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**TWENTY-NINTH  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

(ENG)

GENEVA 2006





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

**INCLUDING THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 2006  
COUNCIL OF DELEGATES**

**Prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross  
and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

**Geneva 19–21 June 2006  
International Conference Centre**

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# RESULTS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

## 1.1 RESOLUTIONS OF THE 2006 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

### 1.1.1 RESOLUTION 1: AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF THE 29<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

The Council of Delegates,

*having examined* the annexed provisional agenda and programme of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*defers* any other issues within the mandate of the International Conference to the 30<sup>th</sup> Conference scheduled for November 2007,

*adopts* the provisional agenda and programme of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and *requests* the Chairman of the Council to present it to the said Conference.

### 1.1.2 RESOLUTION 2: PROPOSAL OF PERSONS TO FILL POSTS AT THE 29<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

The Council of Delegates,

*having examined* the list of candidates nominated for election as officers of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*endorses* the list of candidates and *requests* the Chairman of the Council to transmit it to the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for approval.



## 1.2 RESOLUTIONS OF THE 29<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

### 1.2.1 RESOLUTION 1 AND ANNEX TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

#### Resolution 1

The 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

*noting* the report of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on the follow-up to resolution 3 of the 28<sup>th</sup> International Conference,

*taking account* of the Third Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions adopted on 8 December 2005 in Geneva, and of the Final Act of the Diplomatic Conference on the emblem,

*acknowledging* that the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 28 November 2005 and referred to in paragraph 15 of the Final Act of the Diplomatic Conference was concluded in an effort to facilitate the adoption of the Third Protocol and to pave the way for the membership of both signatory societies in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,

*considering* the unique and special situation of the Palestine Red Crescent Society,

*emphasizing* that the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society do not under any circumstances create a precedent for any other entity or territory,

*guided* by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, in particular the Principle of Universality,

1. *adopts* the draft amendments to the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement annexed hereto;

2. *decides* that the Third Protocol emblem will henceforth be designated as the «red crystal»;

3. *requests* the International Committee of the Red Cross to recognize the Palestine Red Crescent Society, and requests the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to admit this National Society as a member.

#### Annex to Resolution 1 Proposed amendments to the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

##### Title

Complete as follows the parenthesis below the title (adopted by the 25<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross at Geneva in 1986, amended in 1995 and 2006)

##### Article 3

Replace as follows the last sentence of **Article 3, paragraph 2**: “They also cooperate with their governments to ensure respect for international humanitarian law and to protect the distinctive emblems recognized by the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.”

##### Article 4

Replace as follows **Article 4, paragraph 5**: “5. Use a name and distinctive emblem in conformity with the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.”

##### Article 21

Replace as follows **Article 21, paragraph 2**: “2. The present amended Statutes shall enter into force on 22 June 2006.”





# **LISTE DES DÉLÉGUÉS LIST OF DELEGATES LISTA DE DELEGADOS**

## **2.1**

### **MEMBRES DE LA CONFÉRENCE MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE MIEMBROS DE LA CONFERENCIA**

Selon le Règlement du Mouvement international, l'ordre alphabétique des membres de la Conférence est celui des noms de leur pays dans la langue française. Les indications relatives à la composition des délégations sont dans la langue choisie par la délégation. L'ordre alphabétique suivi correspond à celui de la liste des États Parties aux Conventions de Genève établie par la Suisse.

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Movement, the alphabetical order of the members of the Conference is the alphabetical order of the French names of their respective countries and corresponds to the list of States party to the Geneva Conventions as established by Switzerland. All details pertaining to the composition of delegations are in the language chosen by the delegation.

De acuerdo con el Reglamento del Movimiento Internacional, el orden alfabético de los miembros de la Conferencia es el de los nombres de sus países en francés. Las indicaciones relativas a la composición de las delegaciones están en el idioma escogido por la propia delegación. El orden alfabético corresponde al de la lista, elaborada por Suiza, de los Estados Partes en los Convenios de Ginebra.

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- Mr Andrey Tehov  
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sofia

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sofia
- Ms Vania Mileva-Ninova  
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- M. Robert Compaore  
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Ministère des Affaires étrangères et de la  
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- Mme Alice Nebie  
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Second Secretary, Permanent Mission,  
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Solidarité, de l'Action Humanitaire et de la  
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- M. Jean-Marc Sylvestre Kimpolo  
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- M. Laurent Tengo  
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- Mr Byong-Hak Yoon  
Head, International Relations Department
- Ms Eun-Hee Cho  
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M. Kouadjo Michel Kouakou  
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Assistant Executive President, Head of Office

Mr Nikola Jagic  
Assistant Executive President, Head of  
International Department

Mr Zdravko Zidovec  
Honorary Member, Chief Editor, CRC  
Magazine

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Permanent Mission, Geneva

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Second Secretary, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva

Ms Romana Kuzmanic Olvio  
First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
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Misión Permanente, Ginebra

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Consejera, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

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Permanent Mission, Geneva

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Responsable du Département information et  
diffusion

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 Ginebra
- Sra. Hilda Aguilar De Cressent  
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- Mr Ali Hdaib Al Malood  
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- Col Michael Meier  
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- Mr Eric Pelofsky  
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- Ms Carol Santos  
Program Officer, Office of Multilateral  
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- Ms Sarah Currier  
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- Ms Ryan Donagny  
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Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Seleshi Mengesha  
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Mr William Clarke  
National Board Member

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- Mme Anne-Juliette Rohrbach  
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- Dr Robert Sebbag  
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- Mme Géraldine Drot  
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- M. Emmanuel Rousseau  
Premier Conseiller, Mission permanente,  
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 First Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

### GHANA / GHANA / GHANA

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**  
*Head of Delegation*  
 Ms Andrews Frimpong  
 Secretary-General

**État • State • Estado**

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 Permanent Mission, Geneva  
 Mr Paul Aryene  
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### GRÈCE / GREECE / GRECIA

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**  
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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*  
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 Implementation and Dissemination of  
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### GRENADE / GRENADA / GRANADA

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**  
*Head of Delegation*  
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### GUATEMALA / GUATEMALA / GUATEMALA

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**  
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**État • State • Estado**

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 Sra. Stephanie Hochstetter Skinner-Klee  
 Consejera, Misión Permanente, Ginebra  
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**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

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Membre du Comité directeur

**État • State • Estado**

*Chef de Délégation*

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**GUYANA / GUYANA / GUYANA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

Ms Dorothy Fraser

Secretary-General

**HAÏTI / HAITI / HAITÍ**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Chef de Délégation*

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Présidente

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Mission permanente, Genève

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Ministre conseiller, Mission permanente,  
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M. Pierre Mary Guy St-Amour

conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

**HONDURAS / HONDURAS / HONDURAS**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Jefe de Delegación*

Sra. Meneca de Mencía

Presidenta Nacional

Sra. Archila Norma

Coordinadora Nacional de Difusión

**État • State • Estado**

*Jefe de Delegación*

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Segundo Secretario, Misión Permanente,  
Ginebra

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*Head of Delegation*

Mr Georg von Habsburg

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Mr Gabor Farkas

Deputy Secretary-General

**État • State • Estado**

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Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative,  
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Second Secretary, Permanent Mission,  
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**ÎLES COOK / COOK ISLANDS / ISLAS COOK**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Jessie Ngatokorua

President

**INDE / INDIA / INDIA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Satya Pal Agarwal

Secretary-General

Mr Neel Kamal Singh

Director

**État • State • Estado**

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Deputy Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Ilango Kumaresan  
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**INDONÉSIE / INDONESIA / INDONESIA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Rachmat Ahadijat  
Deputy Secretary-General

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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Director-General for Multilateral Affairs,  
Department of Foreign Affairs, Jakarta
- H.E. Mr Makarim Wibisono  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission, Geneva
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Ambassador, Deputy Permanent  
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Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission,  
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- Mr Acep Somantri  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva
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**IRAK / IRAQ / IRAK**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

- Dr Jamal N. Al-Karboli  
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Representative, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Majid H. Al-Anbaki  
Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission,  
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**RÉPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D'IRAN / ISLAMIC  
REPUBLIC OF IRAN / REPÚBLICA ISLÁMICA DE  
IRÁN**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

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- Dr Zargham Sadeghi  
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- Ms Leili Khaleghi  
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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

- H.E. Mr Alireza Moaiyeri  
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- H.E. Mr Seyed Kazem Sajjadpour  
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**IRLANDE / IRELAND / IRLANDA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

- Ms Carmel Dunne  
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**État • State • Estado**

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Ambassador, Permanent Representative,  
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Permanent Mission, Geneva
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**ISLANDE / ICELAND / ISLANDIA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

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*Head of Delegation*

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**ISRAËL / ISRAEL / ISRAEL**

**État • State • Estado**

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- H.E. Mr Itzhak Levanon  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative,  
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- Mr Daniel Meron  
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- Ms Elea Fauvel  
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**ITALIE / ITALY / ITALIA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Chef de Délégation*

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- M. Federico Fadiga  
Département international
- M. Marcello Guerra  
Coordonnateur, Département international

**État • State • Estado**

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**JAMAÏQUE / JAMAICA / JAMAICA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Oswald Burchenson  
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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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**JAPON / JAPAN / JAPÓN**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

- H.E. Mr Ichiro Fujisaki  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative,  
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Mr Hiroshi Minami  
Minister, Permanent Mission, Geneva

H.E. Mr Shigeru Endo  
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Mr Yusuke Arai  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Shu Nakagawa  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Ms Takako Tsujisaka  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Akira Kato  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

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#### **JORDANIE / JORDAN / JORDANIA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

Dr Sami Khasawnih  
Adviser to the President

Dr Mohammed Ghazwi  
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Dr Mohammed Al-Khatib  
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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

H.E. Dr Mousa Burayzat  
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Permanent Mission, Geneva

Ms Nahla Rifai  
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Mr Hussam Qudah  
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Mr Azzam Alameddin  
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#### **KAZAKHSTAN / KAZAKHSTAN / KAZAJISTÁN**

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

H.E. Mr Kayrat Abusseitov  
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Mr Arkin Akhmetov  
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Geneva

Mr Arman Baisuanov  
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#### **KENYA / KENYA / KENIA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Paul Birech  
Governor

Mr Abbas Gullet  
Secretary-General

Dr Asha Mohammed  
Deputy Secretary-General

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

H.E. Ms Amina Mohamed  
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H.E. Mr Philip Owade  
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Ms Jean Kimani  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Ms Lenah Myambu  
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#### **KIRGHIZISTAN / KYRGYZSTAN / KIRGUISTÁN**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

Ms Ravza Shaiahetmetova  
Secretary-General

Ms Gulzat Temirova  
Youth Coordinator

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

H.E. Mr Muktar Djumaliev  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative,  
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Mr Aidit Erkin  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

#### **KOWEÏT / KUWAIT / KUWAIT**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Barges Hammoud Al-Barges  
President

Mr Saad Ali Al-Nahidh  
Treasurer

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Mr Najeeb Al-Bader  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Sadiq Marafi  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

**RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE DE  
LAO / LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC /  
REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA POPULAR DE LAO**

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*Head of Delegation*

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*Head of Delegation*

Mr Thongkhoun Sengphachanh  
Director, Inter-Governmental Organizations  
Division, Department of International  
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Vientiane

**LESOTHO / LESOTHO / LESOTO**

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*Head of Delegation*

Mrs Makabelo Mosothoane  
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**LETONIE / LATVIA / LETONIA**

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*Head of Delegation*

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**LIBAN / LEBANON / LÍBANO**

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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**LIBÉRIA / LIBERIA / LIBERIA**

*Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional*

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Mr Daniel Clarke  
Secretary-General

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*Head of Delegation*

Ms Krubo B. Kollie  
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Monrovia

**LIBYE (JAMAHIRIYA ARABE) / LIBYAN ARAB  
JAMAHIRIYA / LIBIA (JAMAHIRIYA ÁRABE)**

*Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional*

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Solyman Eleghmary  
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Mr Abdelkader Kadura  
Lecturer

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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**LIECHTENSTEIN / LIECHTENSTEIN /  
LIECHTENSTEIN**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

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**État • State • Estado**

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Geneva

**LITUANIE / LITHUANIA / LITUANIA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

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Chairman

Ms Rena Sidlauskiene  
Secretary-General

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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**LUXEMBOURG / LUXEMBOURG /LUXEMBURGO**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Chef de Délégation*

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Directeur général

**État • State • Estado**

*Chef de Délégation*

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Mission permanente, Genève

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M. Joe Pundel  
Premier Secrétaire, Mission permanente,  
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**MACÉDOINE (EX-RÉPUBLIQUE YUGOSLAVE  
DE) / MACEDONIA (THE FORMER YUGOSLAV  
REPUBLIC OF) / MACEDONIA (EX REPÚBLICA  
YUGOSLAVA DE)**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

Dr Jovan Damjanovski  
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Mr Sasho Taleski  
Head, International Department

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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Mr Dusko Uzunovski  
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**MADAGASCAR / MADAGASCAR / MADAGASCAR**

**État • State • Estado**

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Mission permanente, Genève

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Premier Conseiller, Mission permanente,  
Genève

**MALAISIE / MALAYSIA / MALAISIA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Hisham Harun Hashim  
Deputy National Chairman

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

H.E. Ms King Bee Hsu  
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Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Idham Musa Moktar  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva

Mr Abidin Zulkifli  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva



**MALAWI / MALAWI / MALAU**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Harry M'menya  
President
- Mr Lawson Kasamale  
Secretary-General

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Ernest M. Makawa  
Chief Legal Officer, Ministry of Foreign  
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**MALI / MALI / MALI**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

- M. Adama Diarra  
Président
- M. Sibiry Diarra  
Secrétaire exécutif

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

- M. Sekou Kasse  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Mission permanente,  
Genève

**MALTE / MALTA / MALTA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

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President
- Mr David Grech  
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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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Permanent Mission, Geneva
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Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr Tony Bonnici  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva
- Mr John Busuttil  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

**MAROC / MOROCCO / MARRUECOS**

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*Head of Delegation*

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Secrétaire général
- M. Abdeslam Chtouki  
Membre du Conseil d'administration

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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Mission permanente, Genève
- M. Azzeddine Farhane  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève
- M. Driss Isbayene  
Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève
- M. Omar Kadiri  
Premier secrétaire, Mission permanente,  
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**MAURICE / MAURITIUS / MAURICIO**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Gaëtan Roland Lagesse  
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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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- Mr Mohamed Iqbal Latona  
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Geneva
- Ms Reena Wilfried-Rene  
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**MAURITANIE / MAURITANIA / MAURITANIA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

- M. Taher Moustapha Ould / Saleh  
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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

- S.E. M. Mohamed Saleck Ould Mohamed Lemine  
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- M. Mahfoudh Ould Magha  
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**MEXIQUE / MEXICO / MÉXICO**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Jefe de Delegación*

- Sr. Daniel Goñi Díaz  
Presidente del Consejo Nacional de  
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**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

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M. Martin Fuhrer  
Chef, Coopération internationale

M. Hubert Bucher  
Relations internationales

Mme Carole Brumann  
Représentante Jeunesse

Mme Elodie Anduze  
Représentante Jeunesse

**État • State • Estado**

*Chef de Délégation*

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Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent,  
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(DFAE), Berne

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Conseiller diplomatique, DFAE, Berne

S.E. M. Didier Pfirter  
Ambassadeur en mission spéciale,  
Rapporteur de la Suisse sur le suivi du  
protocole d'accord entre la société de secours  
israélienne Magen David Adom et la Société  
palestinienne du Croissant-Rouge, DFAE,  
Suppléant du Chef de la délégation, Berne

M. Julien Abegglen  
Assistant de M. l'Ambassadeur Pfirter, chargé  
du rapport sur le suivi du protocole d'accord,  
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M. Daniel Klingele  
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international public, Conseiller juridique de  
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Collaboratrice scientifique à la Section des  
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Direction du droit international public,  
assistante du Conseiller juridique, chargée  
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Mouvement international de la Croix-Rouge  
et du Croissant-Rouge, DFAE, Berne

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Premier secrétaire, Affaires humanitaires,  
Mission permanente, Genève

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Deuxième Secrétaire, Mission permanente,  
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M. Lars Knuchel  
Délégué

M. Raphaël Saborit  
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**SURINAME / SURINAME / SURINAM**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

Ms Marja Naarendorp  
President

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Leendert Chandrebahn Doerga  
Counsellor, Embassy of Suriname in Belgium,  
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**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari  
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Permanent Mission, Geneva

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Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
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First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Ayman Raad  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

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Second Secretary, Permanent Mission,  
Geneva

Mr Ghiath Ibrahim  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

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Cheffe de Division des droits de l'homme,  
Direction des Affaires Juridiques, Ministère  
des Affaires Etrangères et de l'Intégration  
africaine, N'Djamena

**TADJIKISTAN / TAJIKISTAN / TAYIKISTÁN**

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REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA / REPÚBLICA UNIDA DE  
TANZANIA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Chef de Délégation*

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M. Andreas Koumo-Gopina  
Secrétaire général

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*Chef de Délégation*

S.E. M. Malloum Bamanga Abbas  
Ambassadeur extraordinaire et  
plénipotentiaire, Représentant permanent,  
Mission permanente, Genève

Mlle Haoua Akouya  
Premier Secrétaire, Mission permanente,  
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Conseiller économique, Mission permanente,  
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M. Baba Togmian  
Premier Conseiller, Mission permanente,  
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**RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE / CZECH REPUBLIC /  
REPÚBLICA CHECA**

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*Head of Delegation*

Mr Marek Jukl  
President

Mr Jiří Procházka  
Secretary-General

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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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Deputy Director, International Law, Ministry  
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**THAÏLANDE / THAILAND / TAILANDIA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

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**État • State • Estado**

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**TIMOR-LESTE / TIMOR-LESTE / TIMOR-LESTE**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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**TOGO / TOGO / TOGO**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Chief de Délégation*

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**État • State • Estado**

*Chief de Délégation*

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**TONGA / TONGA / TONGA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

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Secretary-General

**TRINITÉ-ET-TOBAGO / TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO /  
TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO**

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*Head of Delegation*

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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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**TUNISIE / TUNISIA / TÚNEZ**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

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*Chef de Délégation*

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**TURKMÉNISTAN / TURKMENISTAN /  
TURKMENISTÁN**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

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**TURQUIE / TURKEY / TURQUÍA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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Mr Selguk Ünal  
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#### UKRAINE / UKRAINE / UCRANIA

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

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Head, International Relations Department

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**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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#### URUGUAY / URUGUAY / URUGUAY

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Jefe de Delegación*

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**État • State • Estado**

*Jefe de Delegación*

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Alterno, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

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Delegado, Comité Departamental, Montevideo

Sra. Alejandra De Bellis  
Primera Secretaria, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

Sra. Ana Inés Rocanova  
Segunda Secretaria, Misión Permanente,  
Ginebra

#### VANUATU / VANUATU / VANUATU

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Antony Deamer  
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#### VENEZUELA / VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) / VENEZUELA

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Jefe de Delegación*

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Presidente

Sra. Yolanda Camporini  
Asesora del Presidente

Dr. Julio Cesar Pineda  
Director de Asuntos Internacionales

Sra. Norka Sierralta de Villarroel  
Miembro

Sr. Miguel Villarroel  
Miembro

**État • State • Estado**

*Jefe de Delegación*

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Misión Permanente, Ginebra

Sr. Diego Ibarra  
Tercer Secretario, Misión Permanente,  
Ginebra

#### VIET NAM / VIET NAM / VIETNAM

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

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Under Secretary-General

Mr Nguyen Vinh Hoa  
Programme Officer, Translator

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Quoc Hung Dang  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr Tran Nam Trung Dang  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

**YÉMEN / YEMEN / YEMEN**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

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President

Mr Abbas Zabarah  
Secretary-General

**État • State • Estado**

*Head of Delegation*

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Mr Saad Al Kabab  
Interpreter

**ZAMBIE / ZAMBIA / ZAMBIA**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

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Mr Elias Mutale  
National Legal Adviser

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**ZIMBABWE / ZIMBABWE / ZIMBABWE**

**Société nationale • National Society • Sociedad Nacional**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Edmore Shamu  
President

Mrs Emma Kundishora  
Secretary-General

**COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE  
(CICR) /  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
(ICRC) /**

**COMITÉ INTERNACIONAL DE LA CRUZ ROJA  
(CICR)**

*Chef de Délégation*

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Président

M. Jacques Forster  
Vice-Président permanent

Mme Liselotte Kraus-Gurny  
Membre honoraire du CICR

M. Angelo Gnaedinger  
Directeur général

M. François Bugnion  
Directeur du droit international et de la  
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M. Pierre Kraehenbuehl  
Directeur des opérations

M. Yves Daccord  
Directeur de la communication

M. Philip Spoerri  
Directeur du droit international et de la  
coopération au sein du Mouvement

M. Christophe Harnisch  
Délégué général pour l'Afrique

M. Reto Meister  
Délégué général pour l'Asie et le Pacifique

Mme Béatrice Mégevand Roggo  
Déléguée générale pour l'Europe et les  
Amériques

M. Balthasar Staehelin  
Délégué général pour le Moyen-Orient

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Cheffe de division, Coopération et  
Coordination au sein du Mouvement

M. Jean-Philippe Lavoyer  
Chef de la Division juridique

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Conseiller, Département du droit  
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Mouvement

M. Jean-Luc Blondel  
Conseiller personnel du Président

M. Bruce Biber  
Chef adjoint de division, Coopération et  
Coordination au sein du Mouvement

Mme Antonella Notari  
Cheffe des relations avec les medias, Porte-  
parole de la délégation du CICR

**FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIÉTÉS DE  
LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT-ROUGE /  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS  
AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES /  
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE SOCIEDADES  
DE LA CRUZ ROJA Y DE LA MEDIA LUNA ROJA**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero  
President

Mr Chrystold Chetty  
Chairman of Finance Commission

Mr Markku Niskala  
Secretary-General

Ms Malika Ait-Mohammed-Parent  
Head, Middle East and North Africa  
Department

Ms Luntan Bayarmaa  
Acting Head, Organizational Development  
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Mr Richard Blewitt  
Director, Policy and Communications  
Division

Mr	Mike Davis Head, Finance Department	Mr	Christopher Lamb External Relations
Mr	Luc De Wever Head of Cabinet, Office of the Secretary-General	Ms	Andree Lorber-Willis Head, Administration
Mr	Andre Doren Head, Communications and Resource Mobilization Department	Mr	Simon Missiri Head, Asia and Pacific Department
Mr	Bruce Eshaya-Chauvin Head, Health and Care Department	Mr	Frank Mohrhauer Manager, Governance Support
Mr	Marcel Fortier Manager, Relationship Development Unit	Mr	Mohammed Mukhier Head, Disaster Preparedness and Response Department
Mr	Santiago Gil Head, Americas Department	Mr	Ibrahim Osman Deputy Secretary-General
Mr	Encho Gospodinov Head of Delegation, UN New York	Ms	Maria Paz Tomey Senior Officer, Governance Support
Mr	Richard Hunlede Head, Africa Department	Mr	Johan Schaar Special Representative, Tsunami Operation
Mr	Stephen Ingles Director, Support Services	Ms	Anna Segall Head of Regional Delegation, Amman
Ms	Susan Johnson Director, National Society and Field Support Division	Ms	Anna Toivola Head, Europe Department
Mr	Knut Kaspersen Head of Delegation, Palestine	Ms	Michaela Told Acting Head, Principles and Values Department





**2.2**  
**COMMISSION PERMANENTE**  
**DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT-ROUGE**  
**STANDING COMMISSION**  
**OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**  
**COMISIÓN PERMANENTE**  
**DE LA CRUZ ROJA Y DE LA MEDIA LUNA ROJA**

Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid  
Chairman  
Ms Janet Davidson  
Acting Chairman  
Mr Philippe Cuvillier  
Member

Mr Freddy Karup Pedersen  
Member  
Ms Zoy Katevas de Sclabos  
Member





## 2.3 OBSERVATEURS OBSERVERS OBSERVADORES

### 2.3.1 SOCIÉTÉS NATIONALES EN ATTENTE DE RECONNAISSANCE ET D'ADMISSION / NATIONAL SOCIETIES AWAITING RECOGNITION AND ADMISSION / SOCIEDADES NACIONALES EN ESPERA DE SU RECONOCIMIENTO Y ADMISIÓN

#### ERITREA / RED CROSS SOCIETY OF ERITREA

*Head of Delegation*

Sister Alganesh Kidane  
Secretary-General

#### ISRAËL / MAGEN DAVID ADOM IN ISRAEL

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Noam Yifrach  
Chairman  
Ms Krist Hanna Geller  
Member  
Mr Shimshon Shtrang  
Member  
Mr Uri Geller  
President, Israeli Friends of Magen David  
Adom (MDA)  
Mr Nicholas Posnansky  
Chairman, MDA Friends' Societies  
Mr Stuart Jackson  
Chairman, American Friends of MDA  
Mr David Eagle  
Council Member  
Mr Gilad Finkelshtein  
Council Member  
Mr Zvika Kuhan  
Council Member  
Mr Ronen Yemini  
Council Member  
Mr Eli Bin  
Director-General  
Mr Dror Richter  
Director, Lachish Region  
Mr Ran Abeles  
Member

Mr Zachi Dembin  
Member  
Mr Itay Stav  
Member  
Mr Avralam Tiger  
Member  
Mr Efrat Zemer  
Journalist

#### PALESTINE / PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Younis Al-Khatib  
President

### 2.3.2 ENTITÉS ET ORGANISATIONS AYANT PARTICIPÉ EN QUALITÉ D'OBSERVATEURS / ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT PARTICIPATED AS OBSERVERS / ENTIDADES Y ORGANIZACIONES QUE HAN PARTICIPADO EN CALIDAD DE OBSERVADORAS

#### PALESTINE

*Head of Delegation*

H. E. Dr Mohammad Abu-Koash  
Ambassador, Permanent Observer,  
Permanent Observer Mission, Geneva  
Mr Taissir Al-Adjouri  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Nadine Hassassian  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Ibrahim Musa  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva  
Mr Osama Mohammed  
Member of the Delegation

## **AFRICAN UNION (AU)**

*Head of Delegation*

- Ms Khadija Rachida Masri  
Permanent Observer
- Mr Sivaramen Palayathan  
Minister Counsellor
- Mr Mustapha Chatti  
First Secretary

## **ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Luis Carpio  
Director, Transport and Natural Disasters

## **B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL**

*Head of Delegation*

- Ms Sybil Kessler  
Director, United Nations Affairs

## **COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Guus Houttuin  
Head, Geneva Liaison Office, Council of the European Union
- Mr Oliver Allen  
Counsellor, Geneva Liaison Office, Council of the European Union
- Ms Elina Dzalbe  
Trainee, Geneva Liaison Office, Council of the European Union

## **ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES ( ECOWAS)**

*Head of Delegation*

- Dr Aderemi Isola Ajibewa  
Principal Programme Officer, Political Affairs

## **FÉDÉRATION MONDIALE DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS**

*Chef de Délégation*

- M. Henri Bouvier  
Représentant

## **FONDATION PRO VICTIMIS**

*Chef de Délégation*

- M. Nicolas Borsinger  
Secrétaire général
- M. Michel Cagneux  
Conseiller politique

## **GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ARAB RED CRESCENT AND RED CROSS SOCIETIES**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Abdulla bin Mohammed Al-Hazaa  
Secretary-General
- Mr Jalal Abdelmajeed Ahmed  
Administrative Director
- Mr Betthar Boudjellal  
Legal Adviser

## **HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL**

*Chef de Délégation*

- M. Paul Vermeulen  
Directeur
- Mme Christina Giesch Shakya  
Coordonnatrice des programmes

## **HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Pablo Kapusta  
Fellow

## **INSTITUT FÜR FRIEDENSSICHERUNGSRECHT UND HUMANITÄRES VÖLKERRECHT DER RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT**

