of the Movement should respect at all times the Fundamental Principles enshrined in these Statutes (Fundamental Principles), and that States should at all times respect the Movement's adherence to the Fundamental Principles,

*recalling* that in situations of armed conflict refugees and internally displaced persons together with the remainder of the civilian population are protected by international humanitarian law and that, in addition, refugees are protected by the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol,

*reaffirming* the principle of *non-refoulement*,

*taking note* of Resolution 11 of the Council of Delegates of the Movement held in 1993 in Birmingham concerning the "Principles of Humanitarian Assistance", which *inter alia* reminded States of:

- the victims' right to receive humanitarian assistance,
- the States' duty to assist people who are placed under their authority or their obligation to authorize humanitarian agencies to do so, and
- the right of humanitarian agencies — abiding by the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence — to have access to victims,

*recalling* Resolution XXI and the accompanying Statement of policy on aid to refugees adopted by the 24th International Conference of the Red Cross, and Resolution XVII on the Movement and refugees adopted by the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross,

*recalling* Resolution XXI on disaster relief in case of technical and other disasters adopted by the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross,

*noting* that religious and ethical values can foster respect for human dignity and the principles of international humanitarian law,

#### A. With regard to internally displaced persons and refugees:

1. *calls upon* States:
  - (a) *to respect and ensure respect* for international humanitarian law, in particular the general prohibition of forced displacement of civilians, and *to respect* the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol, in particular the fundamental principle of *non-refoulement*, as well as other relevant regional instruments,
  - (b) *to accede to*, for those States which have not already done so, and *to implement* fully the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol,

- (c) *to provide* humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons and to assist States having accepted refugees,
  - (d) *to ensure* efficient and adequate access to internally displaced persons and refugees for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organizations, in particular National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies), the ICRC and the International Federation, as well as other international organizations, in particular the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), according to their respective mandates, so that they may provide protection and humanitarian assistance to these persons,
  - (e) *to ensure* a rapid response to appeals by the ICRC, the International Federation, the National Societies and other international organizations for funding of emergency assistance and protection for refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees,
  - (f) *to renew* their support, through appropriate funding, for the provision of food aid and other supplies for humanitarian assistance to long-standing but unsolved refugee and displaced persons situations, keeping in mind the needs of the most vulnerable,
  - (g) *to recognize* that National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation can play a vital role in providing protection and humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law;
2. *invites* the components of the Movement, in accordance with their respective mandates:
    - (a) *to continue* to provide assistance and protection to, and to work with determination on behalf of and together with, internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees,
    - (b) *to devise and apply* innovative approaches to humanitarian response, including mechanisms for rapid action, based on effective mobilization and use of resources, which will enable them to provide timely and appropriate assistance for internally displaced persons and refugees, taking due account of the action of other humanitarian organizations,
    - (c) *to promote* conflict prevention through the promotion of humanitarian principles and values, as well as the dissemination of international humanitarian law, in particular at the community level,
    - (d) *to stand ready* to work in the framework of international relief operations in accordance with the Statutes of the Movement,
    - (e) *to continue and promote* operational cooperation with the United Nations, including in particular the UNHCR, in a spirit of complementarity, as well as with other international humanitarian organizations, as appropriate;
  3. *invites* National Societies:
    - (a) *to continue*, in accordance with their status as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, to offer their services to their governments, in order to respond to the needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees,
    - (b) *to call upon* the resources of the ICRC and the International Federation to make effective use of the Movement's capacity when needs exceed the resources locally available,
    - (c) *to seek* efficient cooperation with other organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the United Nations, in particular the UNHCR, recalling the provisions of Resolution XXI of the 24th International Conference concerning International Red Cross aid to refugees, and in particular the provision on agreements between National Societies and the UNHCR;
- B. With regard to natural and technological disasters:**
1. *calls upon* States to take note of the guidelines on National Society involvement in technological disasters (Annex I of the background paper);
  2. *encourages* National Societies and the International Federation to intensify their activities in favour of the victims of natural and technological disasters, to develop their expertise in this field and to mobilize financial resources;
- C. With regard to the Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Relief:**
- takes note* of the revised Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Relief (Annex II of the background paper) and *calls upon* the components of the Movement to implement them;
- D. With regard to the need to build longer-term developmental perspectives into humanitarian assistance:**
1. *calls upon* States:
    - (a) *to ensure* that their international relief funding policies allow for the strengthening of the operational capacities of recipient National Societies,
    - (b) *to explore* ways of encouraging a developmental approach to relief through their humanitarian assistance programming, and *to take note* in this context of Annex III of the background paper,
    - (c) *to promote*, in international organizations of which they are members, including in particular the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the implementation of a developmental approach that takes into account emergency situations and humanitarian needs,
  2. *calls upon* the International Federation and the ICRC to further develop tools and approaches in order to implement a more developmental approach to relief as well as to give due emphasis to the strengthening of Red Cross and Red Crescent structures, as outlined in the guidelines presented in Annex III of the background paper;
- E. With regard to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief:**
1. *takes note of and welcomes* the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief (Annex IV of the background paper), and further;

2. *invites* all States and National Societies to encourage NGOs to both abide by the principles and spirit of the Code and consider registering their support for the Code with the International Federation;

**F. With regard to the humanitarian consequences of economic sanctions:**

1. *encourages* States to consider:
  - (a) *when designing, imposing and reviewing* economic sanctions, the possible negative impact of such sanctions on the humanitarian situation of the civilian population of a targeted State and also of third States which may be adversely affected by such measures,
  - (b) *assessing* the short- and long-term consequences of United Nations-approved economic sanctions on the most vulnerable, and *monitoring* these consequences where sanctions have been applied,
  - (c) *providing*, including when subject to economic sanctions, and to the extent of their available resources, relief for the most vulnerable groups and the victims of humanitarian emergencies in their territories;
2. *calls upon* States to permit relief operations of a strictly humanitarian character for the benefit of the most vulnerable groups within the civilian population, when required by international humanitarian law;
3. *calls upon* the ICRC, the International Federation and National Societies to contribute to the reduction of the undesirable side-effects of sanctions on the humanitarian situation of civilian populations, through assessing the impact thereof and providing relief to the most vulnerable persons, in accordance with their respective mandates;

**G. With regard to the need for independence of humanitarian action in times of crisis:**

1. *takes note* of the Movement's commitment to carrying out its humanitarian work in accordance with its Fundamental Principles, recognizing that humanitarian assistance and protection are primarily directed at the effects of humanitarian crises, not the causes;
2. *calls upon* States:
  - (a) *to recognize* the need for the Movement to maintain a clear separation between its humanitarian action, on the one hand, and actions of a political, military or economic nature carried out by governments, intergovernmental bodies and other agencies during humanitarian crises, on the other hand, bearing in mind the need for the Movement to maintain, in its humanitarian work, its independence, impartiality and neutrality,
  - (b) *to redouble* their efforts in the resolution and prevention of conflicts, peacekeeping, disaster preparedness and disaster mitigation, to which the humanitarian work of the Movement acts as a necessary complement,
  - (c) *to take note* that the security of the operations and personnel of the ICRC, the National Societies and the International Federation is based on their adherence to the Fundamental Principles and that they do not use armed protection unless confronted with exceptional circumstances and not without the

approval of the authority in control of the territory concerned,

- (d) *to fully respect* humanitarian operations and the personnel engaged therein, in all circumstances, and to take due precautions to refrain from acts that would endanger such operations and personnel.

**V**

**Strengthening national capacity to provide humanitarian and development assistance and protection to the most vulnerable**

The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*recalling* Article 2 of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement), according to which each State shall promote the establishment on its territory of a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society (National Society) and encourage its development, and respect adherence by all the components of the Movement to the Fundamental Principles,

*recalling*, furthermore, the aims and content of resolutions XXV and XXII of, respectively, the 24th and 25th International Conference of the Red Cross on, respectively, the "Development of National Societies in the context of national development plans" and "Development of National Societies as a Contribution to National Development", and the background papers supporting these resolutions,

*recognizing* the major role played at the local, national and international levels by all components of the Movement in disaster preparedness and relief, as well as the range of service and development programmes carried out by National Societies, notably in the health, social welfare and blood sectors,

*recognizing* that the combined resources of National Societies represent a great force for promoting human betterment and the further development of civil society at a time when numerous social and economic trends are having a negative impact on the quality of life of the most vulnerable sections of the population of some countries,

*acknowledging* nevertheless that wide disparities exist between the relatively small number of National Societies that possess substantial capacity and financial resources and the many that do not,

*taking note* of the background paper and the deliberations on the subject of strengthening the Movement's capacity to assist and protect the most vulnerable people,

1. *calls upon* States
  - (a) *to reaffirm* the mandate of National Societies as autonomous humanitarian organizations auxiliary to their governments and as institutions that play a special role in enhancing respect for humanitarian values and human dignity,
  - (b) *to recognize* the need for National Societies to maintain their independence and autonomy of action in order to act in accordance with the Fundamental Principles and the values that they stand for, and *to respect* the National Societies' right to adjust their statutes, in accordance with national legislation, whenever they deem it necessary in order to improve their functioning,
  - (c) *to make better use* of the potential of National Societies as cost-effective providers of health care, social services and emergency assistance for the

most vulnerable, and *to recognize* that National Societies will need to develop new ways, including systems of cost recovery, to fund work carried out in cooperation with the public authorities,

- (d) *to recognize* the specific role of the National Society of their country in disaster preparedness and tracing services, ensuring that it has a clearly defined role in the context of the country's overall disaster preparedness plans,
  - (e) *to help* create a beneficial environment for the overall development of National Societies in their own countries, by providing, for example, financial and fiscal benefits or other arrangements that recognize the not-for-profit nature of the National Societies and their role as auxiliaries to the public services,
  - (f) *to support* the development of the global network of National Societies by providing adequate financial resources to development cooperation programmes in order to address the needs of the growing number of the most vulnerable populations, both in normal times and in times of disaster,
  - (g) *to support* the efforts of all components of the Movement, according to their respective mandates, to assist in the development of National Societies;
2. *calls upon* all components of the Movement to continue their support towards the development of a network of National Societies, in accordance with their agreed coordination mechanisms, and *notes with appreciation* the efforts made in institutional, resource and programme development by National Societies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation), and the complementary efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) concerning National Societies' preparations for their role in a conflict situation;
  3. *calls upon* the International Federation and the ICRC, in cooperation with National Societies, to draw up a model law of recognition of a National Society suitable for adaptation to individual national requirements, and present it to the 27th International Conference;
  4. *calls upon* the States concerned and the International Federation, in cooperation with the ICRC, to promote in every country the establishment and development of an independent National Society, in order to meet the statutory conditions for recognition, and the subsequent admission to membership of the International Federation of National Societies which do not have full membership;
  5. *calls upon* the International Federation, in the spirit of its Strategic Work Plan for the Nineties, to vigorously strengthen National Societies and the cooperation between them;

6. *calls upon* the National Societies to search constantly for new means to strengthen their own capacity to identify and assist the most vulnerable, and to share experience and resources with other National Societies, so as to maximize the capacity of the Movement as a whole;
7. *requests* the International Federation, in cooperation with the ICRC, to report to the 27th International Conference on the action and the principal measures taken to implement this resolution on the basis of information received from National Societies and States.

## VI

### **Election of the members of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*elects* the following as members of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent:

- (a) H.R.H. Princess Margriet of the Netherlands (The Netherlands Red Cross),
- (b) Ms Christina Magnuson (Swedish Red Cross),
- (c) Dr Guillermo Rueda Montaña (Colombian Red Cross),
- (d) Mr Tadateru Konoe (Japanese Red Cross Society),
- (e) Dr Byron R. Hove (Zimbabwe Red Cross Society).

## VII

### **Amendment to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*adopts*, in conformity with Article 20 of the Statutes and with immediate effect, the amendment to the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement presented in document 95/P.II/4/1, whereby the name of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in these Statutes and Rules is changed to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

## VIII

### **Date and place of the next International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

The 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*decides* to hold the 27th International Conference in 1999, the date and place to be decided by the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

## ANNEXES TO THE RESOLUTIONS

### ANNEX I

#### Final Declaration of the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims

(Geneva, August 30-September 1, 1993)

The participants in the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, held in Geneva from August 30 to September 1, 1993, solemnly declare the following:

#### I

1. We refuse to accept that war, violence and hatred spread throughout the world, and fundamental rights of persons are violated in an increasingly grave and systematic fashion. We refuse to accept that wounded are shown no mercy, children massacred, women raped, prisoners tortured, victims denied elementary humanitarian assistance, civilians starved as a method of warfare, obligations under international humanitarian law in territories under foreign occupation not respected, families of missing persons denied information about the fate of their relatives, populations illegally displaced, and countries laid to waste.
2. We refuse to accept that, since war has not been eradicated, obligations under international humanitarian law aimed at limiting the suffering caused by armed conflicts are constantly violated. We vigorously condemn these violations which result in a continued deterioration of the situation of persons whom the law is intended to protect.
3. We refuse to accept that civilian populations should become more and more frequently the principal victim of hostilities and acts of violence perpetrated in the course of armed conflicts, for example where they are intentionally targeted or used as human shields, and particularly when they are victims of the odious practice of "ethnic cleansing". We are alarmed by the marked increase in acts of sexual violence directed notably against women and children and we reiterate that such acts constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law.
4. We deplore the means and methods used in the conduct of hostilities which cause heavy suffering among civilians. In that context we reaffirm our determination to apply, to clarify and, where it is deemed necessary, to consider further developing the existing law governing armed conflicts, in particular non-international ones, in order to ensure more effective protection for their victims.
5. We affirm the necessity to reinforce, in accordance with international law, the bond of solidarity that must unite mankind against the tragedy of war and in all efforts to protect the victims thereof. In that spirit, we support peaceful bilateral and multilateral initiatives aimed at easing tensions and preventing the outbreak of armed conflicts.
6. We undertake to act in cooperation with the UN and in conformity with the UN Charter to ensure full compliance with international humanitarian law in the event of genocide and other serious violations of this law.

7. We demand that measures be taken at the national, regional and international levels to allow assistance and relief personnel to carry out in all safety their mandate in favour of the victims of an armed conflict. Stressing that peace-keeping forces are bound to act in accordance with international humanitarian law, we also demand that the members of peace-keeping forces be permitted to fulfil their mandate without hindrance and that their physical integrity be respected.

#### II

We affirm our responsibility, in accordance with Article I common to the Geneva Conventions, to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in order to protect the victims of war. We urge all States to make every effort to:

1. Disseminate international humanitarian law in a systematic way by teaching its rules to the general population, including incorporating them in education programmes and by increasing media awareness, so that people may assimilate that law and have the strength to react in accordance with these rules to violations thereof.
2. Organize the teaching of international humanitarian law in the public administrations responsible for its application and incorporate the fundamental rules in military training programmes, and military code books, handbooks and regulations, so that each combatant is aware of his or her obligation to observe and help enforce these rules.
3. Study with utmost attention practical means of promoting understanding of and respect for international humanitarian law in armed conflicts in the event that State structures disintegrate so that a State cannot discharge its obligations under that law.
4. Consider or reconsider, in order to enhance the universal character of international humanitarian law, becoming party or confirming their succession, where appropriate, to the relevant treaties concluded since the adoption of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, in particular:
  - the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts of 8 June 1977 (Protocol I)
  - the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts of 8 June 1977 (Protocol II);
  - the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons and its three Protocols;
  - the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.
5. Adopt and implement, at the national level, all appropriate regulations, laws and measures to ensure

- respect for international humanitarian law applicable in the event of armed conflict and to punish violations thereof.
6. Contribute to an impartial clarification of alleged violations of international humanitarian law and, in particular, consider recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission according to Article 90 of Protocol I mentioned in Part II, paragraph 4 of this Declaration.
  7. Ensure that war crimes are duly prosecuted and not go unpunished, and accordingly implement the provisions on the punishment of grave breaches of international humanitarian law and encourage the timely establishment of appropriate international legal machinery, and in this connection acknowledge the substantial work accomplished by the International Law Commission on an international criminal court. We reaffirm that States which violate international humanitarian law shall, if the case demands, be liable to pay compensation.
  8. Improve the coordination of emergency humanitarian actions in order to give them the necessary coherence and efficiency, provide the necessary support to the humanitarian organizations entrusted with granting protection and assistance to the victims of armed conflicts and supplying, in all impartiality, victims of armed conflicts with goods or services essential to their survival, facilitate speedy and effective relief operations by granting to those humanitarian organizations access to the affected areas, and take the appropriate measures to enhance the respect for their safety, security and integrity, in conformity with applicable rules of international humanitarian law.
  9. Increase respect for the emblems of the red cross and red crescent as well as for the other emblems provided for by international humanitarian law and protecting medical personnel, objects, installations and means of transport, religious personnel and places of worship, and relief

personnel, goods and convoys as defined in international humanitarian law.

10. Reaffirm and ensure respect for the rules of international humanitarian law applicable during armed conflicts protecting cultural property, places of worship and the natural environment, either against attacks on the environment as such or against wanton destruction causing serious environmental damage and continue to examine the opportunity of strengthening them.
11. Ensure the effectiveness of international humanitarian law and take resolute action, in accordance with that law, against States bearing responsibility for violations of international humanitarian law with a view to terminating such violations.
12. Take advantage of the forthcoming Conference for the review of the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons and the three Protocols thereto, which provides a platform for wider accession to this instrument, and to consider strengthening existing law with a view to finding effective solutions to the problem of the indiscriminate mines whose explosions maim civilians in different parts of the world.

With this Declaration in mind, we reaffirm the necessity to make the implementation of international humanitarian law more effective. In this spirit, we call upon the Swiss Government to convene an open-ended intergovernmental group of experts to study practical means of promoting full respect for and compliance with that law, and to prepare a report for submission to the States and to the next session of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

In conclusion we affirm our conviction that, by preserving a spirit of humanity in the midst of armed conflicts, international humanitarian law keeps open the road to reconciliation, facilitates the restoration of peace between the belligerents, and fosters harmony between all peoples.

## ANNEX II

### Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims

(Geneva, 23-27 January 1995)

#### Recommendations

##### I

The Experts recommend that:

- the International Committee of the Red Cross (“the ICRC”) continue its dialogue with States with a view to promoting their adherence to international humanitarian law (“IHL”) instruments and assisting them in dealing with issues that arise in this respect;
- the Depositaries of IHL instruments appeal to States not party to adhere to such instruments, carry out appropriate promotional activities for that purpose and publish periodically, e.g. in the *International Review of the Red Cross* and other public sources of information, the list of States Parties;
- in their regular programme of activities, the competent organs of the UN and other intergovernmental organizations, universal and regional, encourage States to adhere to specific IHL instruments;
- the States Parties to IHL instruments support the efforts of the ICRC, the Depositaries and the organizations mentioned above, to promote adherence to such instruments;
- the States Parties that have recognized the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission established under Article 90 of Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions (“Protocol I”) support, where appropriate, the Commission’s efforts to promote recognition of its competence and that voluntary contributions be encouraged to increase the Commission’s funds available for that purpose;
- States consider availing themselves of the services of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (“the National Societies”) and national committees referred to in Chapter V in the process of adhering to pertinent IHL instruments.

##### II

The Experts recommend that:

- the ICRC be invited to prepare, with the assistance of experts in IHL representing various geographical regions and different legal systems, and in consultation with experts from governments and international organizations, a report on customary rules of IHL applicable in international and non-international armed conflicts, and to circulate the report to States and competent international bodies.

##### III

The Experts recommend that:

- the ICRC, with the assistance of National Societies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (“the International Federation”) and academic institutions, strengthen its capacity to provide advisory services to States, with their consent, in their efforts to implement and disseminate IHL;

- States and National Societies indicate to the ICRC or, as appropriate, to the International Federation the specific needs they may have for such advisory services;
- the ICRC submit reports on its advisory services to the States parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and other interested bodies on an annual basis, and to the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (“the Conference”).

##### IV

The Experts recommend that:

- the ICRC, in carrying out its mandate to disseminate IHL, work together, wherever possible, with other interested bodies including the International Federation, UN organs and specialized agencies, and regional organizations;
- States, on a regional and global basis, promote exchanges of information on dissemination and implementation of IHL;
- the ICRC prepare, in cooperation with experts from various geographical regions, a model manual for armed forces on the law of international and non-international armed conflicts;
- States produce national manuals on the law of armed conflicts, use them as an integral part of military training, and, where possible, consult among themselves with a view to harmonizing such manuals;
- States increase their efforts, at national and international levels, to train civilian and military instructors in IHL, and to train in that law the members of civilian administrations, armed forces, security forces and paramilitary forces, and members of armed forces engaged in international peacekeeping operations, according to their specific ranks and functions;
- States, where appropriate with the assistance of National Societies, increase the civilian population’s awareness of IHL, thus contributing to the dissemination of a culture based on respect for the individual and human life, in all circumstances;
- States, in collaboration with National Societies, take advantage of the celebration of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day to promote the dissemination of IHL;
- States, where appropriate with the assistance of National Societies and academic institutions involved in public education, make every effort to produce specific programmes and teaching materials designed to imbue students of all ages with the principles of IHL and make those programmes available to interested States;
- States, the ICRC, National Societies and the International Federation, encourage the production of audio-visual materials and the organization of seminars in order to heighten awareness of IHL issues among representatives of the national and international media;
- the ICRC and States make efforts to provide technical assistance in order to ensure that basic documents of IHL are widely available in national languages;

- the Conference note that religious and ethical values foster respect for human dignity and the principles of IHL.

## V

The Experts recommend that:

- States be encouraged to create national committees, with the possible support of National Societies, to advise and assist governments in implementing and disseminating IHL;
- States be encouraged to facilitate cooperation between national committees and the ICRC in their efforts to implement and disseminate IHL;
- the ICRC organize a meeting of experts from States having already established national committees and from other interested States, and report on the meeting's conclusions to States interested in the establishment of such committees.

## VI

The Experts recommend that:

- States, in order to comply with their commitments in this regard under IHL instruments,
  - be invited by the Conference to provide to the ICRC any information which might be of assistance to other States in their efforts to disseminate and implement IHL;
  - make every effort to participate in the fullest possible exchange of information on the measures that they have taken to implement their obligations under IHL instruments;
- the ICRC, in order to facilitate these measures,
  - continue to participate actively in efforts to disseminate and implement IHL;
  - be encouraged to draw up guidelines, from time to time, for the purpose of enhancing the exchange of information;
  - collect, assemble and transmit the information provided to States and to the Conference.

## VII

The Experts recommend that:

- States, in order to fulfil their basic obligation to respect and ensure respect for IHL in all circumstances, and taking into account, in particular, the vulnerability of civilian populations, and the responsibility of States which violate IHL,
  - act, jointly or individually, in situations of serious violations of IHL, in cooperation with the United Nations and in conformity with the United Nations Charter;
  - establish, wherever possible, and in conformity with IHL, safety zones, demilitarized zones, humanitarian corridors and other forms of protection for civilian populations, in situations of armed conflict, and cooperate to ensure respect for decisions adopted by the competent UN organs to that end, in accordance with the UN Charter;

- enact and rigorously implement whatever legislation is necessary to give effect to their obligations to ensure that those who commit, or order to be committed, violations of IHL do not go unpunished; and afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in criminal proceedings, including the provision of evidence and information from relevant sources, e.g. refugees;
- participate actively in the ongoing discussions within the UN on the establishment of a permanent international criminal court, and implement all national measures to ensure the functioning of the ad hoc tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda established by the UN Security Council;
- cooperate with relevant international and regional intergovernmental organizations and, if they so wish, the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission established under Article 90 of Protocol I, in conducting enquiries into violations of IHL, including by providing them, whenever possible, with funds, experts or logistical support;
- the Depositary organize periodical meetings of the States parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions to consider general problems regarding the application of IHL.