*Head of Delegation*

- Dr Horst Fischer  
Academic Director

## **INTERNATIONAL CIVIL DEFENCE ORGANIZATION (ICDO)**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Nawaf Al-Sleibi  
Secretary-General
- Mr Pascal Gondrand  
Head, Planning and Development
- Mr Evgeny Vassiliev  
Assistant to the Secretary-General

## **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH SOCIAL AND WELFARE SERVICES (INTERCO)**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Daniel Lack  
Geneva Representative

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES**

*Head of Delegation*

Ms Jill Caughley  
Coordinator, Florence Nightingale  
International Foundation

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES (ICA)**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Didier Grange  
Vice-President

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HUMANITARIAN  
LAW (SAN REMO)**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Jovan Patrnogic  
President

**INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC RELIEF ORGANIZATION  
OF SAUDI ARABIA (IIROSA)**

*Head of Delegation*

Dr Fawzia Al-Ashmawi  
Representative, IIROSA, Geneva

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Alfredo Lazarte-Hoyle  
Acting Director  
Mr Donato Kiniger-Passigly  
Senior Specialist, Programme on Crisis  
Response and Reconstruction

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR  
MIGRATION (IOM)**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Alexandre Devillard  
Intern, International Migration Law

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Vincent Faber  
Secretary-General

**INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  
(ITU)**

*Head of Delegation*

Mr Max-Henri Cadet  
Head, External Affairs

**INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

*Head of Delegation*

Ms Kareen Jabre  
Programme Manager

**ISLAMIC RELIEF**

*Head of Delegation*

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**LIGUE DES ÉTATS ARABES**

*Chef de Délégation*

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Délégation permanente, Genève  
M. Salah Aeid  
Attaché, Délégation permanente, Genève  
M. Osman El Hajje  
Attaché, Délégation permanente, Genève  
M. Youcef Tiliouant  
Premier Attaché, Délégation permanente,  
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**NEPARC / FRITZ INSTITUTE**

*Head of Delegation*

Ms Winnie Ngugi  
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**ORDRE SOUVERAIN ET MILITAIRE DE MALTE**

*Chef de Délégation*

S.E. Mme Marie-Thérèse Pictet Althann  
Ambassadrice

**ORGANISATION DE LA CONFERENCE ISLAMIQUE**

*Chef de Délégation*

- S. E. M. Babacar BA  
Ambassadeur, Observateur permanent,  
Délégation permanente, Genève
- M. Mohammed Amine Jerrari  
Ministre conseiller, Délégation permanente,  
Genève
- Mme Aissata Kane  
Premier Secrétaire, Délégation permanente,  
Genève
- M. Mojtaba Amiri Vahid  
Observateur permanent adjoint, Délégation  
permanente, Genève

**ORGANISATION MÉTÉOROLOGIQUE MONDIALE**

*Chef de Délégation*

- M. Jean-Baptiste Migraine

**ORGANISATION MONDIALE CONTRE LA  
TORTURE – SOS TORTURE**

*Chef de Délégation*

- M. Eric Sottas  
Directeur

**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)**

*Head of Delegation*

- Ms Sonya Anne Brander  
Senior Legal Adviser

**PAN PACIFIC AND SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION (PPSEAWA)**

*Head of Delegation*

- Ms Clarissa Starey  
Representative

**PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE OIC MEMBER  
STATES (PUIC)**

*Head of Delegation*

- H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Peyrovi  
Assistant Secretary-General

**PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Etienne De Jonghe  
Secretary-General

**QUAKERS, SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

*Head of Delegation*

- Ms Rachel Brett  
Representative, Human Rights and Refugees

**UN WATCH**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Hillel Never  
Executive Director
- Ms Elizabeth Cassidy  
Assistant Executive Director
- Mr Leon Saltiel  
Senior Fellow
- Mr Pablo Kapusta  
Fellow

**UNION EUROPÉENNE – COMMISSION DES  
COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES**

*Chef de Délégation*

- S.E M. Carlo Trojan  
Ambassadeur
- M. Thierry Bechet  
Ministre, Conseiller, Chef Section ONU
- M. André Mollard  
Conseiller
- M. Matti Rajala  
Conseiller

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Everett Ressler  
Head, Emergency Programme
- Mr Luc Chauvin  
Delegate

**UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY  
FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST  
(UNRWA)**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Matthias Burchard  
Chief, Liaison Office, Geneva
- Ms Laure Roges  
Intern, Liaison Office, Geneva

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)**

*Head of Delegation*

- Ms Päivi Lähdesmäki  
Senior Legal Officer, Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications Law Division
- Mr Nikolay Khlestov  
Senior Counsellor, Coordination Office for External Relations

**WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Shai Franklin  
Director of International Organizations
- Mr Arseniy Finberg  
Young Professionals Diplomatic Corps
- Mr Nimrod Fridberg  
Observer
- Ms Lisa Heiden  
Member
- Mr Adam Koffler  
Director
- Ms Ezster Lanyi  
Member
- Ms Dalia Lichtenstein  
Observer
- Mr Peleg Reshef  
Director, Future Generations Division
- Ms Dana Raviv  
Observer
- Mr A. Tobia Zevi  
Member
- Mr Michael Thaidigsmann  
Media Coordinator
- Ms Sonat Hart  
Young Professionals Diplomatic Corps
- Ms Veronica Machtay  
Young Professionals Diplomatic Corps

**WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

*Head of Delegation*

- Dr Otmar Kloiber  
General Secretary

**WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL**

*Head of Delegation*

- Mr Scott L. Hardman  
Managing Director, Alexander Hutton, Inc.
- Mr Thomas Getman  
Director, Humanitarian Affairs and International Relations





## 2.4 INVITÉS GUESTS INVITADOS

- M. Patrick Auderset  
Assistant scientifique, Musée international de  
la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
- M. Hans Hoegh  
Secrétaire général honoraire de la Fédération  
internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge  
et du Croissant-Rouge
- Mr Bernard Koechlin  
President of the Foundation Board,  
International Red Cross and Red Crescent  
Museum

- M. Roger Mayou  
Directeur, Musée international de la  
Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
- Mr George Weber  
Secretary-General Emeritus of the  
International Federation of Red Cross and  
Red Crescent Societies







# 2006 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

## 3.1 CONVOCATION

To all National Societies and Observers of the Council of Delegates

19 June 2006

Geneva, 16 December 2005

Further to the Standing Commission's decision to convene the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent from 20–21 June 2006 and in conformity with Article 15.1 of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, we have the honour of inviting you to participate in the Council of Delegates

in Geneva  
on Monday 19 June 2006 at 2.30 p.m.  
at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG)  
Rue de Varembé, 15  
CH-1211 Geneva 20

Please find attached the provisional agenda prepared by the Standing Commission as well as the convocation to the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference.

Yours sincerely,

Juan M. Suárez del Toro R.  
President  
International Federation of Red Cross  
and Red Crescent Societies

Dr Jakob Kellenberger  
President  
International Committee  
of the Red Cross



## **3.2 AGENDA**

### **COUNCIL OF DELEGATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT Geneva – 19 June 2006**

**Monday, 19 June 2006, 2.30 p.m.**

#### **Plenary Meeting**

1. Opening of the Council of Delegates by the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
2. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretaries of the Council of Delegates
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Report of the Standing Commission on the follow-up to the resolution on the emblem (Resolution 5) adopted by the Council of Delegates in Seoul in November 2005
5. Twenty-ninth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
  - 5.1 Adoption of the provisional agenda of the Conference
  - 5.2 Proposal of persons to fill posts at the Conference
6. Date and venue of the next Council of Delegates
7. Closing of the Council of Delegates



### 3.3 LIST OF OFFICERS

**Chairman**

Dr Jakob Kellenberger (President of the ICRC)

**Vice-Chairman**

Mr Tom Buruku (Chairman of the Uganda Red Cross Society)

**Secretaries:**

Mr Jean-Luc Blondel (ICRC)

Mrs Malika Ait-Mohamed-Parent (International Federation)







## 3.4 SUMMARY RECORD

### Item 1

#### **Opening of the Council of Delegates by the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid**, Chairman of the Standing Commission, welcomed delegates to the Council and said that they would be invited to approve the agenda and propose officers for the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which would open on the following day.

It was perhaps more important than ever before to ensure a united Movement position on the objectives and expected outcomes of the Conference, preserving and reinforcing the Movement's unity in order to achieve the objectives set. A divided Movement was easy prey for politically motivated aims, and it was therefore of paramount importance that, when National Societies met with their governments on the following day, they spoke with one voice.

The final phase of the emblem process would be closed by amending the Movement's Statutes to take account of the new emblem established by Additional Protocol III, creating the pre-conditions for achieving full universality and paving the way for the recognition of and the admission into the Movement of the Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society. It was his sincere hope that the coming days' deliberations would honour the Movement's principles and respect humanitarian values. He trusted that the National Societies would promote the aims, objectives and humanitarian nature of the issues at hand. "Protecting human dignity" was the theme for the Conference and it should inspire them all.

### Item 2

#### **Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretaries of the Council of Delegates**

**Dr Al-Hadid**, Chairman of the Standing Commission, in keeping with tradition, proposed that Dr Jakob

Kellenberger, President of the ICRC, be elected Chairman of the Council.

He further suggested that Mr Tom Buruku, Chairman of the Uganda Red Cross Society, be elected Vice-Chairman, and that the Chairs be assisted by Mr Jean-Luc Blondel of the ICRC and Mrs Malika Ait-Mohamed-Parent of the International Federation.

*The officers of the Council were elected by acclamation.*

### Item 3

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

**Dr Kellenberger**, assuming the role of Chairman, recalled that the resolution on the emblem adopted by the Council of Delegates in Seoul had asked the Standing Commission to give priority to finding a comprehensive and lasting solution to the emblem question. The Council was expected to take a decision on the draft agenda (document CD 2006 - DR 5/1) and on the list of proposed officers for the Conference (document CD 2006 - DR 5/2), both of which had been circulated to delegates.

*The agenda of the Council of Delegates was adopted by acclamation.*

### Item 4

#### **Report of the Standing Commission on the follow-up to the resolution on the emblem (Resolution 5) adopted by the Council of Delegates in Seoul in November 2005**

**Ambassador Philippe Cuvillier**, presenting the report of the Standing Commission, recalled that Protocol III additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, relating to the adoption of an additional distinctive emblem, had been adopted in December 2005 by the Diplomatic Conference; the purpose of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference was not to reopen the debate on the emblem issue. It was expected that the Protocol would enter into force in six months' time.

Since 1997, several resolutions had been adopted on the question of the emblem by the Council of Delegates, most recently in November 2005, and by the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> International Conferences, held in 1999 and 2003 respectively. All had been adopted by consensus. The Movement had shown unity in seeking to achieve “a comprehensive and lasting solution” to the emblem issue.

The draft protocol circulated in October 2000 had been considered an acceptable basis on which to work. However, the political situation and events at the time had blocked progress on the question until the decisive advance made in December 2005. It was unfortunate that the Protocol had had to be adopted by a vote. The Movement now needed to work in a spirit of consensus at this Conference so that it would be listened to in the future when solutions to complex humanitarian problems were sought. Perhaps even more importantly, consensus would foster unity in the Movement; there should be no open wounds left as they could take a long time to heal.

The objectives for the Conference, as defined by the Standing Commission, were: to adopt the amendments to the Statutes of the Movement in order to incorporate the new emblem established by Additional Protocol III; to agree on the name “red crystal” for the emblem; and to create a framework for the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

The provision of humanitarian services in Israel and Palestine had become an important element in the negotiations and preparations leading up to the Diplomatic Conference. Working towards improved cooperation, the Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society had signed a Memorandum of Understanding and an Agreement on Operational Arrangements, and this had paved the way for the adoption of Additional Protocol III. The signing of an agreement by two Societies in a situation of conflict and occupation was a historic event which could not have taken place without the commitment and profound understanding of the Movement’s humanitarian principles shown by the two Societies and their leaders.

It was important to specify that the Memorandum and the Agreement had been concluded, not between the authorities of two countries, but between two National Societies which thus expressed their commitment to providing the best possible humanitarian services, especially to victims of the current conflict. Both Societies should be congratulated for their determination and courage.

The responsibility for fulfilling the provisions of the Memorandum and the Agreement now also lay with their governments. The National Societies’ admission into the Movement would allow them to enhance their influence, the better to defend peace, and the rights of victims to receive assistance. The Swiss Government would report on implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the following day at this Conference.

Discussions at the Diplomatic Conference had revealed the need for medical services for the population of the occupied Golan; the ICRC had described the activities it was already carrying out in the region and pronounced itself ready to set up a medical facility following a needs-based evaluation that it would carry out in cooperation with the local population. The ICRC, supported by the International Federation and the Movement, had fulfilled its commitment, designing a project for a medical emergency and diagnostic centre in the occupied Golan at Majdal Shams.

Preparations for the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference had been guided by Resolution 5 of the 2005 Council of Delegates, which had called for implementation of Protocol III after its adoption. In the Final Act of the 2005 Diplomatic Conference, the 144 participating States had explicitly expressed the wish to see the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom enter the Movement at the next International Conference. One of the objectives defined by the Standing Commission was the creation of a framework for admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. The entry of both National Societies would represent fulfilment of the Fundamental Principle of universality and was in accordance with the wishes expressed by both in the joint agreement that they had signed. Thus the ICRC and the International Federation were requested to follow-up on the “good-will” demonstrated by the two National Societies and their governments.

The reports the delegates would hear during the Conference demonstrated that the Movement acted as one, on the basis of its Fundamental Principles, when it came to addressing humanitarian problems. Achieving consensus did not mean that all its enterprises would be crowned with success, and it was certain that tensions and conflicts would continue to exist. However, remaining unified would strengthen the Movement’s determination and capacity to deal with humanitarian issues and to retain the credibility to raise such issues with the authorities best placed to find political solutions to them.

The Council was requested to adopt the resolutions presented before meeting at the Conference on the following day.

## Item 5 Twenty-ninth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

### 5.1 Adoption of the provisional agenda of the Conference (CD 2006 – DR 5/1)

The **Chairman** drew attention to the provisional agenda and programme of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference (document CD 2006 – DR 5/1), which delegates were invited to adopt, and opened the floor for comments thereon.

**Dr Abdul Rahman El-Attar** (President, Syrian Arab Red Crescent), supported by **Mr Javed** (Pakistan Red Crescent), said that the provisional agenda did not appear to take into account the amendments submitted on behalf of 24 Arab States and the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

**Dr Al-Hadid** (Chairman of the Standing Commission) confirmed that the amendments had been received on 19 April, before the 60-day time limit set for submission of amendments. The proposals and arguments put forward had been taken into account in drafting the agenda and all the issues which the National Societies wished to raise in respect of amending the Statutes would be discussed at the Conference.

*The provisional agenda of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference was adopted by acclamation.*

### 5.2 Proposal of persons to fill posts at the Conference

The **Chairman** drew attention to the draft resolution proposing the list of candidates nominated for election as officers of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference.

*The resolution was adopted.*

## Item 6 Date and venue of the next Council of Delegates

The **Chairman** asked whether the dates of 22 and 23 November 2007 were acceptable to delegates.

*The dates for the next Council of Delegates were approved.*

## Item 7 Closing of the Council of Delegates

The **Chairman**, in his closing remarks, said that the atmosphere at the Council of Delegates augured well for the success of the Conference to be held on the following day.



## 3.5

# LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

### Item 1

#### Adoption of the agenda

- Provisional agenda of the 2006 Council of Delegates

### Item 4

#### Report of the Standing Commission on the follow-up to the resolution on the emblem (Resolution 5) adopted by the Council of Delegates in Seoul in November 2005

- Report of the Standing Commission

### Item 5

#### Twenty-ninth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

- Provisional agenda and programme of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference
- Proposal of persons to fill posts at the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent







# TWENTY-NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

## 4.1 CONVOCAATION

To the Members of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Geneva, 20-21 June 2006

Geneva, 16 December 2005

The Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent has determined the place and date of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. It will be held in Geneva from 20-21 June 2006. The International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will co-host this Conference and look forward to welcoming you

in Geneva  
on Tuesday 20 June 2006  
at 10.00 a.m.  
at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG)  
Rue de Varembe, 15  
CH-1211 Geneva 20

The Standing Commission took this decision in view of exceptional circumstances in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 2 of the Statutes of the Movement and in furtherance of recommendations made by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The purpose of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference will be:

- 1) to consider and adopt amendments to the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement consequent upon the adoption on 8 December 2005 of the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the adoption of an additional distinctive emblem (Additional Protocol III);
- 2) to consider and decide upon the proposed name of "red crystal" for the distinctive emblem created by Additional Protocol III; and
- 3) to create a framework for the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

In view of the exceptional circumstances which necessitated the convening of this Conference, the Standing Commission is of the view that regular business, including the election of members of the Standing Commission, should be deferred to the 30th International Conference, which will take place in 2007 as decided by the 28th International Conference.

The Conference will be preceded by meetings of the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement on 19 June 2006.

This convocation is addressed to all the members of the Conference. Pursuant to Article 9 of the Statutes of the Movement, these 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;
- States party to the Geneva Conventions.

In accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement, this convocation is also addressed to observers invited to attend the Conference.

Attached, in accordance with Article 20 of the Statutes of the Movement, you will find:

- the draft provisional agenda of the Conference;
- the texts of the proposed amendments to the Statutes of the Movement (as well as the complete text of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure currently in force);
- the comments on the proposed amendments, submitted in accordance with Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement, by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Also attached is

- Resolution 3 adopted by the 28th International Conference (in 2003).

The text of Additional Protocol III, official documents and other information, including registration forms, will be provided at a later stage.

Juan M. Suárez del Toro R.  
President  
International Federation of Red Cross  
and Red Crescent Societies

Dr Jakob Kellenberger  
President  
International Committee  
of the Red Cross



## 4.2 AGENDA AND PROGRAMME

**20–21 June 2006**

**10:00–13:00 and 15:00–18:00**

1. Opening of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference
2. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary-General, two Assistant Secretaries-General and other officers of the Conference
3. Reports:
  - 3.1 Report of the Standing Commission on the follow-up to Resolution 3 of the 28<sup>th</sup> International Conference (held in 2003) and on issues raised at the Diplomatic Conference
  - 3.2 Report of the Government of Switzerland on its monitoring of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements of 28 November 2005
4. Proposed amendments to the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, proposed name of “red crystal” for the distinctive emblem of Additional Protocol III, and proposed framework for the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society
5. Date and venue of the 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference
6. Closing of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference

**Tuesday, 20 June 2006**

**18:30 – 20:30**

Reception

*(Not part of the formal agenda of the Conference. Hosted by the ICRC and the International Federation.)*



## 4.3 CONFERENCE OFFICIALS

### **Chairman of the Conference**

H.E. Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

### **Vice-Chairmen**

Senator Richard Gordon, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Philippine National Red Cross

Ambassador Juan Martabit (Mr), Permanent Representative of Chile in Geneva

Ambassador Wegger Chr. Strommen (Mr), Permanent Representative of Norway in Geneva

Ms Mandisa Kalako-Williams, President of the South African Red Cross Society

### **Secretary-General of the Conference**

Ambassador Christoph Bubb (Mr), Head of International Law and Humanitarian Law Division, Directorate of International Law, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

### **Assistant Secretaries-General**

Mr Olivier Dürr, Adviser, Department for International Law and Cooperation within the Movement, International Committee of the Red Cross

Mr Frank Mohrhauer, Senior Legal Officer, Governance Support and Legal Department, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



## 4.4 OPENING CEREMONY

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**20 June 2006**

**4.4.1 Welcoming address by Ms Janet Davidson,  
Acting Chairman of the Standing Commission**  
*(Original English)*

Madam Federal Councillor, Excellencies, Leaders of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Red Cross and Red Crescent Friends,

It is an honour for me to welcome you on behalf of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference.

I take the chair today as Acting Chairman of the Standing Commission for the duration of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference. Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid has been nominated by the Council of Delegates as Chairman of the Conference and therefore, in accordance with Rule 15.2 of the Movement's Rules of Procedure, cannot open this first plenary meeting.

I warmly welcome all delegations from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, from the States party to the Geneva Conventions and from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

I also extend a warm welcome to all observers, in particular the National Societies awaiting recognition and admission. We all convene here today under the theme of "Protecting human dignity."

I extend a special welcome to our host country and to the Swiss Government, and express our deep appreciation for the support they have given the Movement in organizing the Conference.

Human dignity is central to the Movement's activities, to everything it stands and works for. Deeply rooted in the key message of our Movement's mission and its Fundamental Principles, human dignity is our prime source of power when we respond to the needs of victims and vulnerable populations in wars and conflicts or in technological and natural disasters; when we promote tolerance and non-discrimination

by various means in different countries, united by our common goal; when we bring consolation and comfort to individuals or groups of people and beneficiaries who have experienced loss or harm. It is also an important driving force in our motivation to be part of and to promote and work for the Movement in various capacities - as volunteers, as activists, as members and staff, and as leaders at the local, national, regional or international level.

With these words of welcome, I declare the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference open.

Article 11 of the Movement's Statutes stipulates that all participants in the International Conference shall respect the Fundamental Principles and that all documents presented shall conform to these Principles.

To remind us of these seven basic principles, I call on volunteers from the Geneva branch of the Swiss Red Cross to read them out.

**4.4.2 Reading of the Movement's Fundamental Principles by volunteers from the Geneva branch of the Swiss Red Cross**  
*(Original French)*

### **Humanity**

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace among all peoples.

### **Impartiality**

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

### **Neutrality**

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

### **Independence**

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

### **Voluntary service**

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

### **Unity**

There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

### **Universality**

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

### **Ms Janet Davidson, Acting Chairman of the Standing Commission**

*(Original English)*

Thank you. These principles were formally recognized 41 years ago as our guide in everything we do in the Movement; in practise they have evolved since the Movement's inception and been sustained by all its components.

I would now like to extend a warm welcome to Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey, Vice-President of the Federal Council and head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Her personal commitment and involvement in securing the adoption of Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions in December last year deserves our gratitude and respect. As we are here today to take the last steps in the long process leading to the adoption of an additional emblem, it is my pleasure and privilege to invite Ms Calmy-Rey to address this Conference.

### **4.4.3 Address by Ms Micheline Calmy-Rey, Federal Councillor, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland**

*(Original French)*

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 the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Excellencies, Representatives of National Societies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to speak to you on behalf of the host country at the opening of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which, I hope, will crown the efforts made to close the long-standing debate on the emblems of the Geneva Conventions. Indeed, the possibility for national relief societies to use, without prejudice to the existing emblems of the red cross and red crescent, a new emblem free of any religious, national, political or ethnic connotations can only serve to enhance the protection afforded to the victims of all conflicts.

By virtue of its humanitarian tradition, Switzerland has always actively supported the Movement's work. It was in Geneva that the first Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field was signed, in 1864. Much has been accomplished since then, and today we should pay tribute to the leading role played by the Movement's components to further the development and application of international humanitarian law.

I congratulate the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for their committed efforts to bring humanity to war and to organize this Conference.

The 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference was convened in the wake of the Diplomatic Conference of December 2005, which adopted Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions. The task started then must now be completed. The Movement's Statutes must be adapted in order to incorporate, for operational purposes, the changes brought about by the existence of the additional emblem. To date, 64 States have signed Additional Protocol III and one State has already ratified it. I am gratified that the successful outcome of the Conference will promote one of our dearest objectives: the Movement's universality. All the stakeholders – and I think in particular of the Israeli and Palestinian National Societies – will at last be able to play an active part

in the Movement's decision-making process. As full members of the Movement, they will also be able to respond even more effectively and in an even more coordinated manner to the growing humanitarian needs in the region.

Let us not forget the exclusively humanitarian vocation of the additional emblem, which is intended to strengthen the protection of conflict victims and to ensure the universality that Henry Dunant craved for the Movement. Like you, I therefore regretted that Additional Protocol III was adopted by a vote. However, I find consolation in the thought that the States that opposed the Protocol's adoption did not vote "no" because they disagreed with the rules it contains, but rather because of considerations going beyond the exclusively humanitarian concerns of the Diplomatic Conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all aware that the six months that have elapsed since the Diplomatic Conference have been marked by serious tension in the Middle East and by a major deterioration in the humanitarian situation, in particular in the occupied Palestinian territories. It is in just such situations that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is called on to assist the victims. It must therefore keep above the political fray. Switzerland strongly hopes that the Conference that opened today will focus solely on humanitarian issues and that it makes the institutional changes needed in a spirit of consensus.

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on 28 November 2005 by the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom,

Switzerland agreed, at the request of both National Societies, to monitor implementation in close cooperation with the ICRC and the International Federation, whose prerogatives it undertook to respect in full. Since then, Switzerland has worked to perform that task. Ambassador Pfirter is shortly to present you with a detailed report on implementation. Switzerland is encouraged by the good cooperation that emerged between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society in the months before and after the Diplomatic Conference. The fact that the two National Societies have been able to reinforce and intensify their cooperation in an environment that has recently become increasingly fraught is an example of the humanitarian spirit that should guide our work in the two days of this Conference. The spirit in which the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom have cooperated shows us – if any further proof was needed – that they are entitled to be admitted as full members to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It is our duty to encourage that cooperation by opening the doors of the Movement to them.

**Ms Janet Davidson, Acting Chairman of the Standing Commission**  
*(Original English)*

Thank you, Ms Calmy-Rey. I took particular note of your message that humanitarian concerns should supersede political considerations at this 29th International Conference, which will enable the Movement to become truly universal and which should strengthen its unity.







## 4.5 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMEN, SECRETARY-GENERAL, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES-GENERAL AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

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20 June 2006

### ELECTION

**Ms Janet Davidson, Acting Chairman of the Standing Commission**  
*(Original English)*

We shall now move on to item 2 of the agenda: the election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary-General, two Assistant Secretaries-General and other officers of the Conference.

Before proceeding, however, I want to draw your attention to the agenda and programme in front of you.

Article 14, paragraph 2 (b) of the Movement's Statutes stipulates that "When meeting prior to the opening of the International Conference, the Council shall adopt the provisional agenda of the Conference." The International Conference delegated the task of adopting the agenda to the Council of Delegates when it adopted the Movement's Statutes.

In accordance with the provisions of the Movement's Statutes and Rules of Procedure, the agenda was adopted in Resolution 1 by the Council of Delegates at its meeting yesterday, 19 June. The Council adopted the agenda as circulated by the Standing Commission to all members of the Conference on 5 May 2006 and distributed again this morning. No formal comments were received by the Standing Commission after it circulated the revised agenda, which took into account the suggested amendments submitted by 22 States Parties.

We shall therefore move on to the election of officers pursuant to Rule 15.3 of the Movement's Rules of Procedure. I have received from Dr Jakob Kellenberger, the Chairman of the Council of Delegates, Resolution 2 adopted by the Council yesterday and also distributed this morning. It contains the list of persons to be elected to

the positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary-General and Assistant Secretaries-General of the Conference.

This proposed list of officers was first communicated to all National Societies and Permanent Missions in Geneva in the Standing Commission's Newsletter No. 8 in March of this year. It is now the formal proposal adopted by the Council. Can I assume that we can consider the persons concerned elected as officers of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference?

*The Conference elected Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid (Chairman of the Standing Commission) as Chairman of the Conference, Senator Richard Gordon (The Philippine National Red Cross), Ambassador Juan Martabit (Chile), Ambassador Wegger Strommen (Norway) and Ms Mandisa Kalako-Williams (The South African Red Cross Society) as Vice-Chairmen, Ambassador Christoph Bubb (Switzerland) as Secretary-General, and Mr Olivier Dürr (ICRC) and Mr Frank Mohrhauer (International Federation) as Assistant Secretaries-General, by acclamation.*

It is my great pleasure to invite Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid to take the chair of this Conference. I also invite the Assistant Secretaries-General to take their places on the podium. I wish the Chairman much wisdom and success in leading the deliberations of the Conference.

### INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Madam Federal Councillor, Excellencies, Leaders of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

I thank you for the trust and confidence you have bestowed on me by electing me as your Chairman for this Conference. I am humbled by the task and assure you that I shall carry it out to the best of my

abilities and knowledge, in full compliance with the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

I would like to start by informing you how I would like to see this Conference work, with your cooperation and with the support of the Bureau and the team here with me.

May I begin by reminding everyone that delegations must ensure that their statements are in strict compliance with the Fundamental Principles, which we have just heard read to us by the volunteers. No delegate or delegation shall therefore engage in political, racial, religious or ideological controversy, as stated in Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Statutes.

Allow me also to remind you that the Conference must endeavour to approve documents and resolutions by consensus, in keeping with the Movement's Rules of Procedure and with long-standing Conference tradition. I refer here to Article 11, paragraph 7 of the Statutes.

Regarding the structure of the Conference, the plenary meetings are the forum in which the delegations shall discuss the items on the agenda.

As concerns the Bureau of the Conference, I would like you to note that, according to Rule 16.1 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau shall consist of the Chairman of the Conference, the Chairman of the Standing Commission – which in this case is the Acting Chairman, Ms Janet Davidson – the heads of the delegations from the ICRC and the International Federation and the Secretary-General of the Conference, Ambassador Christoph Bubb. In addition, it is my intention to invite the Vice-Chairmen to participate in the work of the Bureau. I also reserve the right to invite any other person or persons from any of the delegations present for consultation in the interest of achieving the objectives of the Conference.

Under item 3 of the agenda, we will hear Ambassador Philippe Cuvillier, a member of the Standing Commission and its Special Representative on the Emblem, introduce the follow-up report on Resolution 3 of the 28th International Conference, which was held in Geneva in 2003.

One of the issues raised at the Diplomatic Conference held in December last year was the need for medical services for the population in the occupied Golan. The President of the ICRC, Dr Jakob Kellenberger, will report on the ICRC project launched in response

to this specific issue. I will also give the floor to Mr Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, on another issue raised, namely the “1921 Rule,” or Resolution 11 of the 10th International Conference held back in 1921.

Ambassador Didier Pfirter, from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, will present his report on the monitoring of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements signed by the Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

After we have heard the reports, I will open the general debate, which will continue until we break for lunch at 1 p.m. We will then resume the general debate in the afternoon, beginning at 3 p.m. sharp.

A draft resolution marked 06/IC/04.1-REV2 was submitted to the Conference this morning. It was approved on Sunday, 18 June by the Standing Commission and takes into account the results of consultations with Conference members and with the Friends of the Chair.

This morning we also circulated the amendments submitted by Pakistan and Tunisia and endorsed by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), at the request of the sponsors. The amendments are available in the three working languages of the Conference.

Draft resolution 06/IC/04.1-REV2 proposes that the 29th International Conference:

- amend the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement consequent upon the adoption on 8 December 2005 of the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Additional Protocol III),
- consider and decide on the proposed name of “red crystal” for the distinctive emblem of Additional Protocol III, and
- create a framework for the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society into the Movement.

The resolution will be dealt with under item 4 of the agenda, but its key elements will be debated under item 3 of the agenda.

Any delegation wishing to make comments on and/or propose amendments to the draft resolution is requested to contact the Vice-Chairman, Ambassador

Strommen, in person. He will be available for consultation throughout the Conference until we reach item 4 of the agenda. I would like also to assure you that negotiations will be handled seriously.

I have asked Ambassador Strommen to represent me in this matter, and he has all the powers and duties of the Chairman, as stipulated in Rule 15.4.

Under item 4 of the agenda, I will invite Dr François Bugnion, the ICRC's Director for International Law and Cooperation within the Movement, and Mr Markku Niskala, Secretary-General of the International Federation, to introduce and provide background information on the three key elements of the draft resolution.

Following these introductions, the Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Strommen, will present the results of his consultations on the draft resolution.

Finally, I respectfully ask the distinguished delegates to note that each delegation requesting to speak in the plenary debate should do so by raising its nameplate.

Further, each speaker will initially have the floor for a maximum of five minutes. However, I intend to give extra time to persons speaking on behalf of a group, in the hope that this will cut down the number of speakers asking for the floor.

As I said, each speaker will have a maximum of five minutes, depending on the number of speakers. I may cut short the statements, using the authority given to the Chairman in Rule 18.2.

I would like to make one more important request. I particularly encourage National Societies to take part in the debate, as this is a Conference of the Movement. In accordance with past practice, this invitation includes observer National Societies as well.

I will also give the floor to other observers, time allowing and with the agreement of the Conference, as per Rule 9.4.

Thank you for your attention. I hope that we can agree to work as I propose.

I would like to assure you once again that the Chair hopes that we will end up adopting the resolution by consensus and that we are serious about negotiating with you on your different points of view. Please call on the Vice-Chairman in this regard.

I give the floor to the Secretary-General, Ambassador Christoph Bubb, who will give us some additional information.

**H.E. Mr Christoph Bubb, Ambassador, Secretary-General of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to highlight just a few specific points, since you have received all the administrative and logistical information in writing. First, simultaneous interpretation is provided throughout the Conference in the three working languages.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Syria has requested the floor on a point of order.

## **DEBATE ON THE AGENDA AND LEGALITY OF THE CONFERENCE**

**H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Syria, Geneva**  
*(Original Arabic)*

I apologize to the speaker I interrupted.

Mr Chairman,

My delegation raised its nameplate to request the floor before it was given to the Chairman of the Conference. It seems that, due to poor organization, the Secretariat did not notice this. The matter that compels me to request the floor is a point of order.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of this important Conference. I also congratulate the members of the Bureau. I wish to thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, in her capacity as a Minister of the depositary State of the Geneva Conventions and of the State on whose territory this important Conference is being held.

Mr Chairman,

Before beginning the work of this Conference, we have a serious problem not only with the agenda but also with the procedure or procedures under which the work will be conducted. Firstly, how can the

Statutes of the International Movement be amended if Additional Protocol III has not yet entered into force? In fact, it has been ratified by only one State, and it must be ratified by at least two States. Secondly, the States that signed the Protocol are a minority in comparison with the majority that has not yet signed it. This is another important point that we must take into consideration if this Conference really wishes to be international.

The third point is that my country's delegation has submitted at least four memoranda requesting changes to this Conference's agenda. One of them, handed directly to Dr Kellenberger in his office, is available to you. At least three other memoranda were submitted by the OIC to the Standing Commission, the ICRC and the International Federation. These memoranda, reflecting the views of 57 States, have most regrettably not yet been taken into consideration and we have received no reply in this regard from those to whom they were addressed. Is it reasonable for us to adopt an agenda – and it is the understanding of my country's delegation that we have not yet adopted an agenda – when this agenda is full of procedural and legal flaws? It is also astonishing that the statements delivered by some parties disregard the fact that the crucial issue is the application of the "1921 Rule" in Arab and other occupied territories, particularly in the Syrian Golan, East Jerusalem and the Lebanese Shebaa Farms area. How can we embark on a so-called International Conference when the Syrian Arab Red Crescent is prevented from dispatching humanitarian aid to our people in the occupied Golan, although it is able to dispatch aid to Niger, Indonesia, Pakistan and other countries?

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original Arabic)*

I request my distinguished colleague to speak on matters as they are raised, since we have four speakers. One will deal with the specific question of the Golan and another will talk about the 1921 Conference. These are matters that you have raised. I hope, therefore, that we will take into consideration what has already been said concerning the agenda and the Protocol. We should confine ourselves to this, and refrain from making statements until these matters are raised during the deliberations.

**H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Syria, Geneva**  
*(Original Arabic)*

Mr Chairman,

I agree with you, but I wish to put on record that we have not approved the Conference agenda because we have a major problem on this subject. The problem does not originate with Syria, since the OIC has submitted a paper on behalf of 57 countries on the subject of the agenda.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I will ask Dr Francois Bugnion, from the ICRC, to answer the question about the signing and ratification of Additional Protocol III.

**Mr François Bugnion, ICRC**  
*(Original English)*

We have received information that Norway has already deposited the instrument of ratification. We know from other sources that at least one other country has completed the parliamentary process for ratification and is going to deposit the instrument of ratification shortly, in the coming days or weeks. The Protocol will therefore at all events enter into force. Many other countries have indicated their willingness to have the Protocol ratified. It will enter into force and it will be binding on those countries. It is therefore legitimate to take the Protocol into account as far as the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are concerned.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I see that the Syrian delegation has requested the floor again.

**H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Syria, Geneva**  
*(Original Arabic)*

Mr Chairman,

I am not a legal adviser but I am well able to read the Rules of Procedure. We are not judging intentions and future wording. We leave this to the linguistic experts. We are merely saying that, at the present time, the

Additional Protocol has been ratified by only one State. In accordance with procedure, Protocol will not enter into force until six months after the date of deposit of the instruments of ratification. This means that none of the proposals for future wording that we heard a short while ago can be taken into consideration until six months have elapsed. This is in accordance with the rules that have been distributed to us.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

I would like to give the floor back to Dr Bugnion. Can you clarify this point?

**Mr François Bugnion, ICRC**  
(Original English)

Ambassador Al-Ja'afari is correct: the Protocol will enter into force six months after the second instrument of ratification has been deposited. The second instrument will be deposited in the near future and the Protocol will enter into force before the end of the year. Given this prospect, it is therefore perfectly legitimate for us to take adequate measures, including the draft amendments set out in the annex to the letter of invitation sent on 16 December 2005.

**H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Syria, Geneva**  
(Original Arabic)

Mr Chairman,

It is our understanding that this Conference is open, on an impartial and objective basis, to all delegations from States Parties and National Societies. We have decided to participate in this Conference, together with many other States, in good faith, relying on the objectivity, neutrality and total impartiality of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Accordingly, the Conference needs to listen attentively to our requests concerning the agenda before beginning its work. The point is not one of "give and take," requesting the floor time after time, and then listening to conflicting statements and conflicting replies. The point is that everyone should be aware of the need for us to begin the Conference's deliberations on a clear and sound basis in order to remove any misunderstanding. We are grateful to Mr Bugnion for his legal clarifications, which imply that we should wait until the end of the year, i.e. after the procedural entry into force of the Protocol, before this Conference takes any action. According to

Mr Bugnion, we cannot begin our Conference's work until the end of the year. I do not wish to enter into substantive matters; I am speaking only of the procedure, which was not formulated by Syria or by the OIC or any other group. We would like our point of view to be taken into consideration so that this Conference can begin its work on a clear, objective and impartial basis.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original Arabic)

Thank you, Dr Ja'afari. I would like to say that all of us are indeed listening attentively and, God willing, we will succeed in reaching a form of mutual understanding on all the points raised at this Conference.

I understand that Algeria has requested the floor. Before I go on I will give the floor to Algeria.

**H.E. Mr Idriss Jazaïry, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Algeria, Geneva**  
(Original Arabic)

Mr Chairman,

My statement will be confined to a point of order. Naturally, I congratulate you and all the members of the Bureau. In order to clarify the point raised by the Ambassador of Syria, it might be preferable for this Conference's legal adviser to express an officially recorded opinion on the legality of our deliberating on Additional Protocol III, which does not exist in law because the ratification procedures have not yet been completed. From the legal standpoint, can we deliberate on an instrument that does not exist in law? If the legal adviser would kindly give us an answer on this point, the question would be settled.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

This question relates, not to the agenda, but to items on the agenda. I would therefore suggest that I ask the Bureau to provide an explanation as soon as we break, and I hope that the answer that we get from the Bureau will satisfy those who raised the question.

I will now give the floor to one person at a time, as at any International Conference. Ambassador Khan from Pakistan, you have the floor, and then I will give the floor to the Palestinian delegation.

**H.E. Mr Masood Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan, Geneva**

*(Original English)*

I request, Mr Chairman, that you give the floor to the Palestinian delegation. I will speak later.

**H.E. Dr Mohammad Abu-Koash, Ambassador, Permanent Observer, Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine, Geneva**

*(Original English)*

We are at a diplomatic conference. The representative of Pakistan is the leader of our group and, despite the fact that the Secretariat did not take note that we raised our nameplate before the adoption of the agenda, I will not speak now. I request to speak after the leader of our group, namely the Ambassador of Pakistan.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I think that we have to slow down and calm down. This is the International Conference of the Movement. I do not have to keep reminding you of the Principles and the way we conduct business in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. We are not going to discriminate against anybody. Everyone will have time to speak. No one has been ignored because we want to ignore them. We may not have seen them. The Ambassador of Pakistan has the floor.

**H.E. Mr Masood Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan, Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Let me start by congratulating the Chairman and the members of the Bureau on their election. An observation has been made by the Ambassador of Syria and that observation is based on legal considerations. We can resolve this matter or ignore it. Article 11 of Additional Protocol III reads: "this Protocol enters into force six months after two instruments of ratification or accession have been deposited." Mr François Bugnion gave an explanation on this point, but the question remains: can we hold this International Conference if Additional Protocol III has not entered into force? That is question one. A definitive answer has to be given to it. I have two more questions. The convocation for the International Conference was sent on 16 December 2005, before the Final Act of the

Diplomatic Conference was circulated on 21 January 2006. My question is whether or not the International Conference can be convened before the Final Act is circulated. I think a definitive answer can be given by experts from the ICRC or the International Federation.

**H.E. Dr Mohammad Abu-Koash, Ambassador, Permanent Observer, Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine, Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Thank you for giving me the floor, since Palestine is the party most concerned by this question.

The delegation of Palestine asked for the floor before the question of the adoption of the agenda was raised. We do not think the amendments submitted by the OIC countries can be swept under the carpet just like that. They have to be dealt with in an orderly manner. Secondly, I endorse all the statements made by my distinguished colleague, the Ambassador of Syria, and by the head of the OIC delegation at this Conference, the Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Pakistan. In order to show you that we Palestinians are cooperative and would like to move forward in a constructive way, I suggest that we adjourn our meeting now so that the matters which have been raised – the legal matters and the question of the agenda – can be properly addressed, to everyone's satisfaction. I can nevertheless tell you that we are not going to accept any misinterpretation of the Rules of Procedures or the Statutes, or any attempt to sweep aside the amendments being put on the agenda.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I will answer the representative of Palestine before I invite other speakers to take the floor.

The representative of Palestine is an observer. According to Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure, "observers have the right to speak only on the invitation of the Chairman and to the extent that the Conference has no objections." I invited you to speak as soon as you raised your nameplate. On the other hand, as an observer you cannot submit a motion to the Conference. I will therefore overlook the motion you have just made and give the floor to the National Society of the United Kingdom, the British Red Cross, and then to Sudan.

**Dame Maeve Fort, Trustee, British Red Cross**  
(Original English)

I would like to speak in support of the Secretariat's views on the procedure, in order to help us move along. There is nothing in the Statutes or Rules of Procedure of the Movement which requires the Additional Protocol to enter into force before the Statutes can be amended. We also wish to observe that the proposed amendments to the Statutes were circulated in due time, more than six months ago, in December 2005. This meets the requirements of the Movement's Statutes. I hope this will facilitate our discussions.

**H.E. Mr Elsadig Mustafa Osman Almagly, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Sudan, Geneva**  
(Original Arabic)

Mr Chairman,

I would like to begin by warmly congratulating you and your colleagues on the Bureau.

I am not here to defend the dignity of Palestine, but we have a tradition at the United Nations that the State concerned, even if it is an observer, has the right to speak and put forward its point of view. This is the tradition at all the international forums in Geneva.

My second point relates to the matter already raised by the Palestinian delegate concerning the agenda. Not being a lawyer myself, I would appreciate clarification from the legal experts here on the interpretation of Rule 6.2 of the Rules of Procedure, which stipulates that any member can make observations or propose amendments or additions to the provisional agenda provided that the Standing Commission receives them at least 60 days before the opening of the Conference. The provisional agenda, taking into account all the observations and proposed amendments and additions, should then be submitted to the Conference at its first meeting. I am seeking legal clarification as to whether the provisions of Rule 6.2 apply to this question.

**H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Syria, Geneva**  
(Original Arabic)

Mr Chairman,

For the second, third and fourth time, I apologize for again requesting the floor. I have three observations.

The first is that we have not yet received a reply from the International Committee of the Red Cross explaining the reason for its failure to respond to the many official memoranda that we have sent to it. Nor have we received a reply from the International Federation. We would like an explanation for this.

The second point is that we would also like to hear an explanation from the official responsible at the ICRC or the International Federation concerning the reason why some representatives of the ICRC embarked on unilateral activities in the occupied Syrian Golan without previously coordinating with the competent Syrian authorities.

The third and final point is that, although the Rules of Procedure designate Palestine as an observer delegation, I believe that the whole purpose of this Conference should be to help Palestine and the Palestinian cause, since the central issue at this Conference is whether we should take the side of what is right, international humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions and the "1921 Rule," or whether we should take the side of aggressors, occupiers and those who are violating international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories. Far from being tailored to suit one party, this Conference should be truly international and should serve international humanitarian law and not just one particular State.

It is very important to clarify the procedure. If the Palestinian delegation, as an observer, is not entitled to request suspension of the meeting, my country's delegation will request suspension of this meeting until we reach agreement on the agenda and the points that this Conference will be discussing. We will act as a substitute for Palestine, and request the suspension of this meeting until the situation is clarified, so that we can begin our work in a transparent, objective and impartial manner. We want this Conference to succeed, but in order for it to succeed, the Chair, the ICRC and the International Federation must treat all delegations and all issues impartially.

**H.E. Mr Gébran Soufan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Lebanon, Geneva**  
(Original English)

Mr Chairman,

I will be very brief. Congratulations. I trust your leadership for this important International Conference, but I will be very candid and to the

point. I see tension on the horizon if the International Conference starts in this way, and this is bad for international humanitarian action. I pay true tribute to the International Red Cross overall. However, if things are going to start this way, I foresee a replay of the Diplomatic Conference. Therefore, taking into account the universality and the unity to which we attach such importance, and in view of the specific legal questions raised, I ask you in all fairness to consider postponing this meeting briefly so that we can get appropriate answers and start on the right track. Any other proceeding would not be in keeping with the noble and lofty purpose of this Conference.

**H.E. Mr Masood Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan, Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Some of the questions raised from the floor impinge directly on the conduct and proceedings of this Conference, and also have an effect on the legitimacy of the agenda. I therefore want to state these questions very clearly.

The first question: can this International Conference be convened and can it take decisions if Additional Protocol III has not entered into force? This is a very clear question and there should be an answer. An answer was given by the United Kingdom, but I think that the answer should come from the Movement. Second question: the International Federation and the ICRC issued an invitation for this Conference, I believe, in accordance with Article 20 of the Statutes of the Movement. Now the question is, and I want to reiterate it and say it very slowly: the Final Act of the Diplomatic Conference was finalized and circulated on 21 January 2006; should the International Federation and the ICRC have waited until the Final Act had been adopted and circulated before issuing the invitation? This is important because the Final Act contains the most authentic version of the text adopted and of the *procès-verbal*. My final question is, and this is the third point that I want to make: the Ambassador of Palestine has proposed that the Conference be adjourned. What is your ruling on that?

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Now that I have heard so many statements, I hope that we can see reason and proceed in a manner that is truly fitting for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the humanitarian matter under discussion, and that we can live up to the theme of this Conference – “Protecting human dignity.” After all, we are very much concerned about whatever goes on in the Middle East; we are very much concerned about the victims, those who suffer as a result of the unfortunate conflict there. However, if we are going to start a political debate, if we are going to push for debate on issues which are so politically motivated, I do not think that we can reach the consensus I had hoped for. Ambassador Khan has asked the Chair to rule on a motion of adjournment, and there is a point concerning the agenda.

I would like to invite the Bureau to meet right now. I do not want to rule on the matter myself. This is an issue of great concern to us in the Movement. I would like to ask the Bureau and the representatives of Syria and Pakistan to meet so that we can try and debate the matters between us with the components of the Movement. I would like the British Red Cross to be present as well. I suggest we break for 30 minutes, then I will rule on the points raised in the debate.

**Ms Grace R. Princesa, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Philippines, Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Before we take a break, I would like to raise a point of order. There seem to be two motions on the floor: one motion by the delegate from Syria to suspend the proceedings, and another motion to adjourn the meeting. Can you tell us, before the recess, which motion has precedence under Rule 18.4 of the Rules of Procedure? Any formal motion must be seconded by at least four other delegates, so we cannot have two pending motions on the floor. The motion to suspend the meeting takes precedence over the motion to adjourn. I suggest that we have to decide whether to suspend or to adjourn the meeting before the recess, because if this assembly decides to vote favourably on the motion to adjourn as seconded by at least four other delegations, then there is no need to meet after the recess.

That is my point of order. My second point relates to the nature of the statements made earlier. I think that the Chair should address procedural matters first, and such procedural matters are, I think, being confused



with substantive matters. The first delegations to speak – and this is a procedural point – spoke more than once. While it is interesting to hear their views, I think they relate to the substantive part of the discussions and therefore should be separate from procedural considerations. Secondly, in terms of procedure, are we talking about agreeing on an agenda, are we talking about the agenda, are we talking about the amendments, or are we talking about the Protocol? I think that we have taken the better part of this morning to jump from procedure to substance. I therefore ask the Chair to address the motion of suspension. If there is a formal motion to suspend, then I think the point of order relates to the requirement that it be seconded by at least four delegates. If it is not seconded, then we have to proceed to the motion to adjourn, which again has to be seconded by four delegates and voted by this assembly. If the motion to adjourn is endorsed, I think we can all go home.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

The Chair has been generous this morning in giving the floor too often to one representative. I was hoping that we could reach some form of consensus in a brotherly fashion.

In view of the number of statements made, I would not like to put anything to the vote. I would like to build a consensus, as has been the tradition in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Chair therefore decides to suspend the meeting only for 30 minutes. Before any more delegations speak out in support of one motion or the other, please just give us time to work this out. I do not want a long debate on this. I would just like the Conference to give us some time to work out some differences between all the parties. We need half an hour.

*(The meeting was suspended at about 11:30 and resumed at 14:30.)*

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I hope that everybody is in a good mood now and apologize for keeping you so long, but we had to clarify some of the points put to the Chair. I am very pleased with our deliberations. We had a very positive discussion. I can assure all delegates that the humanitarian imperative has carried the day.

As concerns the first point, the addition of new items to the agenda, namely Resolution 11 from the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross in 1921, which would address both the situations of the Palestinian occupied territories and of the occupied Golan, the OIC members are willing to discuss this under item 3 of the agenda, so we do not need to change the agenda. The agenda is accepted as it is now.

Secondly, as concerns the amendments to the resolution, I assure everybody concerned that amendments to the resolution will be treated seriously. The Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Strommen, will be available and a room has been assigned for that purpose. After the four reports are read out, the Ambassador will be available to start consultations straight away on the resolution with all concerned. We encourage National Society members to be available as well.

Thirdly, the legality of amending the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement before Additional Protocol III has entered into force was discussed for a very long time. The OIC had a point, and the Bureau was of the opinion that it was best to err on the side of caution and act in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure and the Movement's Statutes. The Bureau asked for the opinion of the Movement's legal advisers, which reads as follows:

*A. Opinion of the legal advisers of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on the question of whether the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement can be amended before Additional Protocol III has entered into force*

*(Original English)*

“Submitted by the legal advisers of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the government of Switzerland - in its capacity as depositary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols – and the British Red Cross, as requested by the Bureau of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference. There are two aspects to the question posed. The first is whether the proposed amendments to the Statutes have been submitted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the Movement. The second question is whether the Conference can adopt an amendment of the Movement's Statutes which

contains a reference to a treaty which has not yet entered into force.

In regard to the first question:

The 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent has been validly convened in accordance with the Statutes and the Rules of Procedures of the Movement. Additionally, and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Statutes and Rules of Procedures of the Movement, the Conference participants have validly received the proposed amendments to the Statutes of the Movement. The specific provisions on amendments to the Statutes are set out in Article 20 of the existing Statutes and Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedures. The conditions set out in these provisions have been met in full. Therefore a valid proposal has been submitted to the Conference.

In regard to the second question:

Additional Protocol III legally exists. In accordance with its Rules of Procedure, the Diplomatic Conference adopted the Protocol on 8 December 2005. The Protocol was open for signature from that date for a period of 12 months. In accordance with Article 18 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, States which have signed the Protocol are obliged to refrain from acts which would defeat the object and purpose thereof. Thus, even before the Protocol's entry into force, it has legal effect. It is an existing instrument validly adopted under international law. As an example, nothing under international law precludes the adoption of measures of implementation at the national level before the Protocol's entry into force. The instrument may be referred to in other legal texts, including the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Therefore, the International Conference is entitled to amend the Statutes of the Movement to include Additional Protocol III prior to its entry into force.”

*Geneva, 20 June 2006*

This is submitted today, 20 June 2006, in Geneva. The Bureau has accepted this ruling. After discussion with the OIC States, we understand that they have their own position. For the sake of transparency their position will also be included in the minutes so that they know that everything they have said has been taken into consideration. For the sake of consensus, the OIC members have accepted the interpretation

put forward. The motion to adjourn is withdrawn, with some reservations.

One last point. The Ambassador of Syria contacted me personally, in my capacity as Chairman of the Conference, and expressed his concern that a member of the ICRC had stayed overnight in a settlement in the occupied Golan. I would like to ask our colleagues from the ICRC to respond at a later stage to the Syrian Ambassador, as a gesture of humanitarian goodwill that will help us reach a consensus. Once again, on behalf of my colleagues in the Bureau, I apologize for keeping you waiting for too long, but I think it was worth waiting. I would like to reiterate my thanks and gratitude to the OIC members for agreeing to come along with us and work in an atmosphere of consensus for the sake of a very strong, united Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

*B. Legal position of the Arab Group and the Organization of the Islamic Conference relative to the question of whether the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement can be amended before Additional Protocol III has entered into force*

*(Original English)*

The Arab Group and the Organization of the Islamic Conference have raised questions about the legality of amending the Statutes of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

In this respect, the following question needs to be asked: is it possible to amend the Statutes of the Movement and to introduce the third emblem, when Additional Protocol III has not yet entered into force?

Additional Protocol III has been signed by only a little more than 60 States; that is, by less than 35 % of the States that have ratified the Geneva Conventions. Moreover, it was ratified by only one State, Norway, on 13 June 2006.

The Protocol stipulates that it should be ratified by two States so that it enters into force only six months later and then has a legal impact at the international level. As this condition has not been fulfilled, the Arab Group and the Organization of the Islamic Conference are not satisfied about the legal validity of the amendment to the Statutes of the Movement. Furthermore, to those who argue that Article 20 of the Statutes of the Movement does not stipulate expressly that treaties of international humanitarian law should first enter into force before the Statutes can be amended, we say that the fact that Article 20 is silent on the subject does

not imply that it permits such amendments. In fact, international customary practice, the international organizations act and international law all reject the argument.

Furthermore, Article 18 of the 1986 Vienna Convention on international treaties requires only that States which have signed but not ratified conventions must not stand against what they have signed. The same article, however, does not oblige States to apply conventions, as they are bound only by ratification.

Therefore, the Arab Group and the Organization of the Islamic Conference call upon this International Conference to take into consideration the line of reasoning set out above. They reserve the right to ask any competent international body for its legal opinion on this question.

*Geneva, 21 June 2006*





## 4.6 REPORTS

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**20 June 2006**

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I shall now move to the reports under item 3 of the agenda. I will be inviting Ambassador Philippe Cuvillier, the Standing Commission's Special Representative on the Emblem, Dr Jakob Kellenberger, President of the ICRC, Dr Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Ambassador Didier Pfirter of the Swiss Government to take the floor.

Ambassador Cuvillier will first present document 06/IC/03, the Standing Commission's report on the follow-up to Resolution 3 of the 28th International Conference, which was distributed to all Conference members on 8 May 2006. After Ambassador Cuvillier, I will call on Dr Jakob Kellenberger to update us on the ICRC project in the occupied Golan and on Dr del Toro Rivero to speak on the "1921 Rule." After these three speakers and the debate, we will move to item 3.2 of the agenda. I will be calling on Ambassador Didier Pfirter to present the Swiss Government's report on the monitoring of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements of 28 November 2005 signed by the Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society. After we have heard all four reports, I will open the floor for a general debate which will take us to item 4 of the agenda, i.e. the amendments of the Statutes, the name of the additional emblem and the framework for the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. I once again remind you that special rooms have been assigned for anybody who wants to take part or be actively involved in the preparation of amendments to the resolution. You will be meeting in Rooms 3 and 4 with Ambassador Strommen for this purpose. I reiterate that I expect this debate to address issues relating to the draft resolution as well and that complete proposals should be addressed to Ambassador Strommen.