## VIII

The Experts call upon the ICRC:

- to analyse measures which could ensure, *inter alia*,
  - universal respect for IHL, particularly as it relates to civilians who are more and more often the victims of the use of means and methods of war consisting of systematic and large-scale killings by any armed groups, of “ethnic cleansing” and of other violations of IHL in any armed conflict;
  - full protection for women and children from violations of IHL, taking into account any contribution on these subjects which might be available, in particular from the 1995 World Conference on Women and from relevant UN organizations, including UNICEF and UNHCR;
  - full protection of the rights of refugees and of displaced persons from violations of IHL and the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees and its Protocol, taking into account any information which might be available, in particular from UNHCR;
- to examine situations where State structures have disintegrated as a result of non-international armed conflicts;
- to examine, on the basis of first-hand information available to it, the extent to which the availability of weapons is contributing to the proliferation and aggravation of violations of IHL in armed conflicts and the deterioration of the situation of civilians;
- to prepare, in collaboration with the International Federation, a draft recommendation for consideration by the Conference, encouraging voluntary contributions to support programmes for the dissemination and implementation of IHL, with particular emphasis on the protection of war victims.



## ANNEX III

# The role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in response to technological disasters

## International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

### Geneva

#### Preamble

*The objective of this document is to describe the effects of technological disasters, notably chemical and nuclear disasters, and the appropriate roles of, and actions by, National Societies.*

The policy-making bodies of the National Societies are the main target group.

Like any global document, it deals with generalities. Its conclusions need to be judged against the situation of each National Society.

#### 1. Executive Summary

In recent years the world has seen an increase in the number of technological accidents and disasters, accompanied by deaths, material losses and dangerous environmental pollution. Several conditions may lead to a further increase in the vulnerability of populations to technological disasters.

*Technological disasters are defined here as resulting from the release of chemical or nuclear material or ionizing radiation into the environment (disasters as a result of the use of chemical or nuclear weapons are not considered in this document).*

Although every disaster — be it natural, technological or conflict — is unique in itself, technological disasters may create an extra dimension. In almost every country in the world chemical and/or nuclear material is used, yet the probability of technological disasters occurring is very dependent on human factors.

Unlike many naturally triggered disasters, the occurrence of technological disasters cannot be predicted. This type of disaster may happen everywhere and at any time. Minor technological incidents can turn suddenly into major accidents and disasters. All of a sudden, communities — even in countries far away from the actual site of the disaster — may become *involved as* victims of this disaster. The Bhopal chemical disaster and the Chernobyl nuclear disaster are striking examples.

At several international meetings (e.g. the International Conference of the Red Cross in 1986 and the Regional Conference of European National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 1992) participation of National Societies in relief activities for the victims of technological disasters was recommended.

But, what should be the role of the International Federation (National Societies, the Secretariat and the delegations) in another “Bhopal” or “Chernobyl”? What can National Societies do and what can they not do? For instance, are National Societies able to work in contaminated areas? Do National Societies have to limit themselves to their traditional roles or are they able to take up new roles? How should National Societies prepare themselves for technological disasters and what kind of support can be given by the Secretariat?

The document gives information about the different aspects of technological disasters, their potential risks on the health of the affected population, aspects of relief operations and the possible roles of the National Societies and the International Federation's Secretariat. In the annexes some background information about technological disasters is given.

*It is recommended that National Societies should only work in sectors where they have, or can build, competence, and where they can provide auxiliary support and additionality to the disaster response system.*

#### 2. Why should the International Federation be concerned with technological disasters?

In 1986 the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross adopted the resolution “Disaster relief in case of technical and other disasters” (Resolution XXI). In this resolution the participants of the Conference recommended that “the League and the Henry Dunant Institute undertake a study concerning the possibilities and the necessities of improved assistance from the Movement in case of technical and other disasters”. After the 1989 General Assembly a “Study on the role of the National Societies in the event of technological disaster” was started. This present document is a direct result of the Study.

In recent years the world has seen an increase in the number of technological accidents and disasters, accompanied by deaths, material losses and dangerous environmental pollution. At any time technological incidents can turn suddenly into major accidents and disasters. 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. Immediate action may prevent a (major) accident from becoming a real disaster.

The effects of major accidents and disasters may — independently of where they occur in one State — spread to the territory of other States. 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 (inter-) national organizations.

Rapid industrial growth in developing countries combined with (often imported) new technology, lack of legislation, inadequate supervision of safety procedures by public authorities and the lack of or insufficient training of local workers are some conditions for an increasing risk for technological disasters.

Developed countries are faced with outdated nuclear and chemical installations and in industrial States with rapidly changing social and political systems there is often little chance of these installations being renovated or rebuilt.

In almost all countries of the world many people live in close proximity to chemical or nuclear installations, often forced to do so due to poverty or ignorance of the danger. Moreover, millions live near rivers, railways and roads, along which chemical or nuclear materials are transported.

Nuclear and chemical disasters are “cross-border” disasters. People living in neighbouring countries (and sometimes even in countries which are much further away) may become victims of technological disasters. Any of these conditions may lead to an increasing vulnerability of the population to technological disasters.

Based on the Fundamental Principles, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to

prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found.

From the humanitarian perspective, the cause of any disaster — be it technological, natural or conflict — is of secondary importance. What is important is that Red Cross/Red Crescent actions, as described in the Strategic Work Plan for the Nineties, should seek to assist the most vulnerable and reduce their future vulnerability. Furthermore, like any professional organization, the International Federation should work in sectors where it has, or can build, competence, and where it can provide auxiliary support and additionality to the disaster-response system.

*The objective of this document is to describe the potential risks of technological disasters, notably chemical and nuclear disasters, and the appropriate roles of, and actions by, National Societies.*

Like any global document, it deals with generalities. Its conclusions need to be judged against the situation of each National Society.

The document is a tool to help National Societies:

- to understand the diversity and nature of technological disasters,
- to decide whether involvement in technological disaster response is a priority for them, and
- (if it is a priority) to decide upon the role they may play in technological disaster response.

Comments on the documents and suggestions to improve the support by the International Federation's Secretariat and Delegations in technological disasters are welcomed and should be addressed to the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva.

### 3. Some considerations about technological disasters

*Technological disasters are defined here as resulting from the release of chemical or nuclear material or ionizing radiation into the environment.*

The probability of technological disasters occurring is very dependent on human factors. The nature of technological disasters means that the technology and procedures to deal with them are often improvised on an ad hoc basis for each disaster that occurs. Responses to technological disasters in impoverished countries remain severely limited due to lack of resources, and the failure of those who impart technology to the developing world. This places them outside the scope of most countries' disaster preparedness plans.

Technological disasters may have both a short- and a long-term impact on people and the environment. The short-term impact on people happens immediately or within a few days after a disaster, for example injuries (wounds and burns), poisoning, and radiation disease.

Often people have questions about the long-term impact of the incident with regard to their future health or well-being. These questions have to do with the possibility of mutagenic or carcinogenic effects and possible genetic defects in their offspring. It must be clear how future exposure to contaminating agents will be stopped or limited to safe levels.

Radioactive particles, gases and aerosols are carried by air. Often, this material is spread over a large area. After the Chernobyl disaster radioactive material was found as far afield as northern Canada. Such aerial pollution is impossible to contain once the hazardous substance has been released, though dilution of the pollutants will depend upon the prevailing meteorological situation (e.g. in a coastal area with

strong winds gases will be diluted in a quicker way than in areas without wind). The hazardous material may affect people mostly not with direct effects but with questions and fear.

Radioactive particles and liquid or solid chemical substances may come into the water and be carried by it or dissolved by it. Toxic effects on people are possible when contaminated water is ingested.

Also hazardous material can be stored in soil. Usually the exposure will not be in a range where immediate health effects can be expected. However — especially with contaminated food products — preventive levels can be exceeded.

Short- and/or long-term contamination of organisms living in the water is possible. The hazardous material will enter the food-chain. For instance, fish living in contaminated rivers will ingest or absorb the toxic material. The toxic material may cumulate in the fish; eating contaminated fish may result in an increased body burden. A well-known example is the accumulation of mercury in fish. Persistence and accumulation of pollutants in ground water is also possible. The effects on people may not be caused by the same substance as the short- and long-term effects on the environment. The disaster in Schweizerhalle (Switzerland) for example had some minor short-term effects on people from the gases released at the explosion, but the effects on the environment were caused by the chemicals released into the river.

Some disasters have short- and long-term effects on the environment but do not affect people directly.

## 4. Risks of technological disasters

### 4.1 Health risks of chemical disasters

The risk of acute exposure to chemical agents is not limited to people living in the vicinity of chemical installations or storage facilities. During the transport of chemical substances by road, rail or water accidents may happen, whereby people can face a direct threat. Moreover, during the disaster relief operation relief workers can be affected when no proper protective measures have been taken.

Exposure to chemical agents can be jeopardized by the release of combinations of chemical agents or the release of pyrolytic or combustion products due to heating. In such situations, victims with different or combined injuries can be found. For instance, in case of fires, people with burns will be found, explosions will result in mechanical traumas, and poisonous gases can result in respiratory problems.

Various situations may lead to the release of chemical agents:

- manufacturing, processing or storage accidents;
- transport accidents;
- accidents during use of chemicals (e.g. by ignorance of used substances, handling error, inadequate mixture or storage);
- natural catastrophes and armed conflicts leading to damage or destruction of chemical installations.

### 4.2 Health risks of nuclear disasters

The risk of acute exposure to nuclear radiation is also not limited to people living in the vicinity of nuclear installations or storage facilities. People living along roads, railways or rivers and relief workers can be affected.

Contrary to mechanical and chemical injuries, acute life-threatening situations will occur very rarely after exposure to ionizing radiation, although in combination with other injuries (e.g. due to an explosion) obviously acute life-

threatening situations may occur. Treatment of vital injuries has a higher priority than evaluation of possible radiation injuries.

Only in case of an explosion and/or big fire in a nuclear reactor, one may expect a large group of people with an acute radiation disease.

Various situations may lead to the release of radioactive material:

- accidents with nuclear installations like nuclear reactors;
- accidents with radioactive sources (e.g. during transport). These sources can be divided into open sources and closed sources. From an open source radioactive material can leak; over-radiation may occur by closed sources.

People can be exposed to:

- external irradiation (whole body or parts of body);
- external contamination (radioactive particles on the skin or clothes);
- internal contamination (by inhalation, ingestion, or injection through wounds).

#### 4.3 Psychological and social effects

The psychological effects of a disaster are normal reactions to an abnormal event. This is very important to know for people struck by a disaster. The various symptoms of the psychological effects can be very different from one person to another.

The maximum of the psychosocial disruption will emerge from disasters characterized by:

- suddenness;
- high uncertainty;
- prolonged duration;
- broad scope of physical destruction, death and injury;
- occurrence at night;
- massive exposure of survivors to dead and badly injured individuals.

If the affected people do not get help and support in their suffering, the psychological problems may increase and lead to serious psychological and physical diseases which have consequences for the social life and welfare of the family and community.

Long-term psychological effects may have a serious impact on a community. People unable to work as a consequence of their psychological illness may find it hard to feed their families and earn a living. Others may face a destroyed life and an uncertain future and may have difficulty in finding the will to go on.

To reduce suffering and aid recovery it is vital that relief agencies are able to identify those who are affected and contribute to their psychosocial recovery.

An appropriate and timely psychological support may help to avoid some of these psychological effects. It is important to provide informed humanitarian support based on a knowledge of common human needs rather than relying solely upon complex mental health interventions by specialists.

## 5. Relief actions in technological disasters

### General

A toxic gas-release has a great and most sudden impact on many people. Therefore the emergency response to these

chemical accidents must be very fast. (Liquid or solid chemical materials spread by water or soil allow more response time and usually do not have a major impact on people. More often they cause long-term effects on the environment.) In addition to the toxic effects, victims may have injuries caused by fire or explosion.

Chemical and radioactive material can be spread over large areas. However, the problem with chemical agents is that it is quite difficult to detect them.

### Contaminated zone

Experts **must** evaluate the situation and analyse the nature and concentration of the hazardous material involved as quickly as possible and make recommendations on protective measures for the relief workers and the affected population (e.g. evacuation of the population). Based on the level of radiation the experts decide how long relief workers may stay in the contaminated area. Protective measures for relief workers include protective gloves and/or clothes and gas masks.

In addition to the presence of chemical material, risks of explosion and lack of oxygen may exist.

### Decontamination zone

Before people from the contaminated zone are allowed to enter the safe zone, they have to be decontaminated in order to prevent the spread of chemical material. Decontamination can be done by removing contaminated clothes, and by cleansing with water and soap. (Major problems in a decontamination procedure are the availability of and the access to water; in "cold areas" decontamination may even lead to hypothermia).

## 6. Possible role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

### 6.1 General

Primary responsibility for the prevention of disasters, assistance to victims and reconstruction must remain the domain of public authorities, even in the most under-developed countries. While most industrialized countries have an extensive civil defence infrastructure, countries in the developing world frequently lack the capability from both expertise and resource standpoint to fulfil this crucial role.

The role of an operating National Society has to be seen in the light of its national context, e.g. limitations within national legislation and the Fundamental Principles. Most of the roles are not unique for technological disasters, but are applicable for all types of disasters. For instance, is there any difference whether evacuees come from an area stricken by a flood or by a nuclear disaster. The strength of National Societies lies in their constant readiness for rapid action and the flexibility of the various forms of assistance. The best possible preparedness — be it for natural or technological disasters — should be maintained. This is in clear accordance with the traditional role of National Societies.

*It is recommended that National Societies should work only in sectors where they have, or can build, competence, and where they can provide auxiliary support and additionality to the disaster response system.*

### 6.2 Prevention

#### Raising awareness

Technological disasters are a threat to humanity just like the risk of mass starvation or war. National Societies may consider playing a role in increasing people's knowledge

about technological hazards to which they may be exposed. People should be informed about technological risks in their region, by evaluating the dangers resulting from chemical or nuclear installations, by providing information and consultation to interested and worried people and by collecting addresses of voluntary local experts (toxicologists, doctors, technicians, fire-fighters etc.).

#### *Advocacy role*

The International Federation seeks to assist the most vulnerable and to reduce their future vulnerability. This can be done through advocacy and lobbying as well as direct actions.

For instance:

- Defending the rights of the most vulnerable individuals and groups by lobbying for safety measures in hazardous industries in order to achieve better working and living conditions and for strict environmental and housing rules for people living in the vicinity of chemical or nuclear installations;
- Urging the government to establish and to test regularly emergency plans for technological disasters.

### **6.3 Relief and rehabilitation**

#### **6.3.1 Operating National Society**

##### *First aid and transport of injured*

In addition to the standard knowledge about first aid, first aid workers have to know how to work in an area with chemical or nuclear contamination, unless the first aid activities take place only in safe zones. Working in contaminated areas also means that first aid workers have to know how to use protective clothes etc. Finally they have to know the basic principles of triage.

Working in areas contaminated by chemical or radioactive material or radiation can only take place when certain conditions can be fulfilled. Experts should be present to evaluate the level of contamination and to give recommendations about protection for the first aid workers. Also decontamination facilities should be available. Rehearsals of working in contaminated areas should take place very regularly.

Before taking a decision whether the National Society should or should not work in contaminated areas, some ethical questions have to be answered. For instance, what to do when it is not clear that an area is contaminated because of a lack of reliable measurement results? And what to do when no protective clothes will be available for their first aid workers? Do we leave the patients where they are or do we send our volunteers to help while knowing that they might become victims themselves?

##### *Social services*

A second traditional activity of National Societies is in the provision of social services to the most vulnerable in a disaster (e.g. distribution of food and clothes and sheltering). Experiences from Chernobyl and other (technological) disasters have shown that psychosocial support to the disaster victims is also of tremendous importance throughout the relief operation.

##### *Rehabilitation*

National Societies can take care of victims of disasters with long-term health and psychological effects. They may organize relief programmes to help the affected population in order to return to a normal life by integrating the affected

people into ongoing health programmes of the country or the Society.

##### *Tracing*

Many people might be evacuated to safer places. Families will be split up in the havoc. Tracing family members will have a positive psychological impact.

##### *Information during and after the disaster*

Clear and reliable information to the victims of the disaster helps to reduce the psychological effects of the emergency. National Societies should try to establish their own sources and expertise for the independent gathering of information in the disaster area.

Not only during the disaster is it important to give people reliable information, but also (even many years) after the disaster. Many scientific programmes monitor the affected population without giving individual feedback to the persons examined; this may lead to the impression of being used as guinea pigs. The Chernobyl Programme run by the Belorussian, the Russian and the Ukrainian Red Cross Societies and supported by the International Federation checks and immediately informs the affected population whether late effects of nuclear radiation have been discovered and how nuclear contamination can be prevented.

#### **6.3.2 Participating National Society**

The role of Participating Societies in technological disasters is in itself not unique, but may be the same as for all types of disasters. Participating National Societies should focus on material and financial support. Examples of material support are shelter materials for evacuees and water supply systems. Due to the response time it is not opportune to send experts to the disaster stricken country. Moreover, it is the primary responsibility for the public authorities and the intergovernmental organizations to send these experts.

#### **6.4 International Federation's Secretariat**

Also the role of the International Federation's Secretariat in technological disasters is not unique, but is in principle the same as for all types of disasters.

In addition to its coordination role, the Secretariat should be able to support National Societies in preparing for technological disasters (e.g. guidelines for first aid to victims of technological disasters).

The International Federation may create a "Reference Centre for Technological Disasters", operated by the International Federation's Secretariat or hosted by a National Society. This Centre will collect and distribute information related to prevention and relief of technological disasters.

## **7. Acknowledgement**

The International Federation would like to thank the original authors of this document, Christopher Muller and Andrea Weber, and their supervisor, Prof. Ch. Schlatter (University of Zurich, Switzerland).

### **ANNEXES**

#### **RESOLUTION XXI "DISASTER RELIEF IN CASE OF TECHNICAL AND OTHER DISASTERS"**

*(Adopted at the final plenary meeting of the XXVth International Conference of the Red Cross, 1986)*

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 cooperation 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,

*recognizing* the necessity for the Movement to address itself more comprehensively and more intensively than up to now to the issue of possible dangers and consequences of technical or other disasters with a view to more adequate and improved assistance,

*noting with gratitude* that the members of the International Atomic Energy Agency meeting in Vienna recently adopted a Convention on early notification of nuclear accidents and on mutual assistance,

1. *requests* governments to intensify future international cooperation for the safe development and application of

new technologies and to undertake efforts to conclude further bilateral and multilateral agreements on mutual, timely and comprehensive information as well as on measures for mutual assistance,

2. *recommends* to governments and international organizations when concluding such agreements and conventions also to take proper account of the capacity of their corresponding National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and of the entire Movement to participate in relief action and to include them in their information system at an early stage,
3. *further recommends* to governments vigorously to support their National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their efforts to improve their capacity for assistance in the field,
4. *calls upon* National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to approach their governments in the manner outlined above and to undertake efforts that promote improvement of their own capacity for assistance,
5. *encourages* National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to intensify their efforts to arrive at bilateral and multilateral agreements and commitments to mutual assistance in case of major disasters of any kind,
6. *recommends* that the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Henry Dunant Institute undertake a study concerning the possibilities and necessities of improved assistance from the Movement in case of technical and other disasters and that the result of this study be reported to the next International Conference,
7. *calls upon* the Movement not to slacken its efforts to support National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their endeavour to conclude agreements for mutual assistance in case of technical disasters and all other kinds of disasters in as comprehensive a manner as possible and in the spirit of human solidarity and to carry out a regular exchange of experience.



## ANNEX IV

### The Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Relief

Prepared by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross

#### Basic Principles

##### 1. Field of application

- 1.1 The present Principles and Rules apply to disasters resulting from natural or other calamities.
- 1.2 Every disaster relief operation carried out in a country where there is war, civil war, or internal disturbances, shall be regulated by the provisions of the Agreement of 1989 between the ICRC and the International Federation, or by any subsequent such agreement.
- 1.3 However, Articles 24 to 29 of the present Principles and Rules shall also apply to situations described under paragraph 1.2.

##### 2. The duty to assist

- 2.1 The Red Cross and Red Crescent in its endeavour to prevent and alleviate human suffering, considers it a fundamental right of all people to both offer and receive humanitarian assistance. Hence it has a fundamental duty to provide relief to all disaster victims and assistance to those most vulnerable to future disasters.
- 2.2 We recognize that, in helping disaster victims to survive, relief programmes must also look to the future and ensure that people are not left more vulnerable to future disasters. Wherever possible, relief programmes should attempt to build upon the capacities of those being assisted, involve them in the management and implementation of the programme and act with a sense of accountability towards the beneficiaries.

##### 3. Role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

- 3.1 Prevention of disasters, assistance to victims and reconstruction are first and foremost the responsibility of the public authorities. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, (hereinafter referred to as the International Federation<sup>1</sup>) will actively offer assistance to disaster victims through the agency of the National Society in a spirit of cooperation with the public authorities. In principle, Red Cross and Red Crescent help is of a complementary and auxiliary nature and is given primarily in the emergency and reconstruction phase. However, if circumstances require, and provided the Red Cross and Red Crescent is assured of the necessary resources and means, it may undertake longer-term disaster assistance programmes. Such programmes should be designed to reduce vulnerability to disasters, and prepare for future possible disasters.

##### 4. Coordination

- 4.1 Considering that assistance to disaster victims requires coordination at both the national and international levels, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, whilst remaining true to its Principles, should, in the implementation of its programme, endeavour to take into account the help given by other national and international organizations.

- 4.2 Considering the International Federation's position as one of the leading disaster response agencies, the National Society should offer its service to their disaster-affected government to assist with the coordination of NGO disaster relief. The International Federation should support such endeavours.

##### 5. Role of the International Federation

- 5.1 The International Federation acts as the information centre for its member Societies regarding situations caused by disaster and coordinates, at the international level, the assistance provided by National Societies and the International Federation or channelled through them.
- 5.2 The International Federation should also support National Societies in their contacts with their governments with a view to establishing and developing their position and role in disaster preparedness and response.

##### 6. Preparedness and mutual aid

- 6.1 It is the duty of National Societies to prepare themselves to give assistance in the event of a disaster.
- 6.2 In view of the solidarity binding them together they shall help one another when faced with a situation exceeding the resources of any one Society.
- 6.3 In assisting each other in this way, while respecting the independence of each other and the sovereignty of the stricken country, National Societies contribute to the strengthening of friendship and peace among peoples.

##### 7. Ways and means of assistance

- 7.1 Red Cross and Red Crescent assistance to victims is given without any distinction as to sex, nationality, race, religion, social condition or political opinion. It is made available solely on the basis of the relative importance and urgency of individual needs.
- 7.2 Red Cross and Red Crescent relief is administered with economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Its utilization is the subject of reports, including audited accounts of income and expenditure, reflecting a true and fair view of the operation.

#### Disaster Preparedness

##### 8. National relief plan

- 8.1 In order to cope with the effects of disaster, each country should have a national plan outlining an effective organization of relief. If such a plan does not exist, the National Society should instigate its establishment.
- 8.2 The national plan shall assign to all sections of the community — public services, Red Cross and Red Crescent, voluntary agencies, social welfare organizations and qualified persons — precise tasks in the fields of disaster prevention, relief and reconstruction.
- 8.3 To ensure rapid mobilization as well as complete and effective use of material and personnel resources, the national plan should envisage coordination through the establishment of a centralized managing body. Such a body should be able to provide authoritative information on the effects of a disaster, its evolution and needs.