### 4.6.1 REPORTS ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION 3 OF THE 28TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (HELD IN 2003) AND ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE

**Address by H.E. Mr Philippe Cuvillier, Standing  
Commission**  
*(Original French)*

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Distinguished Delegates,

It is a genuine pleasure to be able to present the Standing Commission's report to this Conference. My report will be more factual than the statements made earlier, but I hope it will nevertheless hold your attention.

The 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent was convened to finalize a long process which is not, I remind you, that of the "emblem," as that question was settled in the early hours of 8 December 2005 with the adoption of Protocol III additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

I also remind you that this process was started in the early 1990s, and that resolutions were adopted in 1997, 1999, 2003 and 2005 with a view to finding a comprehensive and lasting solution to the question of the emblem. A first draft was prepared in 2000, but circumstances prevented any further steps from being taken, and it is only in the past few months that progress has been made, to everyone's satisfaction, of course, thanks to the efforts of all institutions and all players. Many difficulties had to be overcome before this Conference was convened. We have said – and will never say often enough – that we hope to work and move the process forward by consensus. Our Movement – and this concerns all its members and all the members of the Conference – must be guided by the principle of unity. The convocation was sent to you in accordance with the rules, over six months ago. It specified the anticipated outcomes, as defined in the three points listed in the Final Act of the Diplomatic Conference. I will briefly recall what they are: amend the Movement's Statutes to incorporate the additional emblem, decide that that emblem will bear the name "red crystal" and, lastly, establish a

framework for the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

During the Diplomatic Conference, the provision of humanitarian services in Israel and Palestine, in accordance with the Movement's principles and policies for the victims of the ongoing conflict, played an important role in the consultations. A decisive step was taken in November, just before the Diplomatic Conference, when the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society signed the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements. Those two documents were a key factor in the adoption of Additional Protocol III and in the climate that prevailed throughout the Conference.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed, not between two governments, but between two National Societies expressing their desire to furnish the best possible humanitarian services. It is a historic accord attesting to the determination of both National Societies and to the deep understanding they have of the Fundamental Principles. Since the Conference, and in the past six months, both National Societies have undeniably honoured the commitments they made. They are to be congratulated, because they have both shown determination and courage. I should add that they often also applied, even before being admitted to the Movement, another principle we hold dear, namely independence. Indeed, some of the provisions of the November 2005 Memorandum could obviously not be implemented without the approval and, better yet, the support of the respective authorities. If the results today are viewed as incomplete in some quarters, the blame lies not with the National Societies but with the authorities.

The Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society have officially asked to become members of the Movement. It would be quite unfair to contest or delay their admission because of an adverse environment for which they are not responsible. On the contrary, we are convinced that their swift admission to the Movement will only serve to heighten their potential impact on peace and the victims' right to receive relief. The Swiss government volunteered to monitor implementation of the November 2005 accords. It deserves our gratitude and respect, because this was no easy task. I will not provide you with a detailed report, as Ambassador Didier Pfirter will do this in a moment.

Mr Chairman,

In response to the concerns expressed by several delegations, I will turn to another subject and recall

that the need for medical services for the people living in the occupied Golan was raised at the Diplomatic Conference. The ICRC explained that it had long been regularly assessing the humanitarian situation in the region and declared that, in view of its findings, it was willing to establish medical services in the occupied Golan. It would base those services on a needs assessment that would also take into account the views of the local population. The ICRC has kept its promise and, at this very moment, tangible field work has already started at Majdal Shams in the occupied Golan.

Mr Jakob Kellenberger will brief you on those activities in a few minutes.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Council of Delegates held in Seoul in November 2005 asked the Standing Commission, the ICRC and the International Federation to take the steps required to give effect to Additional Protocol III once it had been adopted, with a view to fulfilling, as soon as possible, the Movement's principle of universality. This energized the preparations for this Conference. The 144 States Parties present at the Diplomatic Conference explicitly stated, in the Final Act, that they wanted to see the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom join the Movement at the next International Conference. One of the objectives defined by the Standing Commission is the establishment of a framework for the admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, which has filed a request for recognition and admission. The Magen David Adom has also been able to file such a request, thanks to the adoption of the Protocol, and its request will be dealt with as soon as the additional emblem has been incorporated into the Movement's Statutes.

The admission of these two National Societies will represent the fulfilment of the Fundamental Principle of universality, or at least progress towards that goal. It will also meet the specifically expressed desires of these two National Societies.

This is why this Conference is called on to ask the ICRC and the International Federation to implement this "expression of goodwill" formulated by these two National Societies.

The reports you will hear under item 3 of the agenda demonstrate that we do indeed form one united Movement when it comes to resolving humanitarian problems, and that this is the sole basis for our action. This morning, you listened while the seven

Principles guiding our Movement were solemnly read out aloud.

The importance of consensus in this forum, the International Conference, is obvious: we must assert the Movement's unity and ensure that it is heard and recognized as a global humanitarian movement when, in the future, it seeks solutions to grave problems in partnership with governments.

That is what consensus means. It is not simply a way of voting on a resolution. It is also the affirmation of our principle of unity. We must therefore ask the members of the Conference, and notably the State representatives gathered here, not to forget this Movement tradition. True, our traditions differ from those to which they have grown accustomed in intergovernmental organizations. But I think I can safely say that it is not here that disputes will be solved that have not been settled elsewhere.

Reaching a consensus does not mean that all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds, or that we have achieved everything we wanted, or that one side has won and another lost. We must acknowledge that numerous relevant and pressing humanitarian issues relating to conflicts and tensions will continue to occupy us, here and in the field. But the fact of ensuring that the Movement remains united reaffirms our will and our capacity to confront those problems and will enable us credibly to submit other concerns to those who are better placed to seek and find political solutions to the problems relating to the many and various conflicts being waged in the world today.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Under item 3 of the agenda we will hear the reports I mentioned. A debate will follow. We will then return to the three objectives, move on to item 4 and, I hope, adopt by consensus the resolution submitted under that item.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

I now welcome Dr Jakob Kellenberger, President of the ICRC, who will provide us with an update on the provision of medical services in the occupied Golan, a project to which the ICRC committed itself at the Diplomatic Conference in November 2005.

**Update on the provision of medical services in the occupied Golan, by Dr Jakob Kellenberger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross**  
(Original English)

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In reference to the concern expressed by the Syrian Ambassador, I agree that it was not a good idea for ICRC staff to spend the night in a hotel in Neve Ativ. As soon as the fact was brought to the attention of the ICRC's head of delegation, instructions were given not to use those facilities again.

I turn now to the issue that I want to talk about.

At the Diplomatic Conference held here last December, and following a debate relating to the medical needs of the population of the occupied Golan, I confirmed that the ICRC was ready to provide additional medical assistance to the population in the part of the Golan occupied by Israel.

An earlier medical assessment conducted by the ICRC in 2002 had already identified needs in the field of health and medical attention in that region. The momentum created by the Diplomatic Conference allowed the project to gain the necessary support for its realization. The ICRC acted immediately after the Diplomatic Conference. Since last December, it has been making all the necessary technical and medical assessments. It has been in constant and close contact with the local community, medical doctors and community leaders to formulate a community-based project. It has contracted a local architect who is now drawing up the final architectural plans for the medical centre, to be built on the site of a previous health structure in Majdal Shams. The land on which the new centre is to be built belongs to the *Waqf* (the religious endowment) and was offered to the ICRC specifically for the project.

This emergency and high-tech diagnostic centre, to be called Majdal Shams Hospital, will provide primary and secondary health-care services to a population of some twenty thousand people; the emergency unit will be open 24 hours a day, with eight observation beds. This facility will feature emergency medical equipment for advanced life support, including a resuscitation room, two operating rooms for minor surgery, high-tech diagnostic and laboratory services and a physiotherapy unit. These advanced medical services will be provided by trained and professional staff currently living in the occupied Golan, including general practitioners, a gynaecologist, a paediatrician,

an orthopaedic surgeon, nurses and administrative staff. In addition, the ICRC will also provide Majdal Shams Hospital with two ambulances, one stationed at the facility and the other in the Golan town of Masade. Finally, the project was designed in such a way that it can be expanded as needed.

Costs are currently estimated at about 4.7 million Swiss francs, and the ICRC has already secured a budget for the project's early implementation.

Throughout the assessment and preparatory phase – which, I remind you, was done in constant consultation with the local community and with community leaders – the ICRC has regularly kept all concerned or interested parties informed, that is: Israel, as the occupying power, the Syrian authorities, both through the Permanent Mission in Geneva and in Damascus, and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. The ICRC obtained the written commitment of the government of Israel to support the project and to facilitate its establishment and operation as a matter of priority. I quote from a letter addressed to me by the Israeli Ambassador in Geneva: “Israel welcomes the proposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross to establish an emergency medical facility and diagnostic centre in Majdal Shams (...) Israel reiterates its support for the project and will work to facilitate its establishment and operation as a matter of priority.”

On 15 June, the ICRC was to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the *Waqf* and the local community to formalize the official launch of the project. The signing was to be followed by a brief ceremony on the grounds of the future medical facility in Majdal Shams. To the ICRC's utmost surprise, the local community proposed to adjourn the ceremony, for which all had been prepared, on the grounds that the Syrian authorities did not want the project to be implemented. On 18 June, the ICRC received a written communication from the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which opposed the construction of Majdal Shams Hospital, alleging that the ICRC was violating international humanitarian law by providing medical assistance directly under its flag.

This interpretation of international humanitarian law is not correct: according to Article 59 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the ICRC, as an impartial humanitarian organization, is mandated to provide medical and other relief schemes for a population under occupation. I quote from Article 59:

“If the whole or part of the population of an occupied territory is inadequately supplied, the Occupying Power shall agree to relief schemes on behalf of the said population, and shall facilitate them by all the means at its disposal.

Such schemes, which may be undertaken either by States or by impartial humanitarian organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, shall consist, in particular, of the provision of consignments of foodstuffs, medical supplies and clothing.”

In keeping with the rules of international humanitarian law, the ICRC considers its commitment to be a genuine implementation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The establishment of Majdal Shams Hospital corresponds to the properly assessed medical needs of the population in the occupied Golan. This project will not be jeopardized by non-humanitarian considerations. We shall go ahead with its realization with determination, driven solely by humanitarian considerations and in full conformity with international humanitarian law. I am convinced that, by doing so, we are acting in the way the Diplomatic Conference expected us to act. We kept our promise.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

I now give the floor to Dr Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to speak on the “1921 Rule.”

**Address on the “1921 rule” by Mr Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**  
(Original Spanish)

Allow me to reiterate the International Federation's position on some of the points we have been discussing that are also the purpose of this International Conference.

The International Federation wishes to achieve – and thus vigorously endorses – the three objectives we have set ourselves, for one and only reason: we believe that this will allow us to strengthen our International Movement and thus enhance our services and further reduce people's vulnerability.



The adoption of Additional Protocol III and the subsequent amendment of our Statutes provides us with an opportunity to admit two new National Societies. In so doing, we comply with the wishes expressed by the States party to the Geneva Conventions at the Diplomatic Conference in December 2005. I believe this is an opportunity to make progress on an issue that has been a source of disagreement within the Movement.

The adoption of the “red crystal” can thus pave the way for the definitive admission of two National Societies that have long aspired to membership. To my way of thinking, something even more important has happened along the way: the two National Societies have started to grow closer, as demonstrated by the Memorandum of Understanding they signed.

It is against this backdrop that we have recently debated the relationship between National Societies and, more specifically, have analysed the conditions governing cooperation when one National Society carries out activities in the territory of another.

Resolution 11 adopted by the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross in 1921, on which the preamble to Additional Protocol III is based, speaks of respect and cooperation in responding to humanitarian needs and underscores the unity and universality of our work.

The birth of the League of Red Cross Societies in 1919 marked the beginning of brotherhood between National Societies. Rules were needed to guarantee the flexible provision of mutual aid and to avoid circumstances arising that could hinder or impede it.

Mr Chairman,

The 1921 Resolution considers not only in what areas we can help, but also specifically how we are to do so. It deals with the precautions we must take when we offer our help, taking account in all cases of the beneficiaries’ views and desires. I hardly need say that the first step in any cooperation endeavour is to obtain the consent of the local National Society and to take scrupulous account of its reservations.

Solidarity between the members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent can only be forged on the basis of agreement, of a shared approach to finding joint solutions to one humanitarian problem. At this Conference, I turn in particular to all the governments and ask them to do all they can to promote mutual cooperation between the components of our worldwide organization, to lay the groundwork for the independence of their work and to guarantee it.

We have met the daunting humanitarian challenges that have arisen over the years, thanks to the help of the States. Their participation has allowed us to establish shared formulas by which the international community has been able to protect people’s lives and dignity. Additional Protocol III will make this possible everywhere, in all places.

Allow me to say to you that, as far as we are concerned, the Red Cross and Red Crescent have to continue building solidarity within the Movement. The worldwide humanitarian network constituted by our International Movement today is not a product of happenstance: it is the product of everyone’s recognition that humanitarian needs have to be met and is based on shared understanding of the importance of agreeing that full account must be taken of the responsibilities of others.

At this Conference we, the governments and the members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, cannot miss the opportunity we have to strengthen our cooperation and create new ways of sharing the entire Movement’s resources. Should we do so, we will be breaking faith with the people whose vulnerability is addressed by our Fundamental Principle of humanity.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Our next speaker is Ambassador Didier Pfirter from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, who has been in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements signed in Geneva on 28 November 2005 by the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

#### **4.6.2 SWISS GOVERNMENT REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND THE AGREEMENT ON OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS SIGNED ON 28 NOVEMBER 2005 BY THE MAGEN DAVID ADOM AND THE PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY**

**Address by H.E. Mr Didier Pfrter, Federal Department  
of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland**

*(Original French)*

Mr Chairman,

Allow me first to beg the indulgence of my compatriots and other French speakers; out of regard to the Israeli and Palestinian relief societies that gave us our mandate, I will speak in English, our shared working language throughout the process.

*(Original English)*

The mandate of Switzerland was derived from the letter sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs by the Chairman of the Magen David Adom and the President of the Palestine Red Crescent Society after the negotiations on the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements had been concluded, requesting the Swiss government to monitor the implementation of their agreements and to report on it to this Conference. The Minister accepted this request on the proviso that Switzerland would exercise its function in close cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Diplomatic Conference of December 2005 was informed that Switzerland had agreed to monitor the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements, and to report to this Conference.

During the almost seven months since the signing of the Memorandum and the Agreement between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society, Switzerland has closely followed the implementation of the agreements between the two National Societies in a politically complex and volatile environment. Swiss monitoring delegations have paid five visits at regular intervals to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, holding both joint and separate meetings with the leadership of the two National Societies each time. Representatives

of the ICRC and the International Federation also participated in these joint meetings and in other meetings between the two National Societies. They followed the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on a daily basis thanks to their presence on the spot and were in constant and close contact with the Swiss government on this matter. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank both organizations for their continuous efforts and the great support that they provided for our monitoring task. Even though the Swiss monitoring delegations undertook several field trips, Switzerland is not in a position to give a complete overview of the humanitarian situation on the ground. This would also be outside the framework of the monitoring task. The best method for addressing problems on the ground would have been regular contacts with and reports by the parties to the agreement. In spite of regular and repeated appeals by Switzerland, this was not extensively done.

The Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society concluded their agreements last November in an effort to facilitate the adoption of Protocol III additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to pave the way for the membership of both National Societies in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Under the Memorandum of Understanding, they undertook in essence to operate in accordance with international humanitarian law, with the Statutes, rules and Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and with the legal framework applicable to the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel in 1967. Further, they agreed to respect each other's operational jurisdiction in accordance with the consent provision of Resolution 11 of the 1921 International Conference and recognized that the territory occupied by Israel in 1967 is the geographical scope of the operational activities and competence of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. Most commitments under the Memorandum of Understanding are to become operational, at the latest, when the Magen David Adom is admitted by the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In the Agreement on Operational Arrangements, the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society agreed to enhance their cooperation in the areas of communication, exchange of knowledge and experience, awareness-raising programmes and blood-bank issues, and to hold regular liaison committee meetings. The Magen David Adom also pledged to assist the Palestine Red Crescent Society through lobbying and advocacy with the relevant

Israeli authorities. The object of the lobbying can, in essence, be summed up as follows:

1. securing freedom and access for Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulances throughout Palestinian territory to provide urgent medical and other humanitarian services;
2. facilitating the passage of ambulances through checkpoints to bring patients to Israeli hospitals when necessary, across the Allenby Bridge and between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, *inter alia* by establishing separate fast lanes and sterile zones for the ambulances at relevant checkpoints;
3. enabling access by Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulances to East Jerusalem and their stationing at the Red Crescent Maternity Hospital there.

This is a summary, and the full text of the Memorandum of Understanding can be found in an annex to the report which will be distributed to you.

In implementing their agreements, the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society have concentrated their cooperation on the operational needs of the latter that are listed in the Agreement on Operational Arrangements and for which the Magen David Adom had undertaken to lobby the Israeli authorities. The Magen David Adom accepted the Palestine Red Crescent Society's position that cooperation in other fields should wait until the Israeli authorities had implemented the measures required to facilitate its operations.

With regard to the requirements of the Memorandum of Understanding, we can report that the statutes of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and of the Magen David Adom have been amended to bring them into line with the Movement's requirements and with the recommendations of the Joint ICRC/Federation Commission for National Society Statutes, and been approved in their current form by the relevant organs of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It can also be reported that both National Societies are working to end any misuse of the emblem. Furthermore, the Chairman of the Magen David Adom has sent a report to the Swiss monitoring team in which he reiterates the Magen David Adom's commitments under the Memorandum of Understanding and specifies the way in which it has or will implement them. In particular, he:

- reports that the Magen David Adom's amended statutes include the obligation of his National Society to be guided in its work by the principles of international humanitarian law;
- reaffirms the Magen David Adom's commitment to respect the Palestine Red Crescent Society's jurisdiction;
- asserts that the Magen David Adom complies with the requirement that it not have any chapters outside the internationally recognized borders of the State of Israel (a list of all Magen David Adom branches, the equivalent of chapters, is appended to the report to substantiate this assertion);
- reiterates the Magen David Adom's commitment to operate in accordance with the consent provision of Resolution 11 of the 1921 International Conference and to discuss with the Palestine Red Crescent Society how this consent provision will operate in practice.

The report of the Magen David Adom's Chairman and the report of the Palestine Red Crescent Society are also appended to our report.

The two National Societies agreed early in the process on a list of concrete measures that were required to facilitate the operations of the Palestine Red Crescent Society in accordance with the Agreement on Operational Arrangements. The Magen David Adom has intensively and continuously lobbied the Israeli authorities to adopt these measures and held numerous meetings with the Ministries of Health, Defence and Foreign Affairs.

This task turned out to be more arduous than the Magen David Adom might have expected when it negotiated the Agreement with the Palestine Red Crescent Society: a prolonged government reshuffle in Israel resulted in elections at the end of March and the subsequent formation of a new government, and led to changes at the top of all three ministries during the reporting period, while the Palestinian elections at the end of January fundamentally altered the general Israeli-Palestinian context.

As the general security and humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territories deteriorated, the Palestine Red Crescent Society reported an increase in incidents affecting its ambulances. This development, and the long time it took for the Magen David Adom's lobbying to bring about political decisions by the Israeli authorities, strained cooperation between the two National Societies, but as time passed, they nonetheless were able to build confidence in each other.



It was very difficult for the two National Societies to insulate their cooperation from the general environment, political or otherwise. Several field trips also showed the Swiss monitoring team that the numerous checkpoints, roadblocks and road closures affecting Palestinians easily double and triple travelling time for Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulances even if they are granted privileged passage.

The Magen David Adom's advocacy was eventually successful and brought about the necessary decisions by the political authorities, though for the most part only after the formation of a new Israeli government in early May. The implementation of these decisions and assurances took some further time and is not yet complete or perfect, but the fact remains that months of hard work have produced tangible, visible results.

The Israeli authorities have repeatedly and at various levels reiterated to both the Swiss authorities and to the ICRC and the International Federation their commitment to implement these decisions, even beyond the date of the present Conference. Most recently, the Israeli Foreign Minister assured her Swiss counterpart that she would remain personally involved in the matter, even after the Conference, and ensure continued implementation, and the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations Office and International Organizations in Geneva has written a letter to the President of the ICRC, reiterating Israel's commitment to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements. That letter is also appended to the report.

The following measures were taken or agreed to by the Israeli authorities as a consequence of the Magen David Adom's lobbying efforts:

- a) Preferential passage at all checkpoints for Palestine Red Crescent Society and other ambulances

According to the Israeli authorities, all checkpoints have been instructed to give priority treatment to all ambulances on emergency missions. The criteria for determining emergency cases were agreed between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Israeli authorities. Signs indicating priority access in Arabic, Hebrew and English have been posted at checkpoints determined by the Palestine Red Crescent Society. Based on its conversations with the parties and the observers, the Swiss monitoring team considers that this preferential passage is working relatively well in general. However, the Palestine Red Crescent

Society reported persistent problems during the Israeli incursions into Palestinian cities and with certain flying checkpoints. It reported three cases during incursions or military operations in the month of May: in Bet Lahia (northern Gaza) and in Khan Younis, an ambulance was hit by pieces of shrapnel from missiles fired on 12 and 30 May, and in Nablus, Israeli soldiers fired directly at an ambulance carrying a woman in labour on 27 May 2006. The nature of these operations and flying checkpoints makes it very difficult, of course, to conduct a neutral verification of the reports.

- b) Preferential access to East Jerusalem for specific ambulances

According to the Israeli authorities, all checkpoints have also been instructed to grant special priority, in particular regarding access to Jerusalem, to six Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulances whose licence plate and staff identity card numbers have been communicated to all checkpoints. A Swiss monitoring mission was able to assess that checkpoints around Jerusalem were equipped with posters – you can see them on the pictures – listing these ambulances and the authorized crews. When these measures were initially implemented in late April and early May, the Palestine Red Crescent Society reported persistent problems and numerous denials of passage for ambulances earmarked for privileged access to Jerusalem. In the last four weeks, however, the Swiss government has received no concrete and detailed reports of problems regarding access for these six privileged ambulances, in spite of repeated appeals to the Palestine Red Crescent Society to take up any difficulties with the Magen David Adom and the Israeli authorities and to report them to the Swiss monitoring team.

- c) Establishment of fast lanes

Already before the Diplomatic Conference, Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister at the time, had promised the Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs that fast lanes for ambulances would be established at checkpoints. The Palestine Red Crescent Society had provided the Magen David Adom with a list of checkpoints where such fast lanes were a priority. The Israeli authorities have reiterated their basic readiness to construct such fast lanes at certain checkpoints to the Swiss monitoring delegation. It appears that such lanes are to be constructed at the new sophisticated checkpoints that are being built, namely around Jerusalem. A Swiss monitoring delegation was able to see one such lane at the new Qalandia checkpoint between Ramallah and East Jerusalem. At the old

checkpoints, no work seems to have been undertaken except at the Awarta checkpoint (near Nablus), where a new fast lane is supposed to have started operating recently. Finally, fast lanes already existed at the Beit El and Tappuah Junction checkpoints, although the Palestine Red Crescent Society complains that it is no longer allowed to use the one at Beit El.

d) Accelerated passage on Allenby Bridge

The Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society, with the assistance of the ICRC, reached a basic agreement with the Allenby Bridge authorities on 23 February 2006 on the following issues: handling of outgoing and incoming patients, use of a sterile ambulance to cross the bridge, transfer of patients from one ambulance to another, priority passage for Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulances, coordination with the Jordanian Red Crescent, reduction of abuses and operation of the infirmary. Subsequent meetings that should have brought about concrete implementation on the ground were, however, repeatedly postponed by the bridge authorities or concluded unsuccessfully. The latest attempt to hold an implementation meeting, on 13 June 2006, was cancelled because the Palestine Red Crescent Society felt unable to attend.

e) Stationing of two ambulances at the Maternity Hospital in East Jerusalem

This long-pending request was included in the Agreement. The Israeli authorities granted permission in late April. The concrete details of the registration, exact painting and labelling of the ambulances took several weeks to work out. The ambulances were handed over to the hospital by the ICRC with the assistance of the Magen David Adom on 1 June. They were painted by the Magen David Adom in accordance with the specifications of the hospital and have been operating for the last week. The original colours on the ambulances have now been changed to red only, as required by the hospital.

f) Stationing of five Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulances in East Jerusalem

Early in the process, the Magen David Adom fully endorsed this central Palestine Red Crescent Society demand and continuously lobbied for it, in spite of its political sensitivity in Israel. In late May, it finally obtained the green light from the government. At that stage, time seemed too short for the deployment of new Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulances, which still would have required several tests and permits from the Israeli authorities.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society was therefore offered six former Magen David Adom ambulances, which were purchased by the ICRC and painted as required by the Palestine Red Crescent Society (the picture that you have seen). The deployment has been delayed for the last two weeks because it was not possible for the Israeli authorities and the Palestine Red Crescent Society to reach agreement on details concerning registration and ambulance staff. Both sides are committed, however, to reaching a solution on those outstanding issues and to making sure that the five ambulances will actually be used to provide emergency medical services to the population of East Jerusalem. The Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations Office and the International Organizations in Geneva has written a detailed letter reiterating this commitment to the President of the ICRC. I have already mentioned that you can find the letter in the annex. I would like to take the opportunity to express the regret of Switzerland and my Minister for a misunderstanding that arose during the Diplomatic Conference, when our Minister picked up on a statement by the Magen David Adom and reported that the Palestine Red Crescent Society's ambulances were already in East Jerusalem. It has unfortunately taken quite a bit longer for this to happen, but luckily we are now there.

The only operational issue on which the Magen David Adom's lobbying has not been able to achieve any progress is the transportation of patients between Gaza and the West Bank. This is due to the recent general political developments in and around Gaza, including the breakdown of the communication channels between the Israeli and Palestinian authorities that were previously used to arrange permits and transportation, the non-realization of the transportation link between Gaza and the West Bank, and the position of the new Palestinian Government. The Magen David Adom has offered to transport any patients free of charge for the Palestine Red Crescent Society from the Erez terminal to any West Bank checkpoint, and the ICRC has offered its help in obtaining the necessary permits from the authorities on both sides. The general situation has, however, not yet allowed the Palestine Red Crescent Society to avail itself of these offers in specific cases.

Regarding general cooperation between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society, which is foreseen in the Agreement, it can be reported that there has been a significant *rapprochement* and intensification of contacts and cooperation between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society, certainly at the level of the two organizations' leadership and at the operational



level. Since the adoption of Additional Protocol III, eight liaison committee meetings and four progress assessment meetings have been held in a generally friendly and constructive atmosphere. A summary of the discussions during these meetings and three interim progress assessment reports prepared by the Swiss monitoring teams have also been appended to the report.

In order to facilitate communication between the two National Societies and to establish a hotline for emergency cases, the Magen David Adom, at its own expense, has provided the Palestine Red Crescent Society with eleven sets of radio and telecommunication equipment known as MERS. Since the equipment was handed over in early April, the hotline and other communications have been working well. A meeting between station directors took place in Tel Aviv on 17 May 2006.

Otherwise, there has not been a great deal of cooperation at the level of the general membership, mainly because the Palestine Red Crescent Society was hesitant to engage in this as long as its operational needs on the ground were not satisfied by the Israeli authorities. Nonetheless, there is a willingness within both organizations to take this up with more commitment, and initiatives to this effect are under way.