<sup>1</sup> In the Federation, the organization of disaster relief actions is one of the responsibilities assigned to the Secretary-General, assisted by the Secretariat.

## 9. Preparedness of the National Society

- 9.1 The extent of the Red Cross and Red Crescent relief programme depends on the magnitude of the disaster, the needs already covered by others and the responsibilities delegated to the National Society by its government or by the national relief plan.
- 9.2 Each National Society must prepare itself to assume the responsibility devolving on it in the case of disaster. It must establish its own plan of action, adapt its organization accordingly, recruit, instruct and train the necessary personnel and ensure the availability of the reserves in cash and kind which it might need in the emergency phase of a relief operation. Such plans must be regularly reviewed and capacity further developed in the light of experience.
- 9.3 All National Societies face the possibility of responding to disasters beyond their capacities. National Societies should therefore make preparations for receiving and managing international assistance provided by the International Federation.
- 9.4 National Societies should make every effort to obtain facilities from governmental or private transport services in their countries for the rapid transport, whenever possible free or at reduced rates, of relief supplies, including goods in transit, for disaster victims.
- 9.5 National Societies should also endeavour to obtain from their governments exemption from all taxes and customs duties, concerning the entry into and transit through the country, of funds and relief supplies intended for the victims of disasters.
- 9.6 Furthermore, they should seek to obtain travel facilities and the quick granting of visas for Red Cross and Red Crescent personnel taking part in relief operations.

## 10. Preparedness of the International Federation

- 10.1 The International Federation will endeavour to assist National Societies with their organization and preparedness for relief actions. In particular by offering them the services of technically qualified personnel (delegates) and by contributing to the instruction and training of their personnel. It will encourage and facilitate exchanges of information between Societies so that the experience of some will be of benefit to others. It will encourage investment by International Federation members in disaster preparedness activities in the most disaster prone countries.

## 11. Agreements on mutual assistance

- 11.1 As part of their disaster preparedness strategy, National Societies should endeavour to conclude agreements on future mutual assistance in the event of disaster, with the National Societies of neighbouring countries. The International Federation shall be informed.
- 11.2 For the most disaster prone countries, the International Federation shall endeavour to negotiate pre-disaster agreements with the National Society of the disaster prone country aimed at enhancing the disaster preparedness activities of the Operating National Societies and improving the timeliness and effectiveness of International Federation response to major disasters. Where appropriate these agreements may be tripartite, involving a Participating National Society.

## International Disaster Relief Assistance

### 12. Initial information

- 12.1 To enable the International Federation to act as the disaster information centre, National Societies shall

immediately inform it of any major disaster occurring within their country, including data on the extent of the damage and on the relief measures taken at the national level to assist victims. Even if the National Society does not envisage appealing for external assistance, the International Federation may, in the spirit of International Federation solidarity, send a representative/s to the disaster-affected area to gather information and assist the National Society in dealing with the international dimensions of the disaster.

### 13. Use of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

- 13.1 In accordance with its rules, as amended by the 1991 General Assembly, the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund may be used by the International Federation to finance emergency pre-disaster activities or initial emergency response to disasters.

### 14. Request for assistance and appeal

- 14.1 Any request from a National Society of a stricken country for international assistance shall be addressed to the International Federation. Such a request must contain an overview of the situation in the disaster area, the number of persons to be helped and the nature, quantities and priorities of relief supplies needed by the National Society.
- 14.2 On receipt of such a request, the International Federation will, when conditions call for it, launch an Appeal to all National Societies or, depending on the circumstances, to a certain number of them. No Appeal will be launched by the International Federation without a request from the National Society of the stricken country or without its agreement.
- 14.3 The International Federation may, however, take the initiative to offer assistance, even though the National Society has not asked for it. The National Society will consider such offers with urgency and goodwill, bearing in mind the needs of the disaster victims and the spirit in which such offers are made.

### 15. Relations with the international news media

- 15.1 Since the media can have a major influence on public support for a relief operation and the generation of funds, the National Society of a stricken country should make every effort, consistent with the efficient conduct of the relief operation and any regulations laid down by the authorities, to facilitate journalists' coverage of an emergency situation.
- 15.2 When a disaster situation attracts large-scale international media interest, the International Federation may assign a delegate, or delegates, to assist the National Society in coping effectively with the requirements of the media and responding to the public information needs of Participating National Societies and the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva.

### 16. Regular communication of information

- 16.1 The National Society of the stricken country will keep the International Federation informed on the development of the situation, the relief given and the needs still to be met. The International Federation will forward this information to National Societies to which the Appeal had been made.

### 17. Information on assistance

- 17.1 When, as a result of an International Federation Appeal or as a result of mutual agreement or other special circumstances, a National Society gives assistance to the



Society of a stricken country it will immediately inform the International Federation. Such information will contain the amount of gifts in cash and all available data on gifts in kind, including quantity, value and means of transportation.

### 18. Implementation of International Federation assistance

18.1 When a National Society is in receipt of international assistance, the International Federation may assign to that National Society a representative or a team of delegates, whose name or names will be communicated to it as rapidly as possible and whose number will depend on the magnitude of the disaster.

18.2 Where technical assistance personnel are provided, the Head of Delegation will be responsible for the judicious and effective utilization of the team of experts with a view to helping the National Society with such activities as the reception, warehousing and distribution of relief supplies received from abroad, as well as information, communication and all other activities that will contribute to the effectiveness both of the relief operation itself, undertaken by the National Society involved, and of the assistance of sister Societies.

18.3 All staff assigned by the International Federation will have the task of assisting the National Society and not of taking over its basic responsibilities.

18.4 The Representative or Head of Delegation shall be given all necessary communication facilities for the swift dispatch to the International Federation, of all the information likely to enable it to back up its Appeals to National Societies and inform them as fully as possible on the needs resulting from the disaster and then on the use made of the relief received. He/she should advise the National Society concerned of the measures taken and foreseen, both by the International Federation and National Societies, which are giving their support.

### 19. Execution entrusted to the International Federation

19.1 When the administrative organization of the Society in the stricken country does not enable it to meet the situation, the International Federation, at the request of that Society and with its cooperation, may assume the local direction and execution of the relief action.

### 20. Representatives of Participating Societies

20.1 Participating Societies wishing to send representatives to the spot, particularly to collect information material to enhance public support for the relief actions, shall obtain the prior agreement of the central headquarters of the National Society of the stricken country. They should also inform the International Federation.

20.2 Any such representatives will be bound by the Rules of Conduct for International Federation field personnel and shall report on their actions to the International Federation Representative or Head of Delegation.

### 21. Foreign personnel

21.1 All personnel provided by Participating Societies to assist in the implementation of the operation, will be placed under the direction of the International Federation, when the direction and execution of the relief operation have been entrusted to it.

### 22. Transmission and forwarding of relief

22.1 Assistance donated by a National Society to a stricken country shall always be sent through Red Cross and Red Crescent channels, either direct to the National Society or through the intermediary of the International

Federation. Funds sent to the International Federation will be specifically earmarked for the disaster for which they are contributed and will either be sent to the National Society of the stricken country or, with its concurrence, be utilized by the International Federation according to the needs of the relief operation.

22.2 National Societies and the International Federation may agree to transmit relief from non-Red Cross sources to a stricken country. In such cases, the relief will be utilized by the National Society or, with its concurrence, by the International Federation in conformity with the present Principles and Rules.

### 23. Soliciting of contributions abroad

23.1 Unless there is a previous agreement, the National Society of a stricken country will not try to obtain, either directly or indirectly, funds or any other form of assistance in the country of another Society and will not permit its name to be used for this purpose.

### Accounting and Auditing for Joint or Separate International Federation and/or ICRC Operations

#### 24. Principle of accountability

National Societies receiving gifts from sister Societies, the International Federation, the ICRC or any other source in the context of a joint or separate International Federation and/or ICRC operation or programme must conform to the following rules as regards accounting and auditing:

##### 24.1 Gifts in cash

###### 24.1.1 Bank accounts

The Operating Society shall open in its own name a special bank account whose sole purpose shall be to receive all the funds and cover all the expenditure of the operation/programme. It shall not be used for any other transactions. There shall be one bank account per operation/programme. If for unforeseen reasons, it is not possible to open a separate bank account, a separate cash ledger should be maintained per operation/programme.

###### 24.1.2 Financial reporting

The Operating Society shall render a periodic account of the funds held by it for the operation/programme showing: opening balance brought forward from the previous period; income from all sources during the current period; actual disbursements during the period and the closing balance for the period. The periodicity of these reports shall be established in the agreement, but under no circumstances should be less than quarterly. Additional information required for the following period comprises: anticipated income, an estimate of expenditure and cash requirements. The International Federation and/or the ICRC would in that way be prepared to give consideration to making an appropriate supplementary advance in cash.

24.1.2.1 The actual disbursements charged to the operation/programme shall be shown in a detailed statement which, together with copies of vouchers for all amounts debited and recapitulatory bank statements, shall be submitted promptly to the International Federation and/or the ICRC local Delegation, no later than the end of the following month. In the event of such reports not being submitted, the local Delegation should take appropriate steps to assist the Operating Society in producing the necessary report. In exceptional circumstances, where monthly reports are not forthcoming, the International Federation and/or the ICRC may decide on the suspension of the financial assistance.

24.1.2.2 In recognizing the importance of financial reporting, the International Federation and/or the ICRC shall undertake to provide or make available technical assistance to the Operating Society in order to ensure the timely production of accurate and complete financial reports. Such reports should be regarded both as a management tool for the Operating Society, and as a reporting service to the International Federation.

#### 24.1.3 Auditing

Auditing is a normal, integral step in any professionally managed operation. In the interest of sound financial administration, the National Society's accounts related to the operation/programme shall be audited at least yearly by auditors designated by the International Federation and/or the ICRC. The cost of the audit will be met from the funds available for the operation/programme. This audit shall result in the Auditor's Report and a Management Letter. The said results shall be communicated to the National Society and, if necessary, corrective actions to be taken shall be indicated. In the exceptional event when no corrective actions have taken place, the International Federation and/or the ICRC may consider suspension of financial assistance.

#### 24.2 Gifts in kind

Where gifts in kind are made, records of the stocks showing the origin and use of such contributions shall be submitted monthly and upon completion of the operation/programme.

#### 25. Exceptional Rules of Procedure

25.1 The International Federation and/or the ICRC may, in certain exceptional circumstances, not be fully satisfied with the way in which resources for International Federation and/or ICRC operations and programmes are managed and accounted for by either Participating or Operating Societies.

25.2 In such circumstances, the International Federation and/or the ICRC is authorized to entrust a qualified International Federation and/or the ICRC representative to look into the matter.

25.3 The National Society in question, be it operating or participating, shall ensure that the International Federation and/or the ICRC representative, has access to such records of the Society as the International Federation and/or the ICRC representative considers necessary for the purpose of their task.

#### 26. Use made of gifts

26.1 A National Society which benefits from the assistance of sister Societies will give the International Federation's and/or ICRC's Representative or Head of Delegation the opportunity to see, on the spot, the use made of the gifts received.

#### 27. Unsolicited relief supplies

27.1 If a National Society wishes to send relief supplies which are not mentioned in the Appeal launched by the International Federation and/or ICRC, it shall first

obtain the agreement of the National Society of the stricken country or of the International Federation and/or ICRC. When there has been no Appeal but a National Society nevertheless wishes to send relief supplies to the Society of a stricken country, the previous agreement of that Society is also required and the International Federation and/or ICRC shall be informed.

27.2 In the absence of such an agreement, the receiving National Society is free to use unsolicited relief supplies at its own discretion, without being bound by the provision of Article 29.3.

#### 28. Donating supplies while receiving assistance

28.1 A National Society in receipt of international assistance for its own country shall not contribute assistance of a similar nature to a sister Society without the prior authorization of the International Federation and/or ICRC.

#### 29. Use of gifts

29.1 Gifts sent to a National Society may be used only for the purpose designated and will serve in the first place to give direct assistance to the victims.

29.2 An Operating Society may in no event use cash gifts to cover administrative expenses included in its ordinary budget, nor may it transfer cash gifts donated to it to another organization or group for use by that organization or group.

29.3 If in the course of a relief operation it becomes necessary to sell or exchange a part of the goods received, the donors will be consulted through the International Federation and/or ICRC. The funds or goods thus obtained may only be used for the relief action.

#### 30. Relief balances

30.1 Goods or funds remaining on hand after the termination of a relief action may be: used for subsequent rehabilitation activities, used for Society disaster preparedness activities, transferred to other priority programmes, or returned to the Participating Society. All such use of funds or goods should take place under an agreement between the National Society of the stricken country and the International Federation after consultation by the International Federation with the Participating Societies concerned.

#### Final Provisions

#### 31. Obligations

31.1 A National Society which accepts spontaneous or special assistance is bound to conform to the obligations laid down in the present "Principles and Rules" even though it has not requested assistance within the terms of Article 12.1.

XXIst, XXIIInd, XXIIIrd, XXIVth International Conferences of the Red Cross, Istanbul (1969), Tehran (1973), Bucharest (1977), Manila (1981) and Geneva (1986).

## ANNEX V

### Key factors for developmental relief

Prepared by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

In February 1995, the International Federation, in collaboration with the Danish Red Cross, the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and DANIDA undertook an examination of a number of recent relief operations to identify those factors which should typify a relief programme that uses a developmental approach to implementation.

Nine key factors were identified. These factors are now being incorporated into the International Federation's training programmes and disaster response methodology.

**I. Building on capacities as well as addressing vulnerabilities:** The need to access vulnerabilities is recognized as being important, but relief programmes that deliberately seek out and work with capacities, skills, resources and organizational structures within the disaster survivors, will be more effective than those that assume the survivors are a passive, helpless, recipient community.

**II. Identifying the needs and capacities of the diverse groupings of disaster survivors:** Developmental relief programmes recognize that the survivor population is made up of many groups with different capacities, vulnerabilities and needs. The relief programme is shaped to address these diverse groups and their capacities as well as their different needs.

**III. Participation:** Developmental relief programmes deliberately involve disaster survivors in the decision-making process which empower them to retake charge of their lives. Even in particularly difficult situations, such as relief to large-scale displaced populations a beginning may be made by engaging diverse community leaders in the assessment of the situation, and identifying the resources that they have available to cope.

**IV. Accountability:** In relief programmes, agencies traditionally see themselves as being accountable upwards, towards their headquarters and donors, but they should also practice accountability towards the disaster survivors. At a minimum, information on the planning, execution and expected duration of the relief programme should be openly shared with the programme beneficiaries.

**V. Strategies based on the reality of the disaster faced:** Relief programmes address many different types of disasters, those triggered by natural events, those which develop slowly over vast areas of a country, those caused by war and economic collapse. Developmental relief programmes adapt their strategies to suit the environment of the disaster rather than relying solely on pre-packaged delivery derived from a model of only one type of disaster.

**VI. Decentralized control:** A developmental relief programme allows management decisions to be taken as close to the beneficiary population as possible.

**VII. Demonstrating a concern for sustaining livelihoods:** Developmental relief programmes are concerned with what comes after relief as well as how the relief programme is carried out. They provide assistance that complements rather than competes with the normal means of livelihood of the disaster survivors.

**VIII. Building on local institutions:** Imposed relief programmes can undermine local structures, often use them without strengthening them and often abandon them after

the relief operation. Developmental relief programmes look to work with local institutions and build their capacities to carry on humanitarian work after the need for relief has passed.

**IX. Setting sustainable standards of services:** Relief programmes often set in motion the development of service and welfare systems, in health, education and water provision which will need to carry on after the relief ends. These should be of a standard and provided in a manner which has a realistic chance of being sustained after the relief operation ends.

#### Overcoming the constraints of existing systems

In between relief operations, aid workers and agencies all agree that they should find ways of doing relief in a more developmental way, but when the crisis hits and decisions have to be made quickly with minimal information, managers shy away from taking the risk of using other than the tried and tested responses.

The international aid system contains many actors, all of whom need to participate in a change process if the end product of the system, relief delivery, is to change. Being committed to finding better ways of providing relief the International Federation makes the following recommendations to implementing agencies, donors and research institutions.

#### Recommendations to implementing agencies

##### 1. Altering staffing structures and attitudes

In composing relief teams, it should be assured that sufficient expertise is included and responsibility assigned for focusing the relief activities on developmental implementation and maximizing utilization of community capacity. Staff training programmes need to include the concepts of programming relief for development.

##### 2. Programming standards

In order to practice developmental relief, agencies must set themselves high and defensible humanitarian standards. We recommend that as a starting point, agencies subscribe to the standards laid down in the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief.

##### 3. Specialized competence and coordination

Large relief programmes attract large numbers of external relief agencies. In order to improve the effectiveness and quality of the services we deliver, we recommend that agencies critically examine their own strengths and seek to develop greater competence, in limited fields if necessary, rather than a breadth of mediocrity in service delivery.

In addition we recommend that agencies recognize the need to balance their right to independence of action against the humanitarian value to be gained through coordination. Agencies should be willing to coordinate when it adds to the greater good of the relief programme.

##### 4. Altering budget structures

We recommend that agencies build into their plans of action and associated budgets the flexibility necessary to address longer term perspectives, building on local capacities as well

as addressing vulnerabilities. This requires a change to current budgeting practices.

#### **5. Supporting local people and structures**

We recommend that agencies seek to strengthen local capacities by employing local staff, purchasing local materials and trading with local companies. Wherever possible, agencies should work through local humanitarian organizations as partners in planning and implementation, and cooperate with local government structures.

#### **6. Programming for sustainability, disaster prevention and preparedness**

Agencies should seek to sustain livelihoods as well as lives. Relief programmes must not undermine the long-term sustainability of the assisted population. We recommend that all relief programming should address the issue of sustainability and disaster preparedness.

#### **7. Consistency of action, policy and messages**

We recommend that agencies examine their present policies for disaster response and adapt them to reflect a developmental approach to relief. In addition agencies should ensure that their publicity and advocacy material is consistent with this approach, and that they advocate rigorously for their partner organizations in government and the international community to also address relief in a developmental fashion.

#### **8. Programme reviews**

Many relief programmes go on year after year in the same way. We recommend agencies to review programmes annually to identify changes that progressively make more use of local leadership, skills and capacities.

#### **9. Sharing experience with donors and the media**

Agencies need to get better at sharing field experience of success and failure with donors and engage in a dialogue about needed policy change. Equally they need to work more effectively with the media to build understanding of the issues and to break down stereotypes such as those of "helpless disaster victims".

#### **Recommendations to donors**

#### **10. Linking relief and development programming**

The present organizational structure and funding mechanisms of many donor institutions reflects the view of relief and development as two divorced activities. We recommend that donor institutions seek ways of promoting dialogue between their relief and development divisions and seek ways of allowing a degree of development funding into relief programmes.

#### **11. Accountability, measuring the quality of relief programmes**

Measuring the quality of developmental relief programmes requires a different set of parameters and associated skills from evaluating simple relief delivery. We recommend that donor institutions explore new ways of evaluating and reporting in relation to relief programmes which reflect the attributes of a developmental approach.

#### **12. Support for local structures in relief and disaster preparedness**

Working through, enhancing and supporting local structures is central to the developmental approach to relief. We recommend that donor institutions recognize and support the legitimacy of funding local structure strengthening as part of disaster preparedness and relief programmes.

#### **13. Supporting review activities**

Promoting new ways of working require an enhanced learning process. We recommend that donor institutions support both national and international relief programme reviews with a view towards promoting developmental relief.

#### **Recommendations to research bodies**

#### **14. Development of practical methods of capacity and vulnerability analysis for disaster situations**

Developmental relief places greater emphasis on understanding local capacities and vulnerabilities than does needs-driven assistance delivery relief, yet few methodologies exist to help assess these features. We recommend that research bodies develop methods of capacity and vulnerability analysis which are appropriate for relief situations, by drawing upon existing experience.

#### **15. Development of methods for evaluating the quality of the relief process**

Measuring and evaluating the quality of developmental relief programmes requires a different set of parameters and associated skills from evaluating simple relief delivery. Few methodologies have been developed to allow such appropriate evaluations to take place. We recommend that research bodies develop such evaluation techniques, building on existing experiences and in close collaboration with implementing agencies and donor institutions.

#### **16. Developing accountability systems**

Present relief accountability systems stress financial reporting supported by process descriptive narrative. We recommend that research bodies assist in the development of more holistic reporting systems which provide information on features of relief programmes additional to quantitative delivery information, i.e. capacity building, participation, accountability to the disaster survivors.

#### **17. Impact evaluation of international relief on local organizations**

Many implementing agencies are concerned with the negative impact major relief programmes have on local institutions, yet little systematic documentation and research have been done in this area. We recommend that research bodies be commissioned to carry out such research.

#### **18. Popularizing the results of research**

Good research has effect only if it gets into the hands of the implementors. We recommend that the results of the research mentioned above be popularized through publications, meetings and other methods targeted at the implementing and donor agencies.

## ANNEX VI

# The Code of Conduct<sup>2</sup> for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief

Prepared jointly by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross

### Purpose

This Code of Conduct seeks to guard our standards of behaviour. It is not about operational details, such as how one should calculate food rations or set up a refugee camp. Rather, it seeks to maintain the high standards of independence, effectiveness and impact to which disaster response NGOs and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement aspires. It is a voluntary code, enforced by the will of organizations accepting it to maintain the standards laid down in the Code.

In the event of armed conflict, the present Code of Conduct will be interpreted and applied in conformity with international humanitarian law.

The Code of Conduct is presented first. Attached to it are three annexes, describing the working environment that we would like to see created by host governments, donor governments and intergovernmental organizations in order to facilitate the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance.

### Definitions

**NGOs:** NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) refers here to organizations, both national and international, which are constituted separate from the government of the country in which they are founded.

**NGHAs:** For the purposes of this text, the term Non-Governmental Humanitarian Agencies (NGHAs) has been coined to encompass the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement — The International Committee of the Red Cross, The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and its member National Societies — and the NGOs as defined above. This code refers specifically to those NGHAs who are involved in disaster response.

**IGOs:** IGOs (Inter-Governmental Organizations) refers to organizations constituted by two or more governments. It thus includes all United Nations Agencies and regional organizations.

**Disasters:** A disaster is a calamitous event resulting in loss of life, great human suffering and distress, and large-scale material damage.

### The Code of Conduct

#### Principles of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Response Programmes

##### 1. The humanitarian imperative comes first

The right to receive humanitarian assistance, and to offer it, is a fundamental humanitarian principle which should be enjoyed by all citizens of all countries. As members of the international community, we recognize our obligation to

provide humanitarian assistance wherever it is needed. Hence the need for unimpeded access to affected populations is of fundamental importance in exercising that responsibility. The prime motivation of our response to disaster is to alleviate human suffering amongst those least able to withstand the stress caused by disaster. When we give humanitarian aid it is not a partisan or political act and should not be viewed as such.

##### 2. Aid is given regardless of the race, creed or nationality of the recipients and without adverse distinction of any kind. Aid priorities are calculated on the basis of need alone

Wherever possible, we will base the provision of relief aid upon a thorough assessment of the needs of the disaster victims and the local capacities already in place to meet those needs. Within the entirety of our programmes, we will reflect considerations of proportionality. Human suffering must be alleviated whenever it is found; life is as precious in one part of a country as another. Thus, our provision of aid will reflect the degree of suffering it seeks to alleviate. In implementing this approach, we recognize the crucial role played by women in disaster prone communities and will ensure that this role is supported, not diminished, by our aid programmes. The implementation of such a universal, impartial and independent policy, can only be effective if we and our partners have access to the necessary resources to provide for such equitable relief, and have equal access to all disaster victims.