All in all, the agreements of last November between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society have considerably improved and intensified the interaction between the two neighbouring National Societies. The Magen David Adom has presented the Palestine Red Crescent Society's operational requests to the Israeli authorities and through persistent lobbying has achieved positive governmental decisions on virtually all of them. Most of these decisions were obtained during the last two months only, that is, following the Israeli election and the formation of a new government, and their practical implementation has taken more time. While implementation is not yet complete or perfect, tangible and visible results have been achieved on the ground. Switzerland stands ready to continue assisting in the implementation of the agreements, in accordance with its commitment of 22 November 2005, should this still be the wish of the parties.

The two National Societies, which are the parties to the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements, have kept their commitments and laid solid groundwork for their further cooperation, even if governmental decisions have not yet been fully implemented. It is worth noting that this cooperation between the two

National Societies took place in difficult political circumstances during a period in which most other channels of communication between Israelis and Palestinians, whether political or at the level of civil society, had either broken down completely or at least seen a considerable reduction in intensity and quality of contact. The cooperation between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society thus serves as a true example of the spirit of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which wants to preserve humanitarian cooperation from the ups and downs of the political environment.

#### 4.6.3 GENERAL DEBATE ON THE REPORTS

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

Thank you, Ambassador Pfirter, for your report and for the latest updates on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements between the two National Societies. It is very refreshing to hear that progress has been made, and I hope that the four reports will provoke some kind of reaction from the floor. I hope that will be a positive reaction. In the course of the debate, I will give the floor to the distinguished representatives of the ICRC and the International Federation as well as to our introductory speakers for any additional information, feedback or responses that they may wish to provide regarding the issues being debated. I now open the floor for general debate on item 3 of the agenda. Please raise your nameplates to ask for the floor.

While we register the requests to speak, please let me remind you that there is an initial time limit of five minutes for each delegation. As I said this morning, we will be giving a little extra time to those who are speaking on behalf of groups. Depending on the number of statements, the Chair may shorten the time limit to three minutes. Delegations were informed about the time limit in Information Note No. 2 of 9 June. I appeal to all speakers to strictly respect the time limit and to allow for as many statements as possible. A clock on the video screen will help you keep track of the time. Please also note that you can distribute the text of your statement to the participants by providing the necessary number of copies at the tables reserved for this purpose. Finally, I want to underline once more that statements by delegations must be in strict compliance with Article 11.4 of the Statutes, which stipulates that:

“All participants in the International Conference shall respect the Fundamental Principles and all documents shall conform to these principles. In order that the debates shall command the confidence of all, the Chairman shall ensure that none of the speakers at any time engages in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.”

I appeal to everyone to respect this rule.

The first to speak will be the distinguished delegate from Austria. I have a list now, and while the delegates are speaking, please feel free to raise your nameplates so your delegation can be registered.

**H.E. Mr Wolfgang Petritsch, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Austria, Geneva, speaking on behalf of the European Union**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

Let me start by congratulating you and the members of the Bureau on your election.

I speak on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Hungary and Romania, the candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia, and two European Free Trade Association countries, Iceland and Liechtenstein, that are members of the European Economic Area. Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova also align themselves with this statement.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Standing Commission for having provided us with a comprehensive report on the follow-up to the resolutions of the 28th International Conference. The report clearly demonstrates the strong determination of the ICRC, the International Federation, the National Societies and governments to find a comprehensive and lasting solution to the issue of the emblem. In particular, I would like to thank the ICRC and the Swiss Government for their valuable work. Extensive consultations preceded the Diplomatic Conference of last December, at which Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions was adopted. All European Union member States voted in favour of this instrument, which was subsequently signed by most of them. Today, we have a unique opportunity to take the final step and bring the process to a close, by adopting amendments to the Statutes, by deciding on the name of “red crystal” for the additional emblem

to be introduced by Protocol III and by requesting the ICRC to recognize the Palestine Red Crescent National Society and the International Federation to admit this Society as a member, knowing that it will carry out humanitarian activities of which we can all be proud.

Mr Chairman,

The European Union is a strong supporter of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This unique network of humanitarian actors protects the lives and dignity of men, women and children every day, every hour. Soon, we will be able to welcome two new National Societies into the Movement. The European Union sincerely hopes that during this Conference we will be able to adopt the draft resolution in front of us. This International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent is a humanitarian event. May the seven Fundamental Principles of the Movement, in particular universality, guide our deliberations.

**H.E. Mr Masood Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan, Geneva, speaking on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

I congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Conference. We thank you for the effort you have made to build a consensus, along with Ambassador Wegger Strommen and Ambassador Juan Martabit. We extend our congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen, the Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretaries-General. We thank Ms Micheline Calmy-Rey, Foreign Minister of Switzerland, and Ambassador Didier Pfirter for their endeavours to find solutions to the complex issues relating to the additional emblem. We thank Ambassador Pfirter for his report today.

We also want to recognize the hard work consistently done by Mr Christopher Lamb of the International Federation, Mr Francois Bugnion of the ICRC, and Ambassador Philippe Cuvillier in arranging for this Conference. We deeply appreciate the presentation made by the ICRC President, Jakob Kellenberger, giving details on how ICRC officials diligently made technical preparations for the establishment of a hospital in Majdal Shams. We commend these efforts.

This Conference contributes to the unity of the Movement and to the achievement of its mission in full compliance with the Fundamental Principles.

During this Conference, we should spare no effort in striving to attain this cardinal principle, which is laid down in the Movement's Statutes. This Conference should not be politicized. We should take decisions on purely legal and humanitarian grounds.

In Resolution P-5/32PAL, which was adopted by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on 30 June 2005, the OIC countries decided that the time was not ripe for a diplomatic conference on the adoption of a third distinctive emblem.

The OIC countries decided to review that stance for two reasons.

The first reason was that at the end of the informal consultations held on 12 and 13 September 2005, Ambassador Blaise Godet, who chaired the meeting on behalf of the depositary State, gave assurances that the Swiss Government would continue consultations with a view to working out solutions to two issues:

- the territorial use of the emblem;
- the geographical scope of the operational activities and competencies of the National Societies, in accordance with the Movement's Statutes and rules, including Resolution 11 of the 10th International Conference held in 1921.

These were indeed the key questions relating to the application of international humanitarian law. The law was there: it just had to be invoked explicitly and applied to the occupied Palestinian territories and the Syrian Golan.

The Foreign Minister of Switzerland held consultations in this regard with the OIC countries on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly last year and undertook visits to Palestine, Israel, Egypt and Lebanon. Before the Diplomatic Conference, there was hope that these contacts would produce some results.

The second reason was that the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom had signed the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements on 28 November 2005.

The Final Act of the Diplomatic Conference of December 2005 says that the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Operational Arrangements were concluded in an effort:

- a) to facilitate the adoption of Additional Protocol III;
- b) to pave the way for the admission of both National Societies, the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom, to the Movement at the next International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Dr Jakob Kellenberger, President of the ICRC, said on 5 December 2005 that the ICRC, the International Federation and the Standing Commission supported these objectives. He said that the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement, "beyond the precise wording of the different points, reflect a strong common humanitarian commitment, a genuine spirit of cooperation and mutual respect." He added: "You can, by adopting Additional Protocol III, facilitate their humanitarian tasks."

Switzerland accepted responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the Memorandum and the Agreement, in cooperation with the ICRC and the International Federation.

Let us acknowledge, in all fairness, that the Memorandum of Understanding facilitated the adoption of Additional Protocol III because the OIC countries changed their position on the appropriateness of the timing of the Conference. And the next International Conference has started today. Where are we with the implementation?

The point is that implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding, the adoption of Additional Protocol III, the simultaneous admission of the two National Societies and the application of the "1921 Rule" are all interlinked. The Memorandum of Understanding was the key factor, if not the linchpin, of this process. The understanding at that time was not that there would be one hundred per cent delivery on Additional Protocol III and the International Conference, but partial and perfunctory accomplishment of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding, given the complexity of the situation in the Middle East. This was to be a humanitarian track, to be divorced from the political issues.

Mr Chairman,

There was a third reason that heavily influenced the adoption of Additional Protocol III. Starting in September, Switzerland undertook that it would also try to address the humanitarian issues in the occupied Syrian Golan. In this regard, it intensified its efforts after the signing of the 28 November Memorandum



of Understanding between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom. To achieve that objective, intense negotiations continued well into the last day of the Diplomatic Conference after successive night sessions to reach common ground on an agreement modelled on the Memorandum or through an exchange of letters. Unfortunately, these efforts did not succeed. Additional Protocol III was adopted by a vote on 8 December, not because of political issues but because OIC amendments based on the Movement's rules were rejected. Such rejection has few precedents in the history of the Movement.

In the past six months, there was plenty of time for implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and progress on the Syrian track. Today, as we meet, our feedback is that Resolution 11 of the 1921 Conference has not been implemented; the issues relating to ambulances in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, have not been resolved.

A couple of months ago hopes rose as the ambitions for an agreement between the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the Magen David Adom were scaled down to the establishment of the ICRC-run hospital in Majdal Shams in the Syrian Golan. The key actors in this commendable initiative, besides the ICRC, were Syria, Israel and the people of the Syrian Golan. The ICRC has spent months preparing for this project – from a hospital to a complex for an emergency and diagnostic centre. We deeply appreciate all these efforts. Today the OIC, Syria and the people of the occupied Golan are dismayed. This project was within reach, it is still within reach. It is tragic that it has been allowed to sputter and falter. A little bit of finesse could have saved it. It should still be saved.

As we meet today, we must try to make a strong, unequivocal commitment to implementing the Memorandum of Understanding and to establishing a hospital in Majdal Shams with the full concurrence of the Palestinian and Syrian governments respectively. Palestinian ambulances must run in the occupied territories; the ICRC's commendable initiative to establish a hospital in Majdal Shams must not be scuppered.

As historic decisions are on the anvil today, we should take sound and wise decisions to ensure the unity and universality as well as the neutrality and impartiality of the Movement. To that effect:

- the new emblem should not be an instrument of discord, but a symbol of integration;

- we should strive to look for a solution that is acceptable to all sides, which on this issue should become one side.

The Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, yesterday, has issued a communiqué in which it makes a strong call to this Conference to promote respect for and the application of international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territories and in Syrian Golan.

Pakistan and Tunisia have tabled amendments to draft resolution 06/IC/04.1-REV1. These amendments, which enjoy the support of the OIC countries, make the resolution an integrated whole and remove possible lacunae. Our amendments:

- reaffirm that the Geneva Conventions and the Movement's rules, especially Resolution 11 of the 1921 International Conference, are applicable to all the Arab territories occupied since 1967 - the Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan and the Lebanese Shebaa Farms area - which are within the jurisdiction of their respective Arab National Societies;
- state that the Palestine Red Crescent Society covers the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem;
- reaffirm that admission of any new National Society is conditional upon full recognition and implementation of Resolution 11;
- request the ICRC and the International Federation to ensure full implementation of the resolution and to report thereon to the next International Conference.

None of the amendments adds or subtracts anything from agreed and established humanitarian norms and laws. They all reflect the letter and spirit of the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

We appeal to all National Societies and to the States Parties to support these amendments. By supporting them, you will make history. By rejecting them, we will fracture the consensus and demonstrate partiality.

The issues surrounding the additional emblem have their political fault lines. In November last year there was nevertheless a glimmer of hope that they could be resolved through mutual understanding and cooperation on a purely humanitarian basis. That challenge is as pressing today as it was at the time. Let us then take a common stand for a common cause - the cause of humanitarian law, for now and forever. Consensus would be a small price to pay for the closure of an issue that has been open for nearly 60 years.



No matter how meticulous the preparations made by the Movement, the depositary and individual States may have been, this Conference is a sovereign body and will take its own decisions. Delegates have travelled from all over the world, not to endorse the decisions already taken, but to take their own decisions. In so doing, we hope that they will rise to the highest calling of the Movement.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Thank you, Ambassador Khan. I hope that we will all work together to achieve this consensus. May I remind all delegations who would like to discuss the draft resolution that Ambassador Strommen is waiting in rooms 3 and 4 for those who are interested. Please go there. You can get somebody else to address the Conference on your behalf. Please start now because we would like to reach a consensus as quickly as possible. The next speaker on my list is the Ambassador of Israel.

**H.E. Mr Itzhak Levanon, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Israel, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

At the outset, Mr Chairman, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and to wish you success in your endeavours. I would like to express Israel's sincere thanks for your untiring efforts over the past months in paving the way for a positive outcome for this Conference. Your efforts have been supported by the ICRC, the International Federation and the Swiss Government, all of whom have played a pivotal role in bringing this Conference to fruition. I would like to thank them as well.

As many in the ICRC and the Movement have noted, the adoption of a neutral additional emblem will benefit not just a few National Societies. It will strengthen the overall protective value of the emblem and provide the necessary safety to all National Societies in their work. True universality will only be achieved when all National Societies can work without discrimination, under the safeguard of a recognized and globally respected protective emblem. After many decades of struggling over this issue, we are proud and moved to be at this Conference, at which we hope the difficulties related to the emblem will finally be resolved.

In particular, we are hopeful that the principle of universality will find its expression in the incorporation of the Magen David Adom – along with the Palestine Red Crescent Society – as a full member of the Movement. The National Societies in this hall that have worked with the Magen David Adom can attest to its professionalism, its high standards and the commitment of its volunteers. Many States can also bear witness to the speed and dedication with which it has been among the first to respond to emergency and disaster situations around the world. I look forward to the Magen David Adom being able to contribute fully to the work of the Movement, as a full member.

Alongside the Fundamental Principle of universality is the principle of humanity, and the recognition that the Movement's goal is to alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. With this principle in mind, the Magen David Adom has approached the Government of Israel in recent months, lobbying energetically and persuasively for operational arrangements that will facilitate the humanitarian work of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. Conscious of the humanitarian value of these arrangements, successive Israeli Governments have made extensive efforts to ensure the implementation of the proposals that the Magen David Adom has been advocating, as Ambassador Pfirter of Switzerland has just noted in his comprehensive monitoring report.

As a result of these efforts, the Israeli authorities have authorized six Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulances to enjoy special priority access when bringing emergency cases to hospitals in Jerusalem. Furthermore, they have authorized two ambulances to be stationed at the Red Cross Maternity Hospital in Jerusalem, and have agreed to arrangements proposed by the Palestine Red Crescent Society to provide access for an additional five Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulances. These ambulances have been painted and re-equipped, and are ready for operation. The Palestine Red Crescent Society has recently made some new proposals regarding these ambulances, which Israel will consider. But in the meantime, Israel remains willing to have these ambulances commence operations immediately, in accordance with the arrangements originally proposed.

Other humanitarian arrangements implemented as a result of the Magen David Adom's advocacy include the establishment of priority access for all ambulances arriving at checkpoints, with appropriate new regulations, and the posting of ambulance priority signs, as you have seen, in English, Arabic and

Hebrew, at checkpoints designated by the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

In addition to the steps taken by the Israeli authorities, we are pleased to note a number of steps taken by the Magen David Adom itself to further humanitarian cooperation with the Palestine Red Crescent Society. These include the provision of MERS communication equipment to the Palestinian side to allow real-time communication between the two National Societies and the establishment of a hotline and contact points. The Magen David Adom has also proposed cooperation with the Palestine Red Crescent Society on a wide range of humanitarian issues, including disaster preparedness, training, blood-bank issues, and so on, and we are hopeful that such cooperation will continue and develop.

Mr Chairman,

Humanitarian obligations are not one-time undertakings, but long-lasting commitments that accompany members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for as long as there are cases of humanitarian need. The humanitarian undertakings of and cooperation between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society are similarly lasting commitments, which will continue after the entry of the two National Societies into the Movement. We take this opportunity to reiterate Israel's continuing commitment, as reaffirmed by its Foreign Minister, Ms Livni, to the Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Calmy-Rey, on 11 June 2006, to continue facilitating the implementation of these humanitarian arrangements. We also take this opportunity to reaffirm Israel's support for the emergency medical facility and diagnostic centre in the process of being established in Majdal Shams under the auspices of the ICRC, and its commitment to facilitate the process of its establishment and operation as a matter of priority. We also reiterate the call made by the ICRC President, Mr Jakob Kellenberger, to the Syrian authorities to support the establishment of this important humanitarian facility.

Let me close by reiterating my thanks to you, Mr Chairman, for your work in steering this Conference, and by expressing the hope that today's deliberations will bring an end to a long-running and painful issue that has troubled the Movement for too long, and open a new era of increased humanitarian assistance and fruitful cooperation between National Societies.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

Thank you, Ambassador. You noticed that I allowed you to go over the five minutes because I understood that everybody in the room is very much concerned to hear anything positive about the Memorandum of Understanding and the role that the State of Israel can play in this respect.

I remind you that consultation has already begun. Ambassador Strommen has already started in Rooms 3 and 4. For those who do not want to miss the train, go now.

The next speaker is the representative of the National Red Cross Society in Brazil.

**Mr L.F. Hernandez, President of the Brazilian Red Cross**  
(Original Spanish)

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Brazil is the only Portuguese-speaking country in Latin America, and usually I speak in Spanish. Today I beg the pardon of my Spanish-speaking friends; the subject matter is very important, and I will therefore speak in English.

(Original English)

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yesterday, during the meeting of the National Societies of the Americas, the President of a National Society asked if it would be possible for all 35 National Societies to approve by consensus the three points being discussed by this Conference. This question, which was also a proposal, was not discussed, but it was very important, because it reflected unanimity among those who attended the meeting. Remember that 150 years ago, Henry Dunant cried out to the people of Solferino, "We are all brothers!"

Today we have to repeat that cry. We have to look to the Fundamental Principles and we have to fight for the Movement's mottoes: *Inter arma caritas* and *Per humanitatem ad pacem*. We have to leave political opinions and religious beliefs behind us and keep in mind that Henry Dunant's focus was on people, human beings. I beg your pardon, but I want to read the first Fundamental Principle again:

“Humanity: The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace among all peoples.”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The idea of a third emblem was proposed in 1992 in Budapest, 14 years ago. Until now, several problems blocked its approval. The debate on the emblem was finished at the Diplomatic Conference in December 2005.

Friends, brothers, here today we are discussing humanitarian rights. We have to wind up these 14 years of discussion. We have to fight on the side of all people in any country who are suffering and in need of help from the ICRC, the International Federation, the National Societies and – most important of all – from us in this Conference.

I propose that we approve the entire package, and I would be very glad if we approved it by consensus.

Mr Chairman,

I would appreciate it if you would call on the Vice-Chairman of the Inter-American Regional Committee, Ms Dorothy Fraser of Guyana, who has an important communication on behalf of the 35 National Societies of the Americas.

**H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Syria, Geneva**  
(Original English)

Mr Chairman,

Allow me first to thank you from the bottom of my heart on behalf of my delegation for all the efforts you have deployed so far, and especially for your wisdom and your conduct of the informal consultations, thanks to which we have reached a kind of understanding on the way this Conference will be conducted.

The legal adviser of the Arab Group attended the meeting with other legal advisers, and he submitted a point of view which was not reflected in your

briefing. I will therefore send you the legal opinion in writing, for forwarding to the Standing Commission, so that it will appear in the official documents of the Conference.

Mr Chairman,

We have heard many beautiful speeches and words, but once again, these beautiful speeches and words require guarantees for their implementation on the ground. Of course, we are all here to defend and work out means of strengthening international humanitarian law and our Movement's humanitarian message, but this cannot be done outside the legal framework of our work. The law has a framework and we will all have to work out the appropriate implementation of the law within it.

Mr Chairman,

The flexibility of the OIC with regard to the agenda is linked, as you know, to obtaining guarantees from the Conference that Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese concerns will be addressed; otherwise we will inevitably be reconsidering our position. Flexibility does not mean weakness. We do not want to be misunderstood. The legal foundation for the OIC's position is very strong and solid, and everybody agrees on this.

The issue is not Palestinian ambulances being able to enter East Jerusalem, or having a diagnostic medical centre in Majdal Shams in the occupied Syrian Golan, or the admission of the Palestinian and Israeli National Societies to our Movement. The issue is the territorial use of the emblem and the geographical scope of the work of the National Societies. Those are the really beautiful words that we would like to hear on implementation. These words do not come from the Syrian delegation or from the OIC countries, they come from Resolution 11 of the Conference of 1921. These rules reflect purely Western values, and it is paradoxical that the OIC countries are defending these Western values and the others are not. In 1921 we were not there, we were under occupation then, too, foreign occupation, as is now the case with our Golan. How is it that the ICRC, with all due respect, launched an initiative, a so-called Memorandum of Understanding, without first consulting with the Syrian authorities and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent? How can the Syrian Arab Red Crescent be barred from sending medical assistance and building a hospital in the Golan, when, at the same time, it sends assistance to Pakistan, Indonesia, Nigeria and other areas which are thousands of miles away from Syria? Why can we not help our own population, 45 km from Damascus?

This is a paradoxical situation. It should be addressed. At issue are the legal foundations and the application of the "1921 Rule." We are not politicizing anything. We are just repeating the widely-held international view which has been in existence since 1921.

Mr Chairman,

The Golan has been under Israeli occupation since 1967, or for 39 years. During all these years, was the ICRC not aware that our population in the Golan was in need of medical help? For 40 years our population in the Golan has been deprived of a hospital, they have no medical facilities whatsoever. Those of our citizens who refuse to hold Israeli identity cards and refuse to accept the illegal Israeli annexation of the Golan are deprived of their right to be treated in Israeli hospitals. We are therefore not pleased at talk about ambulances or so-called medical facilities. I do not know what to call it, because what started as a hospital is now a diagnostic centre with 20 beds. We started with a figure of 7-something million Swiss francs and now we are talking about 2-something million Swiss francs. We do not need these 2.1 million. Our Red Crescent is ready to build the hospital. We would like - and are seeking your help as well as your understanding in this - this Conference to assert the geographical jurisdiction of our National Society over the Golan, in full accordance with the "1921 Rule."

We have heard nothing about Israeli tanks shelling Palestinian ambulances just a few days ago. Beautiful words require real implementation on the ground.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

Thank you, Ambassador. I hope that we have faith that the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is going to be concerned with the humanitarian issues that will be put before us for consideration and that there will be no discrimination against anything you or anybody will put forward. Your views will be taken into account. As I mentioned earlier, I will be giving the floor to the four speakers and to the delegates of the ICRC and the International Federation. They will be making notes and collectively will answer some questions and concerns raised from the floor. Once again, I thank you for your understanding and for maintaining the good atmosphere and spirit that we are trying to promote at this Conference. I now give the floor to the representative of the Swedish Red Cross.

**Mr Bengt Westerberg, President, Swedish Red Cross, speaking on behalf of the Nordic Red Cross Societies**  
(Original English)

Mr Chairman,

Speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden - I have two remarks to make.

First, the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom are already doing admirable humanitarian work in Palestine and Israel respectively, so do they need us? Do they need the Movement?

Yes, apparently they do. They have applied for membership and they have made impressive efforts to meet the conditions for the ICRC and the International Federation to accept them as members, among them the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in November 2005 - a historical moment at which I had the privilege, in my capacity as Vice-President, to represent the International Federation.

The progress made under the Memorandum of Understanding has been limited but is unquestionable, as we just heard from the Swiss government, and both National Societies are working hard to overcome obstacles and difficulties.

We should show our appreciation for the efforts they have made and must do our utmost to encourage and facilitate further improvements and further cooperation between the two and perhaps expand the scope of our assistance to them. No doubt the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom need us, but it should also be said that we need them in order to become an even more universal Movement.

My second remark is as follows.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are auxiliaries to governments. This Conference reflects our special position in our countries. Our efforts to help the most vulnerable people are accepted and sometimes appreciated and supported by governments.

But we are not government agencies or agents. We are independent, guided only by our humanitarian values. As we all know, sometimes our aims and the aims of our governments are in conflict. Sometimes governments even cause the problems we have to deal with - in Solferino in 1859 as well as in today's world. We must realize that governments may take other than purely humanitarian goals into consideration.

We must, however, always be faithful to our goals, to stand up for humanitarian values and to help the victims of war and the most vulnerable people. The Nordic Red Cross Societies are convinced that we will show this commitment best by supporting the draft resolution today, with possible amendments, and in a day or two by welcoming the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom as members of our Movement.

**Ms Monique Coulibaly, President, Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire**

*(Original French)*

What can I add to everything my colleagues have said? Thank you to the eminent persons who performed the enormous task we are here to support today. This morning I arrived with T-shirts printed with the words, "*Nous sommes tous frères, tendons-nous la main, acceptons nos différences pour bâtir une communauté unie*" (We are all brothers, let us help each other build a united community).

We can check no more than 43 kilos of luggage on flights from my country, so I cannot give one to everyone. But take note of what you saw on the screen.

The Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire, recognizing that the seven Fundamental Principles are a compass for the Movement, whose unity and universality it wishes to support, is gratified by the final outcome of the Diplomatic Conference that adopted Additional Protocol III in December 2005.

Our National Society wishes to underscore the importance of amending the Statutes in order to introduce the additional emblem. It believes that the Conference's objectives should be endorsed and fulfilled. We are all brothers. Let us respect our differences. The Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire supports the resolution as it will enable the two National Societies to become full members of the Movement and to safeguard and protect human dignity.

**Mr Greg Vickery, National Chairman, Australian Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Members, Friends of the Movement,

Sincere thanks to you, Mr Chairman, the Standing Commission and officials from the ICRC and the International Federation, the Swiss Government and, of course, the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom who have laboured so hard to make this Conference a reality.

The Australian Red Cross was pleased that the long-running emblem debate was finally concluded when the Diplomatic Conference adopted Additional Protocol III in December 2005 here in Geneva.

It is most important now to adjust the Movement's Statutes so that the new emblem can be used by components of the Movement and by National Societies applying for recognition, especially those who may have difficulty with the cross or crescent and see them as religious symbols. As I mentioned in Seoul when this issue was discussed, I hope all States will quickly give legal protection to the new emblem.

I am delighted with the progress made since the Diplomatic Conference, as extensively reported on by previous speakers.

Can I emphasize the humanitarian importance of achieving the objectives of the Conference this week? With Mr Sione from Tonga and my friends from other Pacific National Societies with whom I met earlier, we are all agreed that only a positive outcome will further the valuable humanitarian work done by both the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society; delay will not help anyone, from our point of view, especially not the most vulnerable and those who need our help.

We sincerely hope that we can achieve a consensus outcome on item 4 of the draft resolution. It would better reflect two of our Principles, namely universality and unity, which we National Societies always strive to achieve. This was overwhelmingly stated at the Governing Board when the issue was discussed on Sunday, and the previous speaker reminded us of that.

I look forward at the end of the Conference to welcoming the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom as recognized National Societies and full members of the International Federation, so that they are better able to do the vital humanitarian work referred to in the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Operational Arrangements. As National Societies we can all commit to help them.

We want a decision from this Conference and agree with the Ambassador of Pakistan that a unanimous one would be so much better. What a historic week this will be for the cause of humanity.

**H.E. Dr Mohammad Abu-Koash, Ambassador, Permanent Observer, Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine, Geneva**  
(Original English)

Mr Chairman,

I am not the Ambassador of the Palestinian Authority. I am the Ambassador of Palestine. Our nameplate says "Palestine."

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, the delegation of Palestine would like to extend its congratulations to you, Mr Chairman. We are confident that under your leadership and wisdom, this Conference will be successful in upholding and applying international law, namely Resolution 11 of the 1921 International Conference, to every country without exception. It is acknowledged that the signing in Geneva on 28 November 2005 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Israeli Magen David Adom was used to hold the Diplomatic Conference which adopted Additional Protocol III on 8 December 2005. That was meant to pave the way for the membership of the Israeli National Society in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This membership also requires the amendment of the Movement's Statutes. All these uninspiring efforts have been made for one specific country: Israel.

Despite all this, the implementation of the commitments contained in the Agreement has unfortunately failed dismally. Several States have urged Israel, the Occupying Power, to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement but Israel remains unresponsive except in words. We have been waiting for Israel to take concrete measures regarding the Agreement. Unfortunately, we are still waiting. The Agreement must be implemented before the Statutes are amended, otherwise all of us will be involved in an Israeli ploy which was successful in achieving the first stable objective in December and now aims at accomplishing it fully, at the expense of international humanitarian law.

The Agreement stipulates that the Israeli Magen David Adom will ensure that it has no chapters outside the internationally recognized borders of the State of Israel and that the operational activities of one

National Society within the jurisdiction of the other National Society must respect the consent provision of Resolution 11 of the 1921 International Conference. In this connection, all the Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese and other Arab territories occupied by Israel fall within the geographical jurisdiction of their respective Arab National Societies. You will recall that the Swiss Foreign Minister addressed the Diplomatic Conference in December before voting started on Additional Protocol III, stating that implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding had just begun and declaring that Palestinian ambulances had launched their operations in Jerusalem as she was speaking.

We thank the Foreign Minister for her courage in clarifying the situation through Ambassador Didier Pfirter today, and we thank Switzerland for its valuable efforts in monitoring the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. Regrettably, we are still waiting to witness the operation of Palestinian ambulances in occupied East Jerusalem, providing humanitarian services to our people there in accordance with international law.

Israel, the Occupying Power, is against the operation of Palestinian-licensed ambulances with Palestinian plates and drivers. As you saw on the screen, it was Israeli lines and ambulances with Israeli licence plates. If anybody wants to challenge that assertion, I ask that the picture be shown again and that you focus on the licence plates. You will see that they are yellow Israeli licence plates, not Palestinian licence plates. This is a deceit. Israel wants Israeli-licensed ambulances with Israeli licence plates and drivers holding Israeli licences. This is not international law. It means that Israel wants us to endorse its illegal annexation of occupied Jerusalem, something that has not been recognized by any country in the world. What adds injury to insult is the continued Israeli assault, including the firing of missiles on Palestinian ambulances, which has led to the killing of mainly medical personnel attending to the injured. Only last week, for instance, four medical workers and a number of other civilians were killed. Such assaults escalated after the Memorandum of Understanding was signed, as reported in the media and as stated in the report of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, which has been circulated to all of you. Moreover, the Israeli National Society continues to operate in the Israeli settlements, which have been built on expropriated Palestinian land in violation of the Geneva Convention of 1949. Israel, the Occupying Power, is the most flagrant violator of international law, including the four Geneva Conventions, and is guilty of State terrorism and of killing Palestinian

civilians, including children. The image of 10-year old Houda wailing beside the corpse of her father at Gaza beach on 9 June should remind you all of the true nature of the Israeli occupation. The Israeli occupation should not be rewarded by this Conference, given that the implementation of the written agreement with the Palestine Red Crescent Society has been blocked by Israel, the Occupying Power. How, then, can you expect mere promises from any party concerning the Syrian Golan to be fulfilled?

In conclusion, our position is clear. Let Israel and its National Society implement international law and we will be glad to join you all in a consensus on amending the Statutes. But we are not willing to underwrite the so-called annexation of occupied Jerusalem and the expropriation of Palestinian land on which colonial settlements have been built, nor are we willing to endorse the so-called annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan and the establishment of similar colonial settlements.

We hope that the OIC amendments will be accepted and that guarantees will be delivered during this Conference, particularly to Palestine and Syria, by neutral countries – and not mere words of guarantee from Israel – in order to enable us to reach a consensus.

**Mr Younis Al-Khatib, President of the Palestine Red Crescent Society**  
(*Original Arabic*)

On behalf of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, I wish to thank the Swiss Government for its role in monitoring implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and for the International Movement's facilitating role therein. We also appreciate Dr Noam Yifrach's personal endeavours and attempts to implement the Memorandum. However, in spite of some positive aspects mentioned in the report, the Memorandum remains within the realm of future aspirations. Very few of the many hopes and undertakings mentioned in the report have actually been fulfilled. The Memorandum of Understanding that we signed with the Magen David Adom did not contain a list of aspirations; it specified measures to improve the operating conditions of the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

The principal concerns relating to the humanitarian situation remain unaddressed, particularly in regard to repeated closures, the construction of the separation wall, the problems this is causing for Palestinian villages, the human suffering and the unjustifiable

killing of civilians. When we set out to implement the Memorandum, we were confronted with numerous difficulties. For example, the Geneva Conventions do not stipulate that a specific number of medical teams, ambulances or sick persons should be respected and accorded freedom of movement while other teams are denied such respect and freedom of movement. In spite of this, however, we agreed that the National Society would operate only six out of a total of 125 ambulances provided that these six ambulances were accorded freedom of movement through the Israeli checkpoints surrounding the city of Jerusalem. In the month following the Israeli decision to allow these ambulances to circulate, 70 per cent of the sick persons whom they were transporting were prevented by the Israeli army from reaching hospital.

In fact, the only serious attempt, that we witnessed, to implement any of the articles of the Memorandum was in the middle of last May, was only sporadic and focused on the five ambulances stationed in Jerusalem. As you can see from the photograph, these ambulances remain immobilized and their teams are overwhelmed by numerous procedures and laws that should not apply to them. There was no time left to address the matter of how the Magen David Adom would apply the principle of geographical jurisdiction of the two National Societies, which formed the basic content and substance of the Memorandum of Understanding, as requested by the intergovernmental consultative meeting held last September, before the Diplomatic Conference. Our report on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding shows that, from the date of signature of the Memorandum, the number of violations against Red Crescent teams steadily increased and, during the five-month period following its signature, amounted to double the number in the preceding months. These incidents have been documented by the International Committee of the Red Cross. There was also a notable increase in the number of violations last May, when several parties began to make urgent representations to the Israeli Government to implement the Memorandum.

We are aware that the occupation is not of a humanitarian nature. However, one of our aims in signing this Memorandum was to establish a culture of respect for the Geneva Conventions on the part of the Israeli Occupying Power, thereby putting an end to violations against ambulance crews and medical teams. Unfortunately, the opposite happened and the number of violations against us is increasing. You have listened to the report and seen a photograph of the signs that were displayed. I would like to draw attention to the nice photograph showing the sign at



five of at least 395 Israeli checkpoints that we have to cross in order to accomplish our mission. This sign is displayed at only five and not at all of the checkpoints. No one informed us that the Israeli side had agreed to allow Red Crescent teams to operate at the Erez crossing point into Gaza. This is the first time that I have heard about it.

We are obviously ready, especially after the Israeli side suspended its collaboration with the Palestinian Ministry of Health on the transportation of medical cases needing to be taken into Israel or to hospitals on the West Bank. Such transportation stopped. It was we who stressed the need for the Palestine Red Crescent Society to undertake this humanitarian role. However, this is the first time that I have heard of this role being approved. We will have to see if this actually happens. It is also the first time that I have heard of exemption from medical fees. We are all aware, and I have been told by the Magen David Adom, that nothing is free of charge in Israel. Palestinian citizens pay the cost of these services.

Respect for, and application of, the Geneva Conventions and endeavours to improve the humanitarian situation in Palestine must form the basis of our work at all times and should not be linked to a particular event or conference. However, our experience causes us to wonder what will guarantee implementation of the Memorandum after the closure of this Conference. How will we ensure greater respect for international humanitarian law so that our teams will feel safer? Some are seeking better conditions for their humanitarian activities without being subjected to beatings, gunfire and violations of their rights and, more importantly, without the rights of sick and wounded persons being violated. I believe that this is the common goal that we all share.

In conclusion, we wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to all of you for supporting our National Society's admission to the International Movement, which will help to boost the morale of our National Society and of a people suffering as a result of the deplorable humanitarian conditions under the occupation.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

I want to remind you that the list of speakers is now closed. I intend to end the debate at 6.15 p.m. because there is a reception at half-past six and we will not go into night sessions. The next speaker on my list is the delegate from the Government of Burkina Faso.

**Ms Bibata Sanou Ali, Civil Administrator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation, Burkina Faso**

(Original French)

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to start by congratulating you, on behalf of the Government of Burkina Faso and my delegation, on your election as Chairman of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. We are in no doubt that, under your enlightened leadership, our deliberations will meet with success. My delegation assures you of its full support in accomplishing this important mission.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

The large number of delegates present here and their participation at all levels is undeniable evidence of the international community's firm commitment to promoting and supporting the implementation of international humanitarian law.

Our deliberations since this morning have been fascinating and impassioned, but my delegation is pleased that reason and the humanitarian spirit have carried the day, enabling us to move forward. The amendments to the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the recognition of the red crystal are part of the shared effort of impartial humanitarian assistance aimed at ensuring that essential guarantees are afforded to the victims of armed conflicts and disaster situations.

The possible admission of the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society to the Movement constitutes a significant step towards universality, which is one of the Movement's Fundamental Principles. It is also a major decision for thousands of lives in need of rescue and protection, a decision we approve.

Burkina Faso, for its part, will spare no effort to uphold the humanitarian principles underpinning the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their Protocols, which it signed and ratified in 1961 and 1981 respectively.

Indeed, my country has a legal and regulatory framework for the protection of populations in times of armed conflict, evidence of its desire to guarantee full respect for humanitarian law.

Mr Chairman,

Burkina Faso has just signed a headquarters agreement with the ICRC, which now has a delegation in Ouagadougou. Burkina Faso is pleased that the ICRC has established a presence in Ouagadougou, because even though the country is politically stable and conflict-free, its people have nevertheless suffered and continue to suffer immensely from the repercussions of the crises in the West African sub-region.

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to present my heartfelt thanks to the ICRC and to the Burkinabe Red Cross Society for their steadfast availability and cooperation. I thank them also for spreading knowledge of international humanitarian law among our armed forces and for providing assistance to those of our people in distress.

I speak for Burkina Faso when I reiterate our willingness always to work alongside the international community for a peaceful, more just world, free of all conflict.

**H.E. Mr Antoine Mindua Kesia-Mbe, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Geneva, speaking on behalf of the African Group**

*(Original French)*

Mr Chairman,

I take the floor on behalf of the African Group.

Mr Chairman,

The African Group is delighted at your election as Chairman of the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and wishes you and your Bureau much fortitude in shouldering the heavy burden we have placed on you, namely to conduct the deliberations of this meeting.

The African Group wishes to commend the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for everything they do worldwide to ease the suffering of the victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters. Their noble humanitarian work deserves to be supported and duly recognized by all mankind. It must receive the backing of the entire international community and be based on solid and transparent rules. The African States avail themselves

of this opportunity to express their appreciation of Switzerland, the depositary of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, for all the efforts it is making to ensure proper application of the rules governing the harmonious accomplishment of humanitarian activities.

It is in this spirit of adherence to noble humanitarian rules that the African Group wishes, at the beginning of this Conference, to highlight the facts and general principles that will guide its members, who wish to see the deliberations end in a consensus.

Mr Chairman,

The African Group considers that an additional neutral emblem had to be adopted in order to resolve once and for all the thorny question of the emblem and thus maintain and reinforce the principles of unity and universality on which the Movement is based. This is why, despite the absence of a consensus, most African States voted in favour of Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions at the 2005 Diplomatic Conference.

The red crystal having been adopted as a new distinctive emblem of the Movement, it is obviously now up to this Conference, which has been convened for that purpose, to modify the Movement's Statutes accordingly.

Generally speaking, the African States see no reason why the Movement's Statutes should not be modified to take account of the provisions of Additional Protocol III. However, they hope that this can be done by consensus and with respect for international humanitarian law, after any obstacles lying in the way of the objectives pursued by our Conference have been ironed out.

Indeed, the African Group considers that international humanitarian law, given its special nature and the fact that it aims to alleviate human suffering, is an area in which all States and all humanitarian practitioners should avoid confrontation and prefer dialogue and consultation to reach a consensus on the decisions to be taken.

Mr Chairman,

The African Group is convinced that the Diplomatic Conference of December 2005 could have avoided having to adopt Additional Protocol III by vote if constant reference had been made to the principles of international humanitarian law. The question of the territorial use of the emblem, for example, had

already been settled by Resolution 11 of the 10th International Conference of the Red Cross, held in 1921. All the States Parties have to do is respect it. This does not seem to be the case in the occupied Arab territories.

Indeed, the ICRC's promises to improve health care in the occupied Golan and the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society on 28 November 2005 have remained a dead letter. According to the most recent information, it would appear that the Palestinian and Syrian Red Crescent Societies are denied access to the occupied territories. The same applies to the Lebanese Red Cross, which does not have access to the Shebaa Farms area. The Israeli National Society, on the other hand, has access to those territories without the agreement of the Arab National Societies under whose jurisdiction they fall, as required by the terms of Resolution 11.

Mr Chairman,

In accordance with the principles I have described, the African Group invites all the States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and all the National Societies participating in this Conference to make the admission of any new member conditional on compliance with Resolution 11. It invites them, above all, to give precedence to consensus and to respect for international humanitarian law at each stage of the process that will take us to the end of this meeting and the final adoption of the red crystal as the third emblem of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

**Mr Wan-Sang Han, President, Republic of Korea National Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

Let me start by admiring your patience and your compassionate management of this Conference. We ask the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to make a collective effort in the form of a resolution in order to solve the long-standing issue of the emblem. All those resolutions make it clear that National Societies share common views on the issue and raise their voices as one Movement to their respective governments and the public. The Republic of Korea National Red Cross is no exception. My National Society has advocated the importance of adopting the Additional Protocol

on the emblem and has exchanged views with our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. As a result, at the 2005 Diplomatic Conference governments voted in favour of adopting Additional Protocol III. The main reason that the Republic of Korea National Red Cross has supported this process is that we Koreans strongly believe that a cooperative approach to the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom is particularly meaningful for Korea, given the extensive humanitarian efforts being made by the two Korean humanitarian Societies.

We have implemented inter-Korean humanitarian cooperation programmes to alleviate suffering since the early 1970s. Thanks to Red Cross talks, the two Korean Red Cross Societies have been steadily alleviating human suffering.

Mr Chairman,

Let me remind you that at this very moment, family members who have been separated for 60 years are meeting in the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. The Korean National Societies have helped bring reconciliation and peace to the Korean peninsula after more than 60 years of confrontation. I believe that the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom may share a similar experience in overcoming political and ideological obstacles and meeting humanitarian needs, despite the political and historical differences between the two regions.

The full membership of these two National Societies will speed up, I believe, a well-established cooperation process based on the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements signed in November 2005. It is clear to everybody in this room why we are here. We must not impair the cooperative atmosphere. Let us visualize and experience in this room what our lofty ideals of universality and unity are all about.

Mr Chairman,

I have no doubt that the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom have the capabilities to bring peace to the region by sharing the power of humanity. We Koreans honestly hope that the vicious circle of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" can be broken by humanitarian cooperation and commitment between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom. I therefore fully support the consensual adoption of the resolution before us.

**H.E. Ms Caroline Millar, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Australia, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

As a strong supporter of international humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, Australia supported the adoption of the red crystal. Australia was one of the 98 member states who voted in favour of Additional Protocol III in December 2005. Australia signed the Protocol in March this year. Australia wishes to see consensus on the three key outcomes of this Conference: agreement on the amendments to the Statutes, the designation of the Protocol III emblem as the red crystal, and the simultaneous admission of the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society. The States party to the Geneva Conventions have already expressed their position on these issues and Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions has already been adopted.

The purpose of this Conference is to take the necessary technical steps to implement the positions that the States have already endorsed. This is not the place to reopen the debate on issues settled in December.

The adoption of the Protocol and its early entry into force resolve a long-standing issue that constrained the capacity of National Societies to deliver humanitarian assistance freely, safely and efficiently.

The amendment of the Statutes will allow the simultaneous admission of Israel's Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

Australia urges National Societies and States to support this historic development in international humanitarian law. The admission of both National Societies will be an important step towards achieving universality of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, something Australia and all member states and all National Societies recognize as essential.

Finally, Australia also welcomes the monitoring report of Switzerland on the progress made to implement the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements of 28 November 2005. We welcome the Swiss assessment that tangible and visible results have been achieved on the ground and that both parties may commit to further cooperation.

**Dr Saleh Ben Hamad Al-Tuwaijiri, Acting President, Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Society**  
*(Original Arabic)*

Mr Chairman,

We wish to thank you for your skilful direction of this important meeting. We also thank all the parties that have worked so long to find a comprehensive and lasting solution to the Middle East problem. Obviously, as you all know, we are in favour of a comprehensive and lasting solution and believe that the Movement must become truly universal. I am particularly grateful to the Swiss Government for its objective and impartial report on the monitoring of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

In the light of what we have heard from the Swiss Government and from the Palestinian and Syrian Red Crescent Societies, this Memorandum has evidently not been implemented. On the contrary, the number of violations increased during the period following its signing. The most important provision in the Memorandum related to geographical jurisdiction. We are now talking about a National Society that is violating international humanitarian law and operating in occupied territories. We are discussing its inclusion in our Movement even though it has given a commitment only in the Memorandum of Understanding, which it has not implemented since it does not apply the 1921 Resolution in the occupied territories.

Furthermore, the Memorandum was signed with the Palestine Red Crescent Society. What about the National Societies of other States whose territories are occupied? This is an issue that should be resolved before we consider the admission of a new National Society that, even while we are speaking, is violating international humanitarian law. Through a lasting and comprehensive solution to the problem of the emblem, we are seeking unity and universality. We do not want violations. On the contrary, we want respect for the application of international humanitarian law. What we are doing at the moment is actually endorsing violations of international humanitarian law.

Mr Chairman,

Today, before any draft resolution is adopted, I call for the Magen David Adom to undertake in writing to the International Movement that it will not operate in the territories occupied in 1967. There has been some

manipulation of the wording of the Memorandum signed with the Palestine Red Crescent Society, in which they said that they would not operate in the territories occupied in 1967. However, we have seen subsequent communications from them in which they said that they would not operate outside their national territory. The jurists among us will know what this expression "national territory" signifies. What we want now, before adopting any resolution, is a written undertaking by the Magen David Adom that it will not operate in the territories occupied in 1967.

**Dr Abdul-Rahman El-Attar, President, Syrian Arab Red Crescent**  
(Original Arabic)

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent has always sought to promote the Movement's unity and has respected its principles. We participated in all its activities in a flexible and positive manner at all the preparatory stages of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference, including the formal and informal consultations with representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Chairman of the Standing Commission, the Chairman of the Conference and the Swiss government (in its capacity as the depositary of the Geneva Conventions). We cooperated with them in a fully transparent and objective manner with a view to ensuring the success of the endeavours to maintain the universality and unity of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement within the framework of international humanitarian law and the rules of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of 1921, in such a way as to guarantee the rights of all, and especially of civilian populations struggling under occupation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Is it reasonable that, in the occupied Golan, at a distance of a few metres from one of the branches of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, we have been unable to render any services to the population for more than 40 years? Is it reasonable that marriages between persons living in the occupied territory and those living in their motherland should take place through barbed wire and with the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross? Is it reasonable that people under blockade in the occupied territory should not be permitted to sell their fruit harvest in Israeli territory and that Syria should have to purchase it? We are grateful to the International Committee of the Red Cross for transporting these thousands of tonnes to Syrian markets.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope and am sure that this Conference is aware of the tragic humanitarian situation in the Syrian Golan, which has been under occupation since 1967, and of the United Nations resolutions that have been adopted concerning the occupied Syrian Golan. Would it not be reasonable to apply the 1921 rules and allow us to render assistance to our occupied territory a few metres away from our Red Crescent centres? I am absolutely convinced that our Conference cannot disregard these basic requirements, which constitute the very essence of international humanitarian action and which the International Committee of the Red Cross acknowledged in the report it submitted to the Diplomatic Conference last December, explaining the urgent need to establish dispensaries and medical centres. In this regard, I would like to say that I had hoped that the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross would coordinate with the Red Crescent Society on the subject of the memorandum to be signed with it since, on reading this memorandum, I do not see any statement on behalf of the Red Crescent, nor any reference to any role to be played by the Red Crescent, bearing in mind the fact that we were among those who contributed to this process and appealed to the ICRC to establish such services in the Golan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I do not wish to take up too much of your time but I would like to emphasize an important point, namely that our geographical jurisdiction over the Golan has been severed owing to its occupation by Israel. For years, this severance has prevented us from rendering humanitarian services to our people in the Golan. Hence, this distinguished Conference should understand the imperative requirement for the rules to be respected and applied, since their application in the field would enable us to meet the humanitarian needs of the population of the Golan, which has been deprived of our help for decades, as punishment by the Israeli occupying authorities for its refusal to accept Israel's internationally condemned decision to annex the Golan after its occupation and forcibly impose Israeli nationality on its population. In the event of the Magen David Adom being admitted to membership, I wonder what will guarantee its compliance with the rules established at the 1921 International Conference and how our National Society will be enabled to play its humanitarian role in occupied Syrian territory? I trust that this Conference will understand the concerns of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

**H.E. Mr Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Japan, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to congratulate you and all the members of the Bureau on your election. I wish you every success in this Conference. I can assure you that my delegation will spare no effort to help you and assist you in ensuring the success of this Conference.

I will be very brief. As stated on various occasions in the past, the Government of Japan attaches great importance to an early solution of the emblem issue, since it will contribute to the broad application of international humanitarian law and the steady implementation of humanitarian assistance.

We commended the adoption of Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom last year. At the same time, we took note of the challenges to be overcome in reaching a comprehensive solution to the emblem issue. Japan expects that continued progress will be made on these challenges, including the successful implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr Chairman,

My delegation hopes that the objectives of this Conference will be achieved on the basis of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, especially the principles of humanity, impartiality, unity and universality. It also hopes that the resolution will be adopted with broad support.

**H.E. Ms King Bee Hsu, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Malaysia, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

The Malaysian delegation joins others in extending to you our congratulations on your election to preside over this Conference. Our congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau on their election.

Malaysia fully associates itself with the statement made earlier by the Permanent Representative

of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC. Let me briefly highlight some of the issues of particular importance to my delegation.

First, my delegation is participating in this Conference in the expectation that all parties will strive for a win-win solution and a consensus. It is therefore important for this Conference to comprehensively and effectively address the real concerns that have been presented to it in all fairness, so that the Conference will attain this objective, which is equally crucial for the unity of the Movement.

Second, this Conference should be a forum for all of us to reaffirm our commitment to respect the Movement's Fundamental Principles, the resolutions it has adopted and the principles of international law and international humanitarian law at all times and in all circumstances. There should be no attempt made by any party to compromise these sacrosanct principles. Otherwise, the credibility of this whole process will be called into question. My delegation holds the view that the Movement's universality should not be pursued at the expense of the legitimacy of the process and the sanctity of these principles, in particular Resolution 11 of the 1921 International Conference and the principles of international law.

Third, all the commitments made since the beginning of the Diplomatic Conference last December, which have brought us together today, should have been implemented or, at least, genuine and clear steps should have been taken towards their full implementation. Unfortunately, this has not been the case. I refer here to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Operational Arrangements signed by the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society in November last year, as well as to the so-called promises made vis-à-vis the occupied Syrian Golan.

Mr Chairman,

Let me reiterate our emphasis on the need for all participants at this Conference to proceed in a consensual manner, so that we can arrive at an outcome that is acceptable to all. In this regard, we urge this august Conference to adopt the OIC amendments to the draft resolution. This will go a long way towards upholding our unity and upholding the sacrosanct principles governing the work of the Movement.

**H.E. Mr Sameh Shoukry, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Egypt, Geneva**  
(*Original Arabic*)

Mr Chairman,

I would like to begin by congratulating you and the members of the Bureau on your election to direct the work of this Conference. I am sure that you will fulfil your duties in a manner that will ensure the successful conclusion to which we all aspire.

We have examined the report of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent on the monitoring of the implementation of Resolution 3 adopted at the 28th International Conference and on matters that were raised during the Diplomatic Conference. Taking into account the confluence of circumstances and developments that led to the convening of the Diplomatic Conference, I would point out that Egypt's vote against adoption of Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions was not an objection to the inclusion of the new neutral emblem; it was motivated solely by a desire to achieve consensus thereon in view of the benefits that this would entail for humanitarian action. We had hoped that the amendments tabled by the OIC countries to the text of Additional Protocol III would be taken into consideration, since they would have ensured broader scope for the use of the new neutral emblem in such a way as to meet all future needs, instead of insisting on the adoption of a restricted and selective approach that is not necessarily in the interests of the Movement's universality and its readiness to embrace all persons in need of humanitarian protection.

Mr Chairman,

While expressing our high esteem for the lofty humanitarian principles that the Movement is endeavouring to pursue, we feel obliged to emphasize, once again, that these principles cannot be put into practice in isolation from recognized rules of international law. Any affirmation of the existence of a dichotomy between these principles and these rules, based on the precedence of one over the other, would be an inappropriate and unacceptable approach and could be interpreted only as a reprehensible attempt to achieve political gains that have nothing to do with humanitarian action. We take this opportunity to point out that no member of the Movement is more assiduous than another in supporting humanitarian principles. All are equally eager to promote those principles. No party is another party's tutor and no party can boast of being more highly committed than another to the Movement's humanitarian

mission; to do so would detract from the credibility of our activities instead of demonstrating our single-minded devotion to the achievement of our common objectives. This is what we expect and hope for from the Movement and its members.

Mr Chairman,

The Conference is about to adopt a position on an amendment to the Statutes of the Movement that would incorporate a new neutral emblem. In this context, we believe that the proceedings should be conducted in a manner that unequivocally takes into consideration the international legal status of the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan and the Lebanese Shebaa Farms area, and that also defines the geographical scope of the activities of the Arab and other National Societies concerned in order to consolidate the international legal order and the relevant rules of the Movement, particularly Resolution 11 adopted at the 10th International Conference in 1921. This could be achieved through the amendments tabled by the OIC and the Arab Group to the resolution that this Conference might adopt.

**H.E. Mr Blaise Godet, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Switzerland, Geneva**  
(*Original French*)

Mr Chairman,

My delegation greatly appreciates your firm yet understanding conduct of our deliberations.

Switzerland is particularly pleased to take part in the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The Conference marks the end of a long process that culminated, in December of last year, in the adoption of Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions. Today, we have the opportunity to bring this matter definitively to an end. The objective to be reached is important: the achievement of one of the Fundamental Principles, the principle of universality, by allowing all National Societies to become members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. We will also enhance the protection afforded to the victims of conflicts and those who undertake to come to their aid every day.

It is true that this Conference is taking place in a delicate political context, but have the members of

the international community not sought, over the years, to meet humanitarian needs in spite of existing political tensions? The preparation and application of the rules of international humanitarian law and the Movement's action attest to these efforts. This is no doubt one of the greatest accomplishments of the present international order.

We are pleased to note that a working group is meeting at this moment, under the chairmanship of the Ambassador of Norway, to examine the proposals that have been submitted to us, namely the amendments put forward by Pakistan and Tunisia.

We strongly hope that a well-balanced solution is found that will enable the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom to join the Movement.

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to conclude by repeating what Ambassador Pfirter said, namely that the Swiss authorities stand ready to continue providing their support and assistance in the framework of this process, should this be the wish of the two National Societies and the Conference.

Switzerland calls on the participants at the 29<sup>th</sup> Conference to work in a spirit of compromise and consensus, as befits a meeting of this nature and as required by the humanitarian objective it wishes to attain.

**H.E. Mr Paul Meyer, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Canada, Geneva**

*(Original French)*

Mr Chairman,

I would like to express Canada's gratitude to the Government of the Swiss Confederation and to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for the efforts they have made to move the process forward and to bring us together on this promising occasion.

*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

While the existing emblems of the red cross and red crescent have served us well, we have learned, in sometimes very painful circumstances, that they have not always been sufficient to meet the challenges posed to their protective purposes.

The Movement is now, more than ever before, in need of an additional emblem without any political, cultural or religious connotations, in keeping with its universal values.

Our responsibility, today and for the future, is to ensure that victims of armed conflict or natural disasters, and those individuals who provide critical assistance to them, benefit at all times from the greatest possible protection.

Following the successful adoption of the additional red crystal emblem in December 2005, Canada believes that the conditions are now in place to implement Additional Protocol III. Such a step will contribute to resolving long-standing divisions within the Movement and to furthering its universal character and humanitarian vocation.