##### 3. Aid will not be used to further a particular political or religious standpoint

Humanitarian aid will be given according to the need of individuals, families and communities. Notwithstanding the right of NGHAs to espouse particular political or religious opinions, we affirm that assistance will not be dependent on the adherence of the recipients to those opinions. We will not tie the promise, delivery or distribution of assistance to the embracing or acceptance of a particular political or religious creed.

##### 4. We shall endeavour not to act as instruments of government foreign policy

NGHAs are agencies which act independently from governments. We therefore formulate our own policies and implementation strategies and do not seek to implement the policy of any government, except in so far as it coincides with our own independent policy. We will never knowingly — or through negligence — allow ourselves, or our employees, to be used to gather information of a political, military or economically sensitive nature for governments or other bodies that may serve purposes other than those which are strictly humanitarian, nor will we act as instruments of foreign policy of donor governments. We will use the assistance we receive to respond to needs and this assistance should not be driven by the need to dispose of donor commodity surpluses, nor by the political interest of any particular donor. We value and promote the voluntary giving of labour and finances by concerned individuals to support our work and recognize the independence of action promoted by such voluntary motivation. In order to protect our independence we will seek to avoid dependence upon a single funding source.

<sup>2</sup> Sponsored by: Caritas Internationalis\*, Catholic Relief Services\*, The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies\*, International Save the Children Alliance\*, Lutheran World Federation\*, Oxfam\*, The World Council of Churches\*, The International Committee of the Red Cross. (\*members of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response).

**5. We shall respect culture and custom**

We will endeavour to respect the culture, structures and customs of the communities and countries we are working in.

**6. We shall attempt to build disaster response on local capacities**

All people and communities — even in disaster — possess capacities as well as vulnerabilities. Where possible, we will strengthen these capacities by employing local staff, purchasing local materials and trading with local companies. Where possible, we will work through local NGHAs as partners in planning and implementation, and cooperate with local government structures where appropriate. We will place a high priority on the proper coordination of our emergency responses. This is best done within the countries concerned by those most directly involved in the relief operations, and should include representatives of the relevant UN bodies.

**7. Ways shall be found to involve programme beneficiaries in the management of relief aid**

Disaster response assistance should never be imposed upon the beneficiaries. Effective relief and lasting rehabilitation can best be achieved where the intended beneficiaries are involved in the design, management and implementation of the assistance programme. We will strive to achieve full community participation in our relief and rehabilitation programmes.

**8. Relief aid must strive to reduce future vulnerabilities to disaster as well as meeting basic needs**

All relief actions affect the prospects for long term development, either in a positive or a negative fashion. Recognizing this, we will strive to implement relief programmes which actively reduce the beneficiaries' vulnerability to future disasters and help create sustainable lifestyles. We will pay particular attention to environmental concerns in the design and management of relief programmes. We will also endeavour to minimize the negative impact of humanitarian assistance, seeking to avoid long-term beneficiary dependence upon external aid.

**9. We hold ourselves accountable to both those we seek to assist and those from whom we accept resources**

We often act as an institutional link in the partnership between those who wish to assist and those who need assistance during disasters. We therefore hold ourselves accountable to both constituencies. All our dealings with donors and beneficiaries shall reflect an attitude of openness and transparency. We recognize the need to report on our activities, both from a financial perspective and the perspective of effectiveness. We recognize the obligation to ensure appropriate monitoring of aid distributions and to carry out regular assessments of the impact of disaster assistance. We will also seek to report, in an open fashion, upon the impact of our work, and the factors limiting or enhancing that impact. Our programmes will be based upon high standards of professionalism and expertise in order to minimize the wasting of valuable resources.

**10. In our information, publicity and advertising activities, we shall recognize disaster victims as dignified humans, not hopeless objects**

Respect for the disaster victim as an equal partner in action should never be lost. In our public information we shall portray an objective image of the disaster situation where the capacities and aspirations of disaster victims are highlighted, and not just their vulnerabilities and fears. While we will cooperate with the media in order to enhance public response, we will not allow external or internal demands for publicity to

take precedence over the principle of maximizing overall relief assistance. We will avoid competing with other disaster response agencies for media coverage in situations where such coverage may be to the detriment of the service provided to the beneficiaries or to the security of our staff or the beneficiaries.

**The Working Environment**

Having agreed unilaterally to strive to abide by the Code laid out above, we present below some indicative guidelines which describe the working environment we would like to see created by donor governments, host governments and the inter-governmental organizations — principally the agencies of the United Nations - in order to facilitate the effective participation of NGHAs in disaster response.

These guidelines are presented for guidance. They are not legally binding, nor do we expect governments and IGOs to indicate their acceptance of the guidelines through the signature of any document, although this may be a goal to work to in the future. They are presented in a spirit of openness and cooperation so that our partners will become aware of the ideal relationship we would seek with them.

**Annex I**

**Recommendations to the governments of disaster-affected countries**

**1. Governments should recognize and respect the independent, humanitarian and impartial actions of NGHAs**

NGHAs are independent bodies. This independence and impartiality should be respected by host governments.

**2. Host governments should facilitate rapid access to disaster victims for NGHAs**

If NGHAs are to act in full compliance with their humanitarian principles, they should be granted rapid and impartial access to disaster victims, for the purpose of delivering humanitarian assistance. It is the duty of the host government, as part of the exercising of sovereign responsibility, not to block such assistance, and to accept the impartial and apolitical action of NGHAs. Host governments should facilitate the rapid entry of relief staff, particularly by waiving requirements for transit, entry and exit visas, or arranging that these are rapidly granted. Governments should grant over-flight permission and landing rights for aircraft transporting international relief supplies and personnel, for the duration of the emergency relief phase.

**3. Governments should facilitate the timely flow of relief goods and information during disasters**

Relief supplies and equipment are brought into a country solely for the purpose of alleviating human suffering, not for commercial benefit or gain. Such supplies should normally be allowed free and unrestricted passage and should not be subject to requirements for consular certificates of origin or invoices, import and/or export licences or other restrictions, or to importation taxation, landing fees or port charges.

The temporary importation of necessary relief equipment, including vehicles, light aircraft and telecommunications equipment, should be facilitated by the receiving host government through the temporary waving of license or registration restrictions. Equally, governments should not restrict the re-exportation of relief equipment at the end of a relief operation.

To facilitate disaster communications, host governments are encouraged to designate certain radio frequencies, which

relief organizations may use in-country and for international communications for the purpose of disaster communications, and to make such frequencies known to the disaster response community prior to the disaster. They should authorize relief personnel to utilize all means of communication required for their relief operations.

**4. Governments should seek to provide a coordinated disaster information and planning service**

The overall planning and coordination of relief efforts is ultimately the responsibility of the host government. Planning and coordination can be greatly enhanced if NGHAs are provided with information on relief needs and government systems for planning and implementing relief efforts as well as information on potential security risks they may encounter. Governments are urged to provide such information to NGHAs.

To facilitate effective coordination and the efficient utilization of relief efforts, host governments are urged to designate, prior to disaster, a single point-of-contact for incoming NGHAs to liaise with the national authorities.

**5. Disaster relief in the event of armed conflict**

In the event of armed conflict, relief actions are governed by the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law.

**Annex II**

**Recommendations to donor governments**

**1. Donor governments should recognize and respect the independent, humanitarian and impartial actions of NGHAs**

NGHAs are independent bodies whose independence and impartiality should be respected by donor governments. Donor governments should not use NGHAs to further any political or ideological aim.

**2. Donor governments should provide funding with a guarantee of operational independence**

NGHAs accept funding and material assistance from donor governments in the same spirit as they render it to disaster victims; one of humanity and independence of action. The implementation of relief actions is ultimately the responsibility of the NGHAs and will be carried out according to the policies of that NGHAs.

**3. Donor governments should use their good offices to assist NGHAs in obtaining access to disaster victims**

Donor governments should recognize the importance of accepting a level of responsibility for the security and freedom of access of NGHAs staff to disaster sites. They should be prepared to exercise diplomacy with host governments on such issues if necessary.

**Annex III**

**Recommendations to inter-governmental organizations**

**1. IGOs should recognize NGHAs, local and foreign, as valuable partners**

NGHAs are willing to work with UN and other intergovernmental agencies to effect better disaster response. They do so in a spirit of partnership which respects the integrity and independence of all partners. Intergovernmental agencies must respect the independence and impartiality of the NGHAs. NGHAs should be consulted by UN agencies in the preparation of relief plans.

**2. IGOs should assist host governments in providing an overall co-ordinating framework for international and local disaster relief**

NGHAs do not usually have the mandate to provide the overall coordinating framework for disasters which require an international response. This responsibility falls to the host government and the relevant United Nations authorities. They are urged to provide this service in a timely and effective manner to serve the affected state and the national and international disaster response community. In any case, NGHAs should make all efforts to ensure the effective coordination of their own services.

In the event of armed conflict, relief actions are governed by the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law.

**3. IGOs should extend security protection provided for UN organizations, to NGHAs**

Where security services are provided for intergovernmental organizations, this service should be extended to their operational NGHAs partners where it is so requested.

**4. IGOs should provide NGHAs with the same access to relevant information as is granted to UN organizations**

IGOs are urged to share all information, pertinent to the implementation of effective disaster response, with their operational NGHAs partners.

**Registration form**

Non-governmental organizations which would like to register their support for this Code and their willingness to incorporate its principles into their work should fill in the form below and return it to:

**Disaster and Refugee Policy Department  
The International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
PO Box 372  
1211 Geneva 19  
Switzerland  
Tel +41 (022) 7304222  
Fax +41 (022) 7330395**

*We would like to register our support for the Code of Conduct and will endeavour to incorporate its principles into our work.*

Agency Name	
Address	
Telephone	
Fax	
Signature	
Position in organization	
Date	





## ANNEX VII

### Amendment to the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

#### 1. Preamble

*Former text:*

“The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*Proclaims* that the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies...”

*New text:*

The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*Proclaims* that the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies...

#### 2. General provisions

##### Article 1: Definition

*Former text:*

“1. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (hereinafter called the Movement) is composed of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies recognized in accordance with Article 4 (hereinafter called National Societies), of the International Committee of the Red Cross (hereinafter called the International Committee) and of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (hereinafter called the League).”

*New text:*

“1. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (hereinafter called the Movement) is composed of

the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies recognized in accordance with Article 4 (hereinafter called National Societies), of the International Committee of the Red Cross (hereinafter called the International Committee) and of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (hereinafter called the Federation).”

#### 3. Components of the Movement

*Former text:*

“**Article 6: The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

1. The League is the International Federation of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It acts under its own Constitution with all rights and obligations of a corporate body with a legal personality.

2. The League is...”

*New text:*

“**Article 6: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

1. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies comprises the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It acts...

2. The Federation is...”

(rest unchanged)

All relevant articles of the Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement shall be amended accordingly.