We welcome the report by Ambassador Pfirter detailing the progress achieved in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society. This accord is key to enhancing their respective humanitarian missions and their mutual cooperation in conformity with the Movement's Statutes and the rules of international humanitarian law. It is also key to improving the humanitarian situation of those in need.

*(Original French)*

The adoption of Additional Protocol III in December 2005 and of the amendments to the Movement's Statutes required for the Protocol's implementation are but a first step. It will subsequently be our collective responsibility to make sure that Additional Protocol III enters rapidly into force and to take appropriate measures to ensure that its protective character and that of the existing emblems are universally recognized and respected.

**H.E. Mr D. Juan Antonio March Pujol, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Spain, Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

At this 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Spain wishes first to reiterate the value it places on the undeniable legacy of humanity that the Movement has built up in its almost 150 years of existence.



We are grateful to Switzerland for its willingness to monitor implementation of the accords between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom, to the ICRC for its efforts to improve the medical situation of the inhabitants of the Golan Heights, and to the other participants for the information they have provided about the situation on the ground.

Spain fully endorses the statement made by the Ambassador of Austria, which currently holds the presidency of the European Union.

Spain has been working actively, and will continue to do so, on behalf of the Movement, whose aspirations for peace and understanding between peoples it shares. These important values and principles are predicated on the protection of human beings and their dignity.

Indeed, it is by emphasizing the principles that we can overcome the obstacles standing between us and the goal of allowing the Movement to become more universal, the better to reach and assist those in need.

We wish to underscore the valiant job being done by the National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC in our discussions today. The circumstances in which their work is carried out have changed, yet the principles guiding their action remain as relevant as ever. They seek to find the best means of reaching those who suffer.

Spain would like to see a window open at this Conference, the window of consensus, agreement that the need for help is universal and takes precedence over all else, that needs have to be met using the means at hand, and that priority should be given to whatever helps ease the plight of those who suffer. This, to our way of thinking, is the cornerstone on which the edifice we have today is built, the exclusively humanitarian nature of the opportunity bringing us together.

We believe that both the Memorandum of Understanding between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom, and the ICRC's undertaking to establish an emergency and diagnostic centre in the Golan, can be viewed as steps in the right direction that have to be supplemented and taken further so that as many people as possible can benefit.

Mr Chairman,

You can count on Spain to open this window of opportunity for the consensus we all hope to reach at this Conference.

**Ms Linn Eckhoff Dolva, Higher Executive Officer,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

I would first like to express my gratitude to you, to the ICRC and the International Federation, and to the Swiss government for the efforts you have made with regard to the question of the emblem. I sincerely hope that your endeavours will help us finally to reach a comprehensive and consensus-based solution to this issue at this International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Norway is a staunch and committed supporter of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. We see an enormous value in its humanitarian action, and as a guarantor of international humanitarian law. In line with our long-standing commitment to all humanitarian principles and to international law, we have invested in and developed over the years a strong partnership with the Movement.

The potentially divisive problem of the emblem has followed the Movement since its early years. Many attempts have been made to achieve universality and unity to strengthen the protection given to victims of war and natural disasters. It should be recalled that the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2003 confirmed the broad consensus on the substance of Protocol III additional. It should also be recalled that the Diplomatic Conference in December 2005 adopted Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions. Norway was the first country to ratify the Protocol, two weeks ago.

As stakeholders in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, it is in our common interest to safeguard its future unity and to ensure that its neutrality and protective capacity are not undermined. It is our belief that Switzerland's monitoring of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society indicates that the conditions have been met to pave the way for the membership of both signatory National Societies in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

I would therefore like to express the Norwegian Government's commitment to finding a solution that would finally ensure the universality of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, while at the same time safeguarding its unity and neutrality and the protective force of the emblems,



including the red crystal. I would like to appeal to all parties to help build agreement around the desire for such an approach, in order to adopt the present draft resolution at this historic Conference.

**H.E. Mr Zukang Sha, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

The Chinese delegation wishes to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of the Conference. We are confident that under your able leadership, the Conference will be a success.

Mr Chairman,

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement serves a noble cause in the interests of mankind. Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations are playing an active role in disseminating the humanitarian spirit, protecting human lives and health and promoting world peace and progress. We highly appreciate the contributions made by the international Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations. In the new century, regional armed conflicts, terrorist activities and natural disasters are causing frequent humanitarian crises and creating new challenges for the humanitarian cause. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement should, through international cooperation based on equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit, continue to mobilize forces as extensively as possible in order to meet these new challenges.

Mr Chairman,

Universality is one of the seven Fundamental Principles of the Movement. Protection of and assistance to the victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts should transcend any national, racial or religious differences. China supports the adoption of the additional emblem, which is devoid of any political or religious connotations and acceptable to all parties.

We believe that the admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom to the Movement serves the interest of universality of the Movement.

Meanwhile, we are of the view that universality should be predicated on maintaining unity among

the members of the Movement. Any decision taken by the Conference should enhance rather than undermine the unity of the Movement. It should be based on consultation and consensus and take fully into account the concerns of all parties. It is the hope of the Chinese delegation that the Conference will proceed in a harmonious atmosphere and arrive at a result that is satisfactory to all.

Mr Chairman,

The Chinese delegation expresses its deep concern over the humanitarian situation in the occupied territories and is of the view that efforts should be made to satisfy the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people. The Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements signed by the Palestine Red Cross Society and the Israeli Magen David Adom last November effectively paved the way for the convening of the Diplomatic Conference and the adoption of Additional Protocol III. High hopes were placed on the implementation of the Memorandum and the Agreement.

We hope that the parties concerned will make every effort fully to implement all the provisions of the Memorandum and the Agreement. We are also of the view that the international community should maintain its attention on the humanitarian situation in the occupied territories and take measures to ensure that the Memorandum and the Agreement are fully implemented.

Mr Chairman,

We have taken note of the report by the ICRC on the provision of medical facilities in the occupied Golan Heights. It is our hope that all sides concerned will abide by the commitments made during last year's Diplomatic Conference and expedite their efforts so as to improve the humanitarian situation of Syrian citizens in the Golan Heights.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I will allow three more speakers, one from a government, one from a National Red Cross Society and one from the International Federation, and then I will close the debate. After that we can resume tomorrow at 10 a.m. I now give the floor to the representative of the French Red Cross.

**Dr Robert Sebagg, Administrator, French Red Cross**  
(Original French)

Looking around this room, in which all the world's countries are represented, it seems impossible that the Conference should end in failure. The Conference must end in agreement. The Mediterranean Conference showed that we are capable of working with the Red Crescent Societies in the Mediterranean and Middle East region, with the Magen David Adom and our friends from the Palestine Red Crescent Society. It showed that dialogue exists. Suffice it to listen to what is being said today. We speak the same language and we hear the same thing.

We cannot allow ourselves not to succeed. The time has come to adopt this resolution. We have to move on. We have to come to a conclusion. The victims need us all. Our volunteers in the field expect results. They would not understand a failure. They would not understand why we did not do everything we could to achieve the principle of universality and bring us all under the umbrella of the new emblem.

This is what the French Red Cross wanted to say to this Conference.

**Hon. John B. Bellinger, Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State, United States of America**  
(Original English)

The United States Government is pleased to be here today to take part in a historic event. It demonstrates just how much can be accomplished by the world's oldest and largest humanitarian movement, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. We are here because we believe in the Movement and in its ideals. States have gathered with National Societies to achieve our shared objective of making the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement universal. The Movement has convened this Conference to seek our support for its humanitarian mission. The entire Movement, which includes the ICRC and the International Federation as well as the Swiss Government and many others, has devoted an enormous amount of work over many years to preparing for this day. We must not forget the main purpose of this work: to alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found, to protect life and to ensure respect for human dignity, especially during natural disasters and armed conflicts. We are all here to ensure that populations in need are not forgotten. I would therefore like to echo President Kellenberger in pleading that we put aside political concerns and have none but humanitarian considerations as we do our work.

The delegations gathered at this Conference can improve the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need by taking steps to allow two observer National Societies, the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom, to join the Movement. After admission, these two National Societies will be able to count on the support of the Movement as they fulfil their mission to serve those in need. The unyielding efforts of President Younis Al Khatib from the Palestine Red Crescent Society and Chairman Noam Yifrach from the Magen David Adom have been aimed precisely at ensuring that the best possible emergency care is provided in the region.

The Swiss Government reported that tangible and visible humanitarian improvements have been achieved on the ground and that is what is at stake here. We applaud the efforts of the two National Societies and we look forward to the completion of these important tasks. Now is the time to welcome these two National Societies into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, to facilitate their important work. In welcoming these National Societies, the United States Government also affirms its own commitment to ensuring that the humanitarian progress already achieved on the ground is maintained and extended for the benefit of all needing care.

As a result of the historic adoption of Additional Protocol III in December 2005, States and National Societies are gathered here to make changes to the Movement's Statutes. These changes are necessary to allow the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society to join the Movement. By taking these steps we are marking not the end of the budding relationship with them, but the beginning, bringing both National Societies under the rules, guidance and assistance of the Movement. The draft resolution that has been approved by the Standing Commission and circulated to all delegations is well balanced and reflects hard work by the Movement to achieve consensus. The United States Government strongly supports this resolution and urges other governments and National Societies to do likewise. We owe it to the people served by the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom to support those National Societies' immediate admission into the Movement.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

I give the floor now to the last speaker for tonight, the International Federation. Of course, the International Federation will be taking the floor

again tomorrow in response to some of the issues raised by different delegations.

**Mr Markku Niskala, Secretary-General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

We are very pleased at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to have been able to contribute to the work of the two National Societies to implement their Memorandum of Understanding in a clearly difficult political situation. The International Federation continues to support their humanitarian work and their mutual cooperation. It has deployed its delegates in both Palestine and Israel to assist and support the National Societies with their tasks. The International Federation also worked closely with the government of Switzerland and was impressed throughout by the dedication of Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey and by the vigour and unbridled determination to succeed of Ambassador Pfirter. Although the work is not complete, it has been characterized by close cooperation between the International Federation, the ICRC and the Standing Commission. We treat this as a joint team effort, and I am proud that our National Societies have joined us in this spirit.

The International Federation paid special attention to the needs of the two National Societies as they worked to bring their statutes into line with Movement requirements. The success of this work was recognized by the Federation's Governing Board on 18 June, when our President was empowered to grant provisional admission to the two National Societies as soon as the ICRC had granted recognition. This is why the International Federation sponsored the draft resolution, which will be presented under the next item of the agenda. We believe that once both National Societies are members of the Movement and of the International Federation, the assurances required by other speakers will be available through our National Society processes.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Tomorrow we meet at 10 o'clock sharp in this room. The first delegation that will take the floor is Russia, followed by Sudan, the Red Cross Society of Guinea and the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Make sure that you arrive early because they will be given the floor.

One announcement before you leave. The ICRC and the International Federation are hosting a reception that is not, of course, part of the formal agenda of the Conference, from half-past six until half-past eight on the first floor. I would like to thank all delegates who have taken the floor and wish them all a good night's sleep so that we can reconvene tomorrow in good spirits to address the rest of the agenda. The session is closed now and the debate is closed. They will reopen tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

There is one announcement by the OIC. There will be an OIC meeting just after this meeting in Rooms 3 and 4.

*End of the first day's proceedings*

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## 21 June 2006

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Good morning. I now open the debate on item 3 of the agenda. May I remind you that the list of speakers under item 3 of the agenda was closed yesterday. I have 16 speakers on the list, starting with the delegate from Russia.

**Mr Vladimir Tarabrin, Deputy Director, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation**  
*(Original Russian)*

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to start by congratulating you on your election as Chairman of the Conference. I am sure that under your able stewardship, our Conference will meet with success. We also extend our congratulations to the other members of the Bureau.

Mr Chairman,

The adoption by the States party to the Geneva Conventions, in December of last year, of an additional distinctive emblem was an event of signal importance.

This emblem will serve to provide protection to persons who need it and to bring together people of various political, religious and philosophical beliefs.

From this point of view, the adoption of the red crystal marks a step forward in the development of international law.

This is a momentous event for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in particular with regard to truly universal participation in the Movement by national humanitarian societies representing all the world's countries. In this context, we are convinced that humanitarian societies such as the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society are entirely worthy of becoming full members of the Movement.

We should like to underscore how important it is for the parties to fully respect, in an equitable manner, the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Israeli and Palestinian humanitarian societies. We conclude from the information we were given yesterday that while progress has undeniably been made in this connection, much remains to be done. This is a *sine qua non* for overcoming the differences that continue to exist, for introducing close cooperation between National Societies, and for laying the groundwork for the development of relations between the Israeli and the Syrian societies.

Mr Chairman,

The Russian delegation wishes to insist in particular on the need for Israel to respect the rules of international humanitarian law in the occupied territories, in the interests of the people living there.

In conclusion, we wish to state that it is important that the draft resolution drawn up by the International Federation and the ICRC be adopted by consensus.

Mr Chairman,

The Russian Red Cross Society endorses this statement, and has asked us to announce this so as not to take the floor in its own name and therefore save time.

**Ms Dorothy Fraser, Secretary-General, The Guyana Red Cross Society, speaking on behalf of the Inter-American Regional Committee (CORI)**

*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

The Americas region of the Movement recognizes that today we stand on the threshold of a momentous occasion. What we do here speaks to the memory of

our founder, Henry Dunant. History will not be kind to us if we let this moment pass without grasping it, as required by the Fundamental Principles that guide our Movement, especially the principle of humanity.

Mr Chairman,

It is the consensus of the 35 National Societies of the Americas that I speak. These National Societies are happy to lend their support to the amendment of the Movement's Statutes in order to reflect the adoption of Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions. This development is another tangible example of the inclusiveness of our Movement. The 35 National Societies of the Americas eagerly await the recognition and admission of other National Societies, as this would demonstrate commitment to the principle of universality, the importance of unity and the independence of the Movement's components.

The journey to this point has not been without obstacles. But we can be justly proud of what has been achieved thus far. We congratulate and express profound thanks to all those who have been involved in moving the process forward. The journey does not end with the closure of this 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference, however. The task ahead is for National Societies to encourage the States party to the Geneva Conventions to sign and ratify Additional Protocol III as quickly as possible.

One cannot fail to understand the urgency of measures such as an acceptable and recognized emblem for the protection of victims of war, volunteers, humanitarian workers and medical personnel.

It is precisely the principle of humanity that we need to watch and safeguard. In fact, we need to be absolutely objective in respect to all seven Fundamental Principles. The 35 National Societies in the Americas have travelled far to participate in this 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference. The time has now come for us to welcome the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom as recognized National Societies and as full members of the International Federation.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to ask all National Societies in the Americas to raise their nameplates as we embrace solidarity in the quest to protect human dignity through the power of humanity.

**Dr Shimelis Adugna, President, Ethiopian Red Cross Society**

*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all gathered here for the sole purpose of a humanitarian endeavour: to make the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as all-embracing, inclusive and universal as possible, so that we can reach new frontiers in our work to save more lives and alleviate the suffering of more vulnerable people. After the toil and hard work most of you here today put into the adoption of Additional Protocol III last December, which I witnessed while leading the observer delegation of the International Federation as its Vice-President, I was, like many of those present, saddened that we could not adopt the Protocol unanimously by consensus. I further heard that the countries that voted against said that “they had no problem with the red crystal or the substance of the Protocol, just with the way the political issues had been handled.” This is outside our humanitarian intent and mission of mercy, even more so at this Conference. I felt how tantalizingly close we had been then to a consensus. I plead today: let us take this political albatross off our necks and focus on the opportunity to make the Movement more universal and inclusive by admitting two National Societies, the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

Through dialogue, Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid and his team, and the Pakistani Ambassador and the OIC leadership have helped us make progress at this Conference. I appreciate their invaluable contributions and thank them most sincerely. Let us all put our hearts and minds together and walk the path of understanding and tolerance they have charted out for us, accept our differences in a spirit of mutual respect and give the humanitarian principles of the Movement the chance they deserve. Let us use the key in our hands, our votes, to open up doors of opportunity and not to close them. I plead with all to approve the three proposals unanimously by consensus:

1. adopt the amendments to the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement consequent upon the adoption on 8 December by governments of Additional Protocol III;
2. decide upon the proposed name “red crystal”;
3. create a framework for the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

This would make the two Societies twin new-borns in the Movement. Shakespeare, the master of effective communication, said: “There is a tide in the affairs of men / which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune...” Today, the tide could lead us to achieve our mission of compassion better by adopting the emblem unanimously. Let us take this tide of the emblem in the flood with courage, accepting and respecting our differences so that we can get on with the job of saving lives and wiping away tears. I hope you will bear with me when I use uncouth social worker language in the corridors of diplomacy to plead for our common humanity, so that we are more embracing and serve more of our people who are affected by unrest, calamity and disaster.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I am confident that there is a core of goodness in the hearts of everybody at this Conference and that we can reach a consensus thanks to the goodwill of so many participants. I give the floor now to the next speaker on the list, the delegate from the Republic of the Congo.

**Ms Emilienne Raoul, Minister of Social Affairs, Solidarity, Humanitarian Action and the Family, Republic of the Congo**

*(Original French)*

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to start by warmly congratulating you, on behalf of my country, the Republic of the Congo, on your election as Chairman of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. I also congratulate all the members of the Bureau. I would also like to express, on behalf of the Congolese government, my gratitude to the host country, Switzerland, and to the Standing Commission for having arranged this meeting.

My delegation endorses the statement made by the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on behalf of the African Group and would like to add the following observations. The Republic of the Congo, my country, acquired a wealth of humanitarian experience in the wake of the armed conflicts that broke out between 1997 and 2001. It witnessed the physical suffering of people, no matter what group they belonged to, and thus became increasingly sensitive to the suffering endured by people in the course of an armed conflict.

On the basis of the experience it acquired, my country undertook to strengthen its capacities with a view to curbing all forms of aggression against people. The humanitarian programmes implemented for that purpose greatly contributed to ending the hostilities, restoring peace and starting the process of national reconstruction. The start of construction work on the road that will open up the department of Pool, where the fighting was concentrated – a project launched by Mr Denis Sassou Nguesso, the President of the Republic of the Congo – is sufficient proof of the impact of many factors, including the humanitarian work accomplished to date since the end of the hostilities. In this task, my country has received substantial support from the international community in general, and from the ICRC, the International Federation and our National Red Cross Society in particular. I avail myself of this opportunity to convey to them the solemn thanks of the Government of the Republic of the Congo.

Mr Chairman,

My country continues to believe that the principles of unity, neutrality, universality, humanity and impartiality underpinning our Movement should apply to all. All as yet unrecognized National Societies should participate in the life of the Movement and express themselves as international players, with a view to strengthening the momentum of the struggle to meet contemporary challenges. The humanitarian victories expected by the international community depend – of this we are convinced – on closer ties between all National Societies. This is how my country views the essential points on the agenda of this Conference, namely the adoption of the red crystal and the recognition of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, both of which the Republic of the Congo is in favour of.

**Dr Massoud Khatami, President, Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran**  
(Original English)

We all know that humanity, unity, independence, neutrality, impartiality, voluntary service and universality are the seven principles of the Movement. Nobody can select one of the principles and neglect another. On the other hand, it has always been stated that no political, racial or religious beliefs should affect the direction of the Movement.

The establishment of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 1919 and

its present situation, consisting of some 183 member National Societies, strong decision-making bodies such as the Governing Board, the General Assembly and various committees, are evidence of a unique global organization which has been improved in different areas. We are looking forward to making the work of this organization, which has a great impact on the lives of the most vulnerable people, stronger than ever.

In December 2005, for the first time in the history of international humanitarian law, an important additional protocol was adopted without a consensus. I would like to draw your attention to the following issues. The red crescent and red cross emblems, which are used by the countries concerned, are now the only emblems of the Movement. The acceptance of the National Society of Israel, which insists on racial discrimination, the violation of human rights, negligence of international humanitarian law and occupation, is a threat to the Movement's unity. In the past few years, other powers have insisted on this. We should not let our Movement be influenced by political pressure, which is undoubtedly a threat to the principle of independence.

Mr Chairman,

We have heard that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by the Palestinian and Israeli National Societies was a reason for adopting Additional Protocol III. After several months, however, the President of the ICRC, in his statement three days ago at the opening ceremony of the International Federation's Governing Board, stated that only a letter had been sent one day earlier concerning the implementation of the Israeli commitment. It is obvious that since December 2005, the Israelis have not implemented the commitment they made in order to be admitted to the Movement. The representatives of the Syrian and Palestinian Governments and National Societies have described the real situation on the ground.

Therefore, this agreement is not true and applicable. Meanwhile, the mission of our Movement is based on humanitarian principles. Acceptance of and respect for the Movement's emblems is one of the ten conditions for recognition and admission to the Movement. Thus, for the above reasons, and in view of the two important principles of impartiality and neutrality, the Israeli National Society does not meet the conditions for admission to the Movement.

**H.E. Mr Alireza Moaiyeri, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you on your election and assure you of our utmost support. We align ourselves with the statement made by the Ambassador of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.

Mr Chairman,

We believe that this Conference faces three paradoxical challenges that are both deeply conceptual and practical in nature.

The first is the paradoxical challenge of respecting the principles in the face of political pressure. Our principles are very clear, universal and interconnected. We know the pressures and we know their sources. In this unbalanced environment, of course, we have to stand by our principles.

The second paradoxical challenge pits good declarations and words against the harsh realities in the occupied territories of Syria, Palestine and Lebanon, as reflected in the statements made by their Ambassadors. We cannot be content with promises and good intentions. We have to pay careful attention to reality.

The third paradoxical challenge is division versus consensus. We cannot close our eyes to the dissenting, conflicting and even contradictory approaches we have witnessed. Yet consensus is the basis of international humanitarian law and international humanitarian practices.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, let us stand by our principles and not sacrifice them. Let us be attentive to the excruciating realities in the occupied territories. And finally, let us search for, and try to achieve, consensus, which is essential for the great work that our Movement does.

**Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet, Vice-President, The Netherlands Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Dear Red Cross and Red Crescent Friends,

After these statements I feel compelled to speak. Here we are, finally gathered to conclude a long process of

finding a comprehensive and lasting solution to the question of the emblems that protect our work and identify us. To find such a solution was my dream from the very beginning. For me, personally, this Conference is very special. After my eight years as the Chairman of the Standing Commission, which initiated this process, my esteemed colleague Christina Magnusson took the lead before passing the torch into the able hands of Philippe Cuvillier.

We have the potential to be an essential, independent, humanitarian force throughout the world – a world that needs our services more than ever. We are multinational and multicultural, we are inclusive and we respect our diversity. But we all need to join in, without any impediments.

The Additional Protocol III emblem is more than just an additional emblem. It resolves the challenges of both improved protection and universality. These emblems are beacons of hope for those in need and for our volunteers. By including this new emblem in our Statutes we can finally fulfil all seven Fundamental Principles, especially universality. Let us make a concerted effort to allow everyone's voice to be heard, in order to obtain a positive result in harmony. It is our strength that we can build on this broad spectrum of contributions. We will come out stronger. People out there need us. And they cannot wait.

**Ms Corazon Alma de Leon, Secretary-General, The Philippine National Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

This is the voice of the Philippine National Red Cross. We echo the voices heard earlier from Asia and the Pacific, reflecting our avowed Fundamental Principle of neutrality. It behoves us not to engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Thus, for us in the Philippines, this meeting ought to be a truly dynamic process of cooperation among all States Parties and people, founded on respect and the commitment to protect human dignity. This is our power of humanity, indeed our life-force in the red cross, red crescent and now the red crystal. This is our Movement committed to the Fundamental Principles of – as mentioned earlier – humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. This is why we are all here in Geneva, Switzerland, the country where the Movement began. We must remember this, and



believe that our work is enduring. According to our Statutes and Rules of Procedure, the International Conference is our supreme deliberating body and as such contributes to the unity of our Movement.

The Philippine National Red Cross supports Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions and looks forward to its successful adoption. Indeed, we are not the government. We are an international humanitarian organization and as such must continue to champion compassion as best we can, against all odds.

Today we are committed to working for and helping the most vulnerable. Governments may come and go; political and economic questions are dynamic issues that are defined and revisited as often as there are changes in global politics. These are serious issues, yes, but this Conference is not the forum for them. Rather, this Conference must be an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to be anywhere and everywhere where we are needed. Today we want to proclaim that we must take this opportunity to make our Movement really move from effectiveness to greatness.

**H.E. Mr Elsadig Mustafa Osman Almagly, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Sudan, Geneva**  
(Original French)

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to start by sincerely congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this Conference. Our congratulations also go to all the members of the elected Bureau. I am convinced that thanks to your know-how, your wisdom and, above all, your patience, you will lead this Conference to a successful conclusion. I also wish to pay special tribute to the International Federation, the ICRC and the depositary State for the unstinting efforts they have made to settle this thorny issue once and for all.

I endorse the statement made by the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on behalf of the African Group, in particular its conclusion, which emphasized that the agreement between the Palestinian and Israeli National Societies remained a dead letter. I also wish to endorse the statement made by the Ambassador of Pakistan on behalf of the entire OIC. We support in particular the amendments to the draft resolution of 9 June 2006 submitted by the OIC, for they are based on concerns and claims entirely in keeping with international humanitarian law, the

Movement's Statutes and, in particular, Resolution 11 of the 10th International Conference of 1921.

This being said, it is ironic, and I use the word advisedly, that the countries that adopted the 1921 principles are acting against their own values. In 1921, the overwhelming majority of the countries present here today, including those of the OIC, were either colonies or did not exist on the geographical map or in world politics.

Mr Chairman,

As concerns the implementation of Resolution 3 of the 28th International Conference and the Memorandum of Understanding, we have two diametrically opposite versions: that of the four reports presented here today and that of the two parties most concerned, Syria and Palestine. When it comes to any question relating to the situation in the occupied Arab territories, it is very difficult, nigh impossible, to draw the line between what is humanitarian and what is political. Several delegations and people on the podium have emphasized the purely humanitarian dimension and character of the Conference. They are all right. We would have liked this to be the case. The question being considered by this Conference nevertheless has to do, whether we like it or not, with the Arab-Israeli conflict. The distinguished delegate from the Holy See was right when he told the Diplomatic Conference last December, and I quote, "*même si cette question concerne l'ensemble du Mouvement, il n'en reste pas moins qu'elle est intimement liée au conflit israélo-arabe qui malheureusement n'a que trop duré*" (although this question concerns the Movement as a whole, it is nevertheless closely bound up with the Arab-Israeli conflict, which has lasted all too long).

Mr Chairman,

In conclusion, I think that a consensus is possible. However, to reach that consensus we must all be serious, flexible and, above all, credible. "Let us not bury our heads in the sand," as we say in Arabic. "*Il n'y a pas 36 solutions*," as the French say. Amendments have been proposed. If we want a consensus, we must adopt them. All this, in the interests of the Movement's universality and its sacred principles, in the interests of unity, in the interests even of the Movement's survival.

We must act to ensure that what had never happened before last December, that unfortunate precedent, does not recur. Otherwise – and I say this clear and loud – each of us will be responsible before history to future generations.

**Ms Bana Ouandaogo, President, Burkinabe Red Cross Society**

*(Original French)*

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the Burkinabe Red Cross Society, I would like to congratulate you on the diligence and celerity with which you have presided over our deliberations. Indeed, thousands and thousands of the world's people enthusiastically welcomed the Diplomatic Conference's adoption of Additional Protocol III in December, and they would be deeply disappointed if this meeting were adjourned.

It is important to recognize that the debate on the emblem has been closed since the Diplomatic Conference adopted Additional Protocol III in December 2005. Today, our Movement must take the steps required for the full implementation of the Protocol. We must make the amendments to our fundamental texts without which some of the Movement's components would find it difficult to use the additional emblem.

In view of the humanitarian ideal pursued by our Movement, which is to protect human dignity effectively, at all times and in all places, it is important for everyone to work to achieve the objectives of this Conference. We must act in a spirit of consensus and dialogue at all times, so as to preserve our beloved Movement's principles of humanity, unity and universality. We are here to examine and adopt a resolution enhancing our Movement's ability to pursue its humanitarian mission around the world.

It is by acting in the spirit that has always characterized our Movement that we will be able to alleviate human suffering, in all its forms, throughout the world.

**Mr Mian Muhammad Javed, Member of the Managing Body, Pakistan Red Crescent Society**

*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

I am very grateful to you for affording me the opportunity to speak to the International Conference, which has more than 1,500 participants.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to thank all the components of the Movement for the assistance provided to Pakistan in the wake of

the last terrible earthquake, which, as we know, caused devastation, affecting millions of people, killing more than 80,000, disabling an equal number and destroying homes, schools, hospitals and other structures. I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart all sister National Societies, the ICRC, the International Federation and other members of the Movement for their generous, timely and overwhelming assistance.

Mr Chairman,

We cannot forget the President of the ICRC, Mr Jakob Kellenberger, the President of the International Federation, Mr Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero, and their senior officials who came personally to oversee the relief work. Many heads of sister National Societies and other senior officials also came personally and went to the disaster area to oversee the relief work for the homeless, the arrangements for orphans and widows, and the treatment of the wounded.

Mr Chairman,

In Pakistan such gestures make a lasting impression. After the relief work, we are now in the recovery phase and in the process of starting reconstruction. We welcome your interest in the reconstruction and look forward to seeing the commitments made implemented. We also feel a sense of satisfaction at the words of appreciation spoken at the international level about the handling of the relief operation by the authorities and our National Society in Pakistan. We are very grateful. The lessons learned from our experience can, I am sure, be quite useful for the Movement as a whole.

Mr Chairman,

Our experience in the earthquake has in fact invigorated our faith in international synergy in meeting the humanitarian needs of people around the globe. It was quite heartening that all continents responded to the Pakistan earthquake. This is only possible if there is unity. Having said that, I am very pleased with the effort which you, Mr Chairman, are making to seek a consensus on the issue before us. We support the effort for a consensus. I hope that all the contributions being made during the Conference will allow us to maintain a steady pace before arriving at what I hope is unanimity.

**H.E. Mr Gébran Soufan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Lebanon, Geneva**

*(Original French)*

This Conference represents an important moment in the history of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Arab Islamic countries never opposed the principle of the adoption of Protocol III; rather they considered that the time was not ripe for it.

I hope that the unfortunate climate that prevailed at the Diplomatic Conference last December does not recur. Should it do so, the additional emblem would unfortunately be tainted by political considerations and points of contention. This would hamstring the humanitarian action that our region, torn apart by war, violence and tension, so desperately needs. Hence the importance of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the remarkable work it has unfailingly accomplished, which naturally has our support and admiration. At this point in the Conference there are, in my view, two principles at stake: the universality and also the unity of the Movement. The Diplomatic Conference and the International Conference are in fact two steps on the path to the admission of one National Society under the sign of universality. We cannot exclude political representations in the acceptance of the second, no matter what human and humanitarian convictions obtain in a region in which armed force and humanitarian and political considerations intermingle under what are often highly misleading appearances.

Mr Chairman,

During the preparations for this Conference, the discussions with our Arab, Palestinian and Syrian colleagues did not have the anticipated results. I do not cast doubt on the very good intentions and efforts of the depositary State, or the laudable efforts of the ICRC. I nevertheless think, in view of the statements made by the Permanent Representatives of Palestine, Syria and other stakeholders, and of the contents of various publications and communications, that the dialogue on the implementation of the accords in the region has been what I am regrettably compelled to term fruitless. Hence the need to confirm the validity and the value of international humanitarian law, in particular the "1921 rule" relating to the limits to National Society activities in foreign territories, including those under occupation. This is why good faith alone will not suffice. I think the time has come to take account of the legitimate requests of the Arab and Islamic countries, expressed by the distinguished

Permanent Representative of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC and reflected in the proposed amendments submitted for your kind consideration.

Mr Chairman,

In conclusion, I repeat that we have confidence that your wisdom will help us reach a fair and consensual understanding of the questions on the agenda and preserve human dignity.

**H.E. Ms Raquel Poitevien Cabral, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

As I said in December 2005, during the Diplomatic Conference that approved Protocol III additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, Venezuela attaches great importance to humanitarian protection and will support all efforts to improve the situation of those who provide assistance in armed conflicts and humanitarian tragedies.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela realizes that the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement must be amended and a new symbol, the red crystal, adopted, so that the Movement can admit various National Societies that had not been able to join earlier because they were unable to use one of the established emblems.

We believe that this Conference must take account of the urgent plight of the Palestinian population in the occupied territories, described at length in the reports of both the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross itself.

Our country resolutely supports the entry of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, but we also wish to point to the need for effective implementation of the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Operational Arrangements, which were signed, following negotiations between both institutions, on 28 November 2005.

In this respect, I wish to underscore the need to put into practice what was agreed between the Israeli and Palestinian National Societies with regard to the authorization for Palestine Red Crescent Society

ambulances to enter and transit through the occupied Arab territories, including East Jerusalem.

My delegation also wishes that the content of the report submitted by the Government of Switzerland, as the depository of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the country in charge of monitoring implementation of the November 2005 Memorandum of Understanding, be taken into account. The report refers to the promises made by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Standing Commission regarding the establishment of a fully equipped hospital in the Syrian Golan and the provision of ambulances, all under the direct supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva.

Lastly, I wish to remind everyone that this is a humanitarian forum, and our chief concern should therefore be the alleviation of human suffering in situations of danger. It is for this reason that Venezuela is convinced that the political will and flexibility demonstrated by the parties and the fulfilment of the obligations agreed on will benefit humanity in its entirety.

**Ms Nivea Lucinda Garcia de Meerhoff, President, Uruguayan Red Cross**  
*(Original Spanish)*

We would like to join those who have congratulated the Chairman and the Bureau on their stewardship and the efforts they have made.

Much has been said in this room, and the first thing we wish to point out is that the Movement's Statutes expressly prohibit political considerations and that the Conference is exclusively humanitarian.

Second, on the basis of the principles of unity and universality and in order to protect human dignity, we must respond to the appeal made by the President of the ICRC and our President, Mr Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero, and adopt, as members of the Movement acting within the framework of our ideals and in keeping with the Movement's work, consensual solutions and a humanitarian compromise. For the sake of peace, we must incorporate the National Societies of Israel and Palestine and ask for timely follow-up and guarantees in respect of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two National Societies. This constitutes a huge challenge and an opportunity for the Movement. The Uruguayan Red Cross supports Additional Protocol III.

**H.E. Mr Hyuck Choi, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

I would like to extend my delegation's warm congratulations on your election as Chairman of this Conference. We would also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election. Our special thanks go to the Swiss authorities, the ICRC and the International Federation for their comprehensive reports and their long-standing efforts to fill in the gaps and address the issue of consent during this difficult process.

In the follow-up to last December's Diplomatic Conference, decisions, including the draft resolution, are needed to incorporate the third emblem into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. More importantly, these decisions will create a framework allowing the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society to join the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, thus enhancing the Movement's universality and unity. In this respect, the Government of the Republic of Korea supports the adoption of the draft resolution.

Mr Chairman,

Today we face a significant humanitarian challenge. The solidarity of the Movement is more important than ever. My delegation therefore hopes that the draft resolution will be adopted by consensus. As my delegation stated at the Diplomatic Conference, we hope that we will be able to keep the focus of this Conference on humanitarianism, so that we can all move forward together.

**Ms Alice Anukur Uwase, Secretary-General, The Uganda Red Cross Society**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

I would like to acknowledge and recognize the able leadership of you and your team.

The Uganda Red Cross Society appreciates all the efforts made in the past and even today in the long journey to find a lasting solution to the emblem question. Since the adoption of Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions, I feel we should strive to find a way forward and not a way backward. We

recognize the contribution of the Swiss Government, the contributions of the Standing Commission, the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in coming up with the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements. I think all these steps are remarkable and historic. We request all parties to be open to improving on any gaps that may exist, while maintaining the spirit of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr Chairman,

The Uganda Red Cross Society wants to be part of the solution. I dare to say that I have been young and now I am getting old. But to walk this world and pass away without finding a durable and lasting solution to the emblem question would be a disservice to humanity.

If our aim is to attain universality, then let all of us without exception be proud to see the recognition and admission of our sister National Societies, in order indeed to attain the universality which we all crave.

Yes, there are challenges. But we know that delivering a beautiful bouncing baby involves labour pains. Let us assume that this Conference is the process of labour. Finally, I believe we should all rejoice and look at the new challenges all together, and embrace the baby that is delivered. The Uganda Red Cross Society therefore agrees with the simple but vital proposal to amend the Movement's Statutes. Let us put humanity first and ensure that the agenda and objectives of this Conference are really achieved, so that we can all increase access to humanitarian services for those who are most in need.

**H.E. Mr Don Mackay, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of New Zealand, Geneva**  
(Original English)

On behalf of the New Zealand Government, I would like to convey our thanks to the Government of Switzerland for its support and tireless efforts to assist the International Federation and the ICRC in their endeavours to maintain and expand truly valuable humanitarian services. We would also like to congratulate and thank those present here today who have put so much effort into laying the foundations for a successful 29th International Conference, so that it may take important decisions to help achieve

improvements in humanitarian situations globally, including in the Middle East.

Our approach to this work has always been to deliver on the aspirations and the hopes of people living in very difficult circumstances, no matter where they may reside. We have been, and we remain, staunch supporters of the Movement. We especially want to uphold and to advance its fundamental values and principles.

It is for these reasons that we have been among those who support changes to the Statutes, to take account of circumstances that did not otherwise fit within the Movement's framework. It has been our hope that the proposed amendments to the Statutes will clear away the final hurdles standing in the way of National Societies that have been unable to join the Movement, enabling them to do so, and to thus benefit from the support offered by the International Federation and the ICRC.

It was in that context that we very much welcomed the spirit of cooperation that prevailed between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society and that enabled them to sign the Memorandum of Understanding in late 2005.

Mr Chairman,

New Zealand signed Additional Protocol III on Monday. Having signed it, we are now hopeful that through your constructive endeavours and through the very good offices of others, including the government of Norway, this Conference will deliver a smooth and orderly adoption of the draft resolution we have before us. We support all of its components and we wholeheartedly endorse its overriding objectives. Like others, we would urge that the Conference remain entirely focused on humanitarian objectives. We call upon all parties to recognize the work and the goodwill that has taken us to this point, and to join together in adopting by consensus the amendments needed to achieve our shared vision.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

I give the floor now to the International Federation, because I promised that when we had finished with all the speakers I would give the speakers who presented the various topics the opportunity to respond to some of the statements.

**Mr Markku Niskala, Secretary-General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

*(Original English)*

We have listened carefully to the different speakers. I heard no special questions for the International Federation. Yesterday, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent requested that coordination be improved. Otherwise I refer to my statement yesterday, when I said that we were helping both National Societies implement the Memorandum of Understanding in a difficult political situation. They will continue to receive this support from the International Federation.

**Dr Jakob Kellenberger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross**

*(Original English)*

As has been recalled again and again, just before the Diplomatic Conference, the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society signed the Memorandum of Understanding aimed at cooperation and assistance for all those who need urgent medical and humanitarian services. The Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society also understood that their commitments would help pave the way for membership for both National Societies in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Since then, their commitment to implementing the Memorandum of Understanding has been constant and courageous. They have faced obstacles and at times overly slow responses, but they are working together. They know and support each other. They have both demonstrated determination to work individually and jointly to provide the best possible assistance to victims of violence or other causes of suffering. They are both independent. They both have dedicated staff and volunteers. I have carefully listened to your statements and concerns and I wish therefore to underline that the ICRC remains at the disposal of the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society in order to continue to contribute to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding.

This Conference has to amend the Movement's Statutes to take into account the additional emblem of the red crystal adopted by the Diplomatic Conference. It also has to create a framework for the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

More than that, the Conference is called on, in taking these decisions, to recognize the work accomplished by the volunteers and staff of these two National Societies, to recognize their courage and professionalism in

difficult circumstances, to see in their humanitarian work a sign of hope for peace in a region which has suffered too much and for too long from violence.

I would like to say a word on our hospital in the occupied Golan. I told you yesterday about everything the ICRC has done to construct Majdal Shams Hospital, the emergency and high-tech diagnostic centre. You have seen from what I have said that we have kept our promises. The ICRC has a tradition of keeping its promises. It is very distressing indeed to see that this commitment can be called into question. I would like to repeat a few sentences from what I said yesterday.

Yesterday I said: "The ICRC acted immediately" - I repeat, immediately, because the ICRC is not accustomed to not acting immediately - "after the Diplomatic Conference. Since last December, it has been making all the necessary technical and medical assessments. It has been in constant and close contact with the local community, medical doctors and community leaders to formulate a community-based project (...). Costs are currently estimated at about 4.7 million Swiss francs, and the ICRC has already secured a budget for the project's early implementation." That is just an excerpt from my speech, it is not the full speech. Another excerpt: "Throughout the assessment and preparatory phase (...) the ICRC has regularly kept all concerned or interested parties informed." I quoted yesterday from a letter addressed to me by the Israeli Ambassador in Geneva, as follows: "Israel welcomes the proposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross to establish an emergency medical facility and diagnostic centre in Majdal Shams (...). Israel reiterates its support for the project and will work to facilitate its establishment and operation as a matter of priority."

I explained yesterday why the official launch of the project, planned for last week, could not take place. To understate the matter, I would say: it could not take place because of local administrative difficulties.

I would like to end as I did yesterday - and I think everybody is well advised to take this seriously and am sure that the local population will be pleased to know that we take it seriously. The establishment of Majdal Shams Hospital corresponds to the properly assessed medical needs of the population in the occupied Golan. This project will not be jeopardized by non-humanitarian considerations. We shall go ahead with determination, driven solely by humanitarian considerations and in full conformity with international humanitarian law. I am convinced that, by doing so, we are acting in the way the Diplomatic Conference expected us to act. We kept our promise.

Mr Chairman,

I also want to say a few words about the notion of consensus. People who attach importance to words may also remember this Conference as the Conference on the use of the word "consensus." First, consensus is not a value in itself. Only a decent and fair consensus has any value. Somebody who will only join in the consensus if all his requests are taken into account is not for consensus. The draft resolution submitted to this Conference is already the product of a sincere effort for consensus. Some delegations had to show a considerable degree of flexibility. I also want you to know that I flatly reject any attempts to mask political objectives with humanitarian arguments. The solution to outstanding political problems - and I do understand their importance - are to be found elsewhere than at this Conference. It is a big responsibility to try to prevent humanitarian projects on political grounds. In the interests of a credible principle of universality, in the name of all those in need of the best possible protection and of those volunteers and staff providing the necessary assistance, I urge you to adopt the draft resolution as it stands, as it has been submitted to this Conference.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

I now close the discussion on item 3 of the agenda and move to item 4. In accordance with Rule 18.6 of the Rules of Procedure, I gave the ICRC and the International Federation the right to respond to the statements. I closed the list of speakers. I am not going to open the list again. If you have anything to take up, you can do so under item 4 of the agenda.

**H.E. Dr Mohammad Abu-Koash, Ambassador,  
Permanent Observer, Permanent Observer Mission of  
Palestine, Geneva**  
(Original English)

Palestine requests a right to reply, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. We have the right to reply because matters have been raised that concern Palestine.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

I remind you that Palestine is an Observer, and the Chairman reserves the right to give the floor to observers. I closed the debate after the last speaker,

New Zealand. Then, in accordance with Rule 18.6 of the Rules of Procedure, I asked both the International Federation and the ICRC to respond.

I would now like to go to item 4 of the agenda.

**H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative, Permanent Mission of Syria, Geneva**  
(Original Arabic)

Mr Chairman,

First of all, I would like to thank you for giving me the floor on a point of order. My delegation does not agree to us moving on to item 4 without a reply to Mr Kellenberger's statement expounding on his concept of consensus. Neither we nor the delegations working at the United Nations agree with that concept. Consensus implies that everyone's concerns have been addressed and not that the concerns of some parties have been answered at the expense of other parties. We have concerns, Mr Chairman, and we came with a consensus. The agenda is before you and even the amendments that we tabled are before you. They do not contain anything political. On the contrary, they are humanitarian in nature. Mr Kellenberger says that we are submitting political proposals on humanitarian issues. This is totally untrue and unacceptable. We call upon Mr Kellenberger to remain fully impartial in order to ensure the desired unity and achieve cooperation in this field.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

Item 4 of the agenda concerns the amendment to the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the name "red crystal" for the distinctive emblem of Additional Protocol III and the proposed framework for the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. In order for us to be able to focus on the core of the draft resolution and the three specific issues, I am going to give the floor first to Mr François Bugnion, the ICRC's Director for International Law and Cooperation within the Movement, and then to Mr Markku Niskala, Secretary-General of the International Federation. We will hear a short and concise introduction on the proposed amendment to the Statutes, the proposed name of the distinctive emblem of Additional Protocol III and the proposed framework for the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, in order to provide sufficient background to the draft resolution.

**Mr François Bugnion, Director for International Law and Cooperation within the Movement, ICRC**  
(Original English)

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Yesterday you received the draft resolution.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

The Syrian Government has a point of order.

**H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Syria, Geneva,**  
(Original French)

Mr Chairman,

I am sorry to have to interrupt Mr Bugnion. I wish to ask for clarification about the point of order which the President of the ICRC has interpreted unilaterally. Before moving on to the other items on the agenda, we wish to know where we stand in terms of the promises made yesterday, in the informal consultations held under your chairmanship. The OIC was promised that the Conference would take account of the amendments submitted by it in exchange for its withdrawal of its just and fair statement on the illegality of this Conference. We repeat that the diplomatic steps taken in good faith by dozens of delegations must be treated with greater credibility. It is inappropriate for the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross to speak words like those we have just heard. The ICRC is supposed to be neutral and objective in respect of all the parties to a conflict. Yesterday, we preferred not to respond to Mr Kellenberger, in order to give the Conference a chance to reach a consensus. Yesterday, too, we clearly said that our flexibility should in no way be interpreted as a sign of weakness. It would now appear that the OIC's flexibility has been misinterpreted by the authorities charged with upholding international humanitarian law.

Mr Chairman,

We do not make a hobby of entering into conflict with those the international community has tasked with upholding humanitarian law. It is nevertheless our duty to draw the attention of everyone here to the fact that we will not accept a *fait accompli* that runs counter to the agreement reached yesterday with the OIC. The ICRC, which is represented here by its

most senior leaders, should not take a stance and should not express an opinion and thus anticipate the outcome of the intense consultations being conducted to ensure the Conference's successful outcome. Before moving to the next item on the agenda, this point must be cleared up. Otherwise, Mr Kellenberger's statement will bring us back to square one, as they say in English, and that is not why we have gathered here.

Yesterday Mr Kellenberger wrongly accused my Government of having worked to prevent the construction of the hospital. This is a serious accusation which we deemed was best left unanswered so as not to jeopardize the Conference's chances of success. It would now seem that this once laudable objectivity is no longer to the point. I ask everyone to respect the dignity of international humanitarian law, to put an end to this Hollywood-like show and to get to the root of the problem. We must be serious and salvage what remains of Henry Dunant's memory. We are not on stage. We are a responsible body and everyone should live up to the message of international humanitarian law. It is a shame to hear eminent people who are supposed to uphold international humanitarian law express themselves thus. Truly a shame.

**Dr Jakob Kellenberger, President of the ICRC**  
(Original French)

Mr Chairman,

I am not sure whether this is entirely in keeping with the rules of procedure, but we will continue in the same vein. I want to say just two things to the Syrian Ambassador. I will be very brief. First, I merely defended the resolution submitted to this Conference by the Standing Commission, the International Federation and the ICRC. Nothing else. Second, I would ask the Ambassador of Syria, who has stated before this body that my words of yesterday were lies, if he wants me to circulate the note we received on 17 June.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English and Arabic)

We have heard many statements from the floor. People have different opinions and positions which they have put to the Conference. We have to listen to all views. We are not all in line. We have to work to reach a consensus. Dr Bashar, you and your friends had my assurances as Chairman of this Conference



that we would take the amendments that were put to us seriously. You still have my assurances, no matter what. Ambassador Strommen is now negotiating and is making good progress. Just give us the benefit of the doubt and let the Chair and his Bureau work together so we can reach a consensus at the end of the day. If we open a debate now I know that everybody is going to express different points of view. Let us work in the interests of the Movement. Let us work towards a consensus, and bear in mind that there are millions of victims every day that are expecting the Red Cross and Red Crescent to be there. I do not think they will be very happy to hear of the differences that are being raised on the floor today. Please, give us some time. Let us hear Dr Bugnion and Mr Niskala introduce the amendments and give us some time to work and bring these differences closer together. Can we agree to this?

*(Loud applause)*

Pakistan has a point of order.

**H.E. Mr Masood Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan, Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

I want to assure you that, like all the other delegations present here, whether from National Societies or from governments or other players, we also fully support your efforts to reach a consensus. I have a procedural question. We are at an important point in the debate. We have heard the views of all sides on item 3 of the agenda. Our understanding was that debate on item 3 would continue as a serious effort is being made to develop a consensus on the draft resolution, on the amendment of the Statutes and the amendments proposed by Pakistan and Tunisia to the resolution. The Ambassador of Norway is currently conducting consultations on this, and we appreciate the efforts being made by him and are grateful to all the delegations at this Conference for their understanding. Item 4 of the agenda concerns the amendments, and it would therefore be appropriate at this stage to delay consideration of item 4 pending the outcome of the consultations. I think this is logical because the Ambassador of Norway's consultations are at a critical stage and will definitely contribute to the consensus we all hope to reach. My delegation therefore appeals to you to postpone consideration of item 4 at this stage.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

It is the intention of the Chair to allow item 4 of the agenda to be introduced. We will then break for lunch until three o'clock, so as to allow more time for negotiation to Ambassador Strommen and all the relevant parties. This was my intention right from the beginning.

**H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Syria, Geneva**  
*(Original Arabic)*

Mr Chairman,

Our understanding of what you said a short while ago is that there is still scope for continued consultation aimed at reaching a consensual agreement on the focal point of our discussions, namely the amendments. This understanding is based on the mutual agreement between us, which we trust you will continue to respect. As my colleague, the delegate from Pakistan, has said, this means that nothing will be presented before an agreement is reached on it. No draft resolution will be presented because it is lunchtime or for any other reason. The draft resolution will be presented when we have reached a consensus on it. This is our understanding and I hope that this point is clear, because that is the basic question. We are not stipulating new conditions on this question. We are speaking in the light of the mutual understanding reached under your chairmanship, in your office and in the presence of the members of the Bureau. I hope that, instead of acting rashly, we will give Ambassador Strommen sufficient time to make substantial progress on this question before we address it.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Once more, when we met yesterday, the intention was for the Chairman to be transparent with all parties. This is the Red Cross. I am also the Chairman of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. I am also expected to act for the benefit and in the interests of the Movement. I cannot displease anybody, I have to keep everybody on board. We are not going to take a decision unless it is exactly and completely clarified, and unless you know when we are going to take it, what we are going to do and you can assess the result of a vote or a decision. I am still committed to my assurances.



## 4.7

# PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT, PROPOSED NAME OF "RED CRYSTAL" FOR THE DISTINCTIVE EMBLEM OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL III, AND PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR THE RECOGNITION AND ADMISSION OF THE PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

### 4.7.1 DRAFT RESOLUTION 06/IC/04.1- REV2 AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Address by Mr François Bugnion, Director for International Law and Cooperation within the Movement, International Committee of the Red Cross  
(Original English)

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Yesterday you received draft resolution 06/IC/04.1-REV2, dated 18 June and prepared jointly by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross. This draft reflects the common position of the two institutions and was endorsed by the Standing Commission.

The draft resolution basically embodies the three objectives set for this Conference, as indicated in the letter of invitation of 16 December 2005, namely to amend the Movement's Statutes in order to take account of Additional Protocol III on the emblem, adopted on 8 December 2005, to decide on the name of the additional emblem, and to create a framework for the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

The draft was developed from a set of elements distributed to all Conference participants by the ICRC, the International Federation and the Standing Commission on 4 May 2006.

The draft resolution was discussed within the framework of a group of Ambassadors, called "Friends of the Chair," set up by the Standing Commission. About twenty permanent representatives based here

in Geneva took part in the work of this group and helped us to prepare this Conference, in terms of both process and substance. On behalf of the two co-hosts, the International Federation and the ICRC, and as a member of the Standing Commission, I would like to express our deep gratitude for their support, good advice and commitment.

As a result of these consultations, ideas were contributed to the Chair which the Standing Commission was pleased to incorporate into the draft resolution. As you can see, the draft resolution is as short and as simple as possible. I will briefly explain the key elements of the draft you have in front of you.

In paragraph 1 of the preamble, the Conference takes note of the report of the Standing Commission.

In paragraph 2 of the preamble, the Conference takes account of Additional Protocol III adopted on 8 December 2005.

In paragraph 3 of the preamble, the Conference acknowledges the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 28 November 2005 by the Chairman of the Magen David Adom and the President of the Palestine Red Crescent Society in an effort to facilitate the adoption of Additional Protocol III and to pave the way for membership for both signatory National Societies in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In this preambular paragraph it is also recorded that the Diplomatic Conference acknowledged, in Article 15 of its Final Act, the common expectation of the two National Societies to become full members of the Movement. This preambular paragraph is therefore very important, since it links what we are doing today with the determination of the Diplomatic Conference as expressed in its Final Act.

Preambular paragraphs 4 and 5 underline the unique and special situation of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and emphasize that the recognition and admission of this National Society – which we all want to achieve at this Conference – under no circumstances sets a precedent for the Red Cross or Red Crescent organizations of any other entity or territory.

Preambular paragraph 6 recalls attention to the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in particular the principle of universality.

Let us now move to the operative paragraphs. The objective of operative paragraph 1 is to adopt the draft amendments to the Movement's Statutes that have been circulated to all members of the Conference together with the letter of invitation dated 16 December 2005. The only effect of those draft amendments is to take account of Additional Protocol III and the additional emblem.

The first amendment affects the sub-title, indicating that the Statutes have been amended in 2006.

The second amendment affects Article 3, paragraph 2, of the Movement's Statutes, which concerns the National Societies' commitment to cooperate with their governments to protect the distinctive emblems. The new wording refers to the commitment of National Societies to cooperate with their governments in order to protect the distinctive emblems recognized by the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

The third amendment affects Article 4, paragraph 5, of the Movement's Statutes, which refers to the conditions for the recognition of National Societies. The draft amendment provides that, in order to be recognized, a National Society must use a name and distinctive emblem that is in conformity with the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. This paves the way for the recognition and admission of the Magen David Adom. It will provide for the recognition of the Eritrean National Society whenever it applies for membership and fulfils the other conditions. It will allow for the recognition of National Societies which might adopt the name and emblem of the red crystal in the future.

The fourth amendment concerns the entry into force of the amended Statutes, which we hope – we are determined – will take place today.

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

As you can see, these are only minimal changes, only those which are necessary to take account of Additional Protocol III. They do not affect the obligations of States and National Societies in any other way. They do not affect the name of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, of the International Federation or of the ICRC.

Concerning the name of the additional emblem – I refer now to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution – you will recall that it is still referred to in Additional Protocol III as “the emblem of the Additional Protocol.” In terms of dissemination and public communication, you will agree that this is not really appealing.

However, the name “red crystal” has already gained currency, and is referred to in paragraph 14 of the Final Act of the Diplomatic Conference. Indeed, the name “red crystal” has many advantages. It is identical in all three of the Movement's working languages – English, French and Spanish – and in many other languages. It was tested in a number of other languages and no negative connotations could be identified. Crystals are a symbol of purity and transparency. They bring to mind water, the source of life.

Mr Chairman,

I will stop here, since it is my understanding that the Secretary-General of the International Federation, our friend Markku Niskala, will comment on the last paragraph of the draft resolution, which refers to the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

**Address