### 3.10 LIST OF REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE 26TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

- Provisional annotated agenda (95/P/1) [submitted jointly by the ICRC and the International Federation]
- International humanitarian law: from law to action — Report on the follow-up to the International Conference for the protection of war victims (95/C.I/2/1) [Report of the president of the intergovernmental group of experts for the protection of war victims (Geneva, 23-27 January 1995)]
- International humanitarian law: from law to action — Report on the follow-up to the international Conference for the protection of war victims (95/C.I/2/2) [submitted by the ICRC in consultation with the International Federation]
- Periodical meetings Switzerland could be called upon to convene in order to examine general problems of implementation of international humanitarian law (95/C.I/2/3) [submitted by the Swiss authorities]
- Protection of the civilian population in periods of armed conflict (95/C.I/3/1) [submitted by the ICRC in consultation with the International Federation]
- Other business (95/C.I/4/1/1-3) [submitted by the ICRC]
  1. IHL applicable to armed conflicts at sea
  2. Identification of medical transport
  3. State of signatures, ratifications and accessions
- Principles and response in international humanitarian assistance and protection (95/C.II/2/1) [submitted jointly by the International Federation and the ICRC]
- Strengthening capacity to assist and protect the most vulnerable (95/C.II/3/1) [submitted by the International Federation in consultation with the ICRC]
- Explanation on election procedures for the members of the Standing Commission (95/P.II/1) [submitted jointly by the ICRC and the International Federation]
- Amendment to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the Movement (95/P.II/4/1) [submitted by the International Federation]
- Report of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund (95/P.II/4/3) [submitted by the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund]
- Preliminary Draft Resolutions (APR/95/C.I/2/1/Rev.1; APR/95/C.I/3/1/Rev.1; APR/95/C.I/4/1/Rev.1; APR/95/C.II/2/1/Rev.1; APR/95/C.II/3/1/Rev.1) [submitted jointly by the ICRC and the International Federation]

IV  
XIIth SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION OF THE RED CROSS  
AND RED CRESCENT (Constitutive meeting)  
Geneva, 7 December 1995

Present

ELECTED MEMBERS

H.R.H. Princess Margriet of The Netherlands  
Dr Byron R.M. Hove  
Mr Tadateru Konoe  
Ms Christina Magnuson  
Dr Guillermo Rueda Montaña

ICRC

Dr Cornelio Sommaruga, President  
Mr Yves Sandoz, Director

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

Dr Mario Villarroel, President  
Mr George Weber, Secretary-General  
Secretary ad interim of the Commission

Ms Yolande Camporini

Other participants

Prof. Dr Astrid N. Heiberg (part of the time)  
Acting Chairwoman

**OPENING OF THE MEETING AND  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

1. Prof. Heiberg (Acting Chairwoman) congratulated the members of the Standing Commission on their election, pointing out that they were the trustees of the Movement. The former Chairman of the Standing Commission had pointed out to her that the chief obstacle he had encountered in carrying out his work was the function set out in Article 18.8 that "In carrying out its functions, and subject to any final decision by the International Conference, the Standing Commission shall take any measures which circumstances demand, provided always that the independence and initiative of each of the components of the Movement, as defined in the present Statutes, are strictly safeguarded." That was the major challenge which the Standing Commission was facing, but she was sure that the work would be very rewarding. She then invited proposals for the office of chairman.
2. Dr Hove said that according to precedent, and on the basis of personal qualities also, it was a tradition to elect as chairperson the member of the Standing Commission who had received the largest number of votes. He therefore proposed Princess Margriet of the Netherlands.
3. President Sommaruga, speaking as an ex-officio member, expressed his great pleasure at working with the newly elected members. He believed that in view of her outstanding personal qualities Princess Margriet would fulfil the task admirably. He therefore seconded the proposal.
4. President Villarroel said he agreed entirely with Dr Sommaruga and strongly supported the proposal.
5. Mr Sandoz congratulated warmly the newly elected members of the Standing Commission and strongly endorsed the words of the previous three speakers.

6. Mr Weber also extended his warm congratulations to the new members and supported the proposal made by Dr Hove.
7. Ms Magnuson expressed her great hopes for the new Standing Commission, which she expected would form a strong team. She strongly supported the candidate proposed.
8. Mr Konoe expressed his full support for Dr Hove's proposal — he considered that Princess Margriet possessed all the qualities required to chair the Standing Commission.
9. Dr Rueda Montaña also associated himself with Dr Hove's proposal, stressing the importance not only of the number of votes but also of the personal qualities of the person concerned. Princess Margriet was known throughout the Movement for her devotion and graciousness.
10. Prof. Heiberg, noting that there was consensus on the matter, asked Princess Margriet if she would agree to chair the Standing Commission.
11. Princess Margriet thanked the members of the Standing Commission for their kind words and expressed her willingness to accept the position. She appealed to the members to give her all their support and hoped that she would live up to the trust they had shown in her.

Decision

*Princess Margriet of the Netherlands was appointed Chairman of the Standing Commission by acclamation.*

Princess Margriet took the chair.

12. Princess Margriet invited proposals for the post of vice-chairman.
13. Mr Konoe stressed the value of having an experienced vice-chairman and, with due regard to geographical distribution, proposed Dr B. Hove.
14. President Villarroel seconded the proposal.
15. Princess Margriet asked Dr Hove if he was prepared to serve as vice-chairman.
16. Dr Hove agreed.

Decision

*Dr B. Hove was elected to the post of Vice-Chairman by acclamation.*

17. Dr Hove thanked his colleagues for their support and said that he would serve the Standing Commission enthusiastically and to the best of his ability.

**NEXT MEETING AND SECRETARIAT OF THE  
STANDING COMMISSION**

18. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Secretary of the outgoing Standing Commission said that she had agreed with the outgoing members that, if the new Standing Commission so desired, she would act as its Secretary initially.

19. President Sommaruga said that the next meeting would be an important one concerning organizational matters and should be held soon.

First, the Standing Commission had to decide on the Rules of Procedure which would govern its work. The outgoing Standing Commission had prepared a draft of the new Rules of Procedure which the incoming Standing Commission might wish to study at its first meeting.

Secondly, the Council of Delegates had adopted a resolution concerning the Standing Commission which should be examined: the Standing Commission would need to take a fundamental decision regarding its own functioning, including the essential question of an independent secretariat. Meanwhile, a secretary ad interim was needed and he would be extremely happy if Ms Camporini would agree to act in that capacity. She would need to be given the time to provide that service.

20. President Villarroel considered that the Standing Commission had performed its essential work for the present and that the Chairman should be allowed time to settle in and familiarize herself with the issues at hand before convening the next meeting and taking any decisions.
21. Princess Margriet asked Ms Camporini if she would agree to act as Secretary ad interim.
22. Ms Camporini acceded to the request and said that she would do her utmost to assist until a Secretary was appointed to the post.

#### Decision

*The Standing Commission agreed to accept Mrs Camporini's offer and expressed its gratitude.*

23. Princess Margriet said that the draft new Rules of Procedure and the draft resolution adopted by the Council of Delegates should be studied in advance of the next meeting. She hoped that it would be possible for the Standing Commission to meet in January so that it could begin its work.
24. Mr Weber suggested that the Secretary prepare a number of documents to send to the members of the Standing Commission. Normally, the joint management teams of the two institutions collaborated in preparing their replies on a number of issues and therefore needed time to consider the implications of the recent statutory meetings. In addition, the Advisory Commission had called for the appointment of members within 60 days, namely the end of January, and, linked with that, there was the question of financing the independent secretariat — the two Institutions had been entrusted with making proposals in that regard.
- Given current work loads, he suggested that the Standing Commission should meet in mid-February.
25. Ms Magnuson was sure that the members were aware of the practical, functional and analytical work that had to be done and suggested that the Chairwoman of the Standing Commission should meet senior representatives of the two Geneva-based institutions beforehand to prepare the ground; the Standing Commission could then meet in mid-February.
26. Mr Weber supported that suggestion and added that it would also be necessary to carry out a "post mortem" on the International Conference. In that context, the two Institutions intended to consult with the group of 24

ambassadors on both the substance and the organization of the Conference.

27. Princess Margriet thought that two days would be needed for the first meeting and invited suggestions regarding the date.
28. Mr Konoe pointed out that it might be difficult for him to travel from Japan for a meeting lasting only one or two days. He would therefore prefer in general that meetings of the Standing Commission take place adjacent to other meetings he would attend in Geneva.
29. Dr Rueda Montaña pointed out that availability was one of the features included in the profile of candidates for the Standing Commission. In view of the importance of the Standing Commission, he felt that all members should be prepared to attend its meetings when necessary. He intended to resign from his Presidency of the International Federation's Constitutional Development Commission in order to accommodate that need. He supported the idea of holding a meeting in mid-February which would give time to study the appropriate issues in advance.
30. Mr Sandoz agreed on the need for the members to have information in advance of the next meeting and stated that he was available personally to give any assistance needed by the Chairwoman. He considered it important for a meeting to be held in about mid-February. In regard to Mr Konoe's statement, he stressed the importance of the meeting at which the Standing Commission would adopt its working procedures and timetable.
31. Ms Magnuson asked how many members had to be present in order for the Standing Commission to take valid decisions.
32. The Secretary ad interim said that a quorum constituted five members of the nine. She added that she would assemble all the documents she felt necessary for the members to begin their work. It would also be necessary for the Chairwoman to be in Geneva for consultations on matters of form before the next meeting of the Standing Commission.
33. Princess Margriet agreed and pointed to the importance of using modern telecommunications facilities, especially for members to inform the Secretary of their availabilities before the next meeting so that a tentative timetable could be established.
34. Dr Hove stressed the importance of setting a date for the next meeting. It appeared that the period between 15 and 20 February was acceptable to all and he suggested that the Chairman should fix the precise date and inform members accordingly.
35. On the question of the agenda, the two Institutions had a great deal of work to do, and the ambassadors were also involved. Two days seemed necessary for the meeting.
- He suggested that the Standing Commission should meet the group of 24 ambassadors.
36. President Sommaruga said that the outgoing Standing Commission had decided on the previous day that Prince Botho of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, its Chairman, should conclude consultations with the group of ambassadors that it had established to assist with the International Conference. He suggested that Mr Weber and Mr Sandoz who had co-chaired most of the meetings with the ambassadors might wish to agree with Prince Botho of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein

that he be present at their last meeting with the group and that he might, as he wished, organize a dinner for the five ambassadors who deserved special recognition for their particular assistance in dealing with the political problems encountered.

The speaker did not feel that the incoming Standing Commission should maintain contact with that group of ambassadors, established in the light of particular circumstances, although it might well wish in the future to establish a similar group to assist it in its work.

37. Dr Hove said that his suggestion and the information provided by President Sommaruga were complementary.

38. Princess Margriet suggested that the matter be left open.

Decision

*It was so agreed.*

39. President Sommaruga suggested that the Standing Commission should meet on 19 and 20 February 1996. The meeting could begin on the first morning and the second day could be held in reserve for the meeting to continue or for various contacts to be organized.

Decision

*It was so agreed.*

40. President Sommaruga, referring to the discussion in the Council of Delegates and the remarks made by Prince Botho of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein regarding the importance of meetings between the "three Presidents", namely the Chairman of the Standing Commission and the Presidents of the two Geneva-based Institutions, suggested that such a meeting should take place on the eve of the Standing Commission's next meeting. Such contacts were very valuable and saved time in the Standing Commission.

41. Princess Margriet noted that a meeting was also needed with the Presidents of both Institutions and the Chairman of the Advisory Commission in order to appoint the members of the Advisory Commission. This meeting could be fixed with the persons concerned.

Decision

*It was so agreed.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Announcement to the Conference of the officers elected by the Standing Commission

42. The Secretary ad interim said that it was customary to inform the Conference of the officers elected by the Standing Commission. In 1986, the Chairman of the International Conference had given the floor to one of the two ex-officio chairmen of the Conference to make that announcement.

43. Princess Margriet said that the Chairwoman of the Conference had convened the present meeting and that it would therefore be logical for her to make that announcement. The speaker would inform her accordingly.

Decision

*It was so agreed.*

### Venue of the 27th International Conference

44. Dr Hove said that the Conference would be considering the venue of the next International Conference. If it did not make a decision, the responsibility for so doing fell to the Standing Commission. In view of the problems there had been on that score, he suggested that the International Conference might be persuaded to leave that decision to the Standing Commission which could initiate the necessary consultations.

45. President Sommaruga informed the Commission that the Bureau of the Conference had decided that morning, on a proposal by the Chairwoman, that the decision would be left to the Standing Commission: the Chairwoman would propose that course of action to the Conference.

Decision

*The Standing Commission took note.*

46. President Villarroel said that the President of the Indonesian Red Cross Society had informed him of that Society's intention to put forward its candidacy as the venue for the next International Conference. That fact should be borne in mind.

Decision

*The Standing Commission took note.*

47. Princess Margriet thanked the members of the Standing Commission and reiterated that she would need the support of all members, and particularly the elected members, in carrying out her task.

*The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m. on Thursday, 7 December.*











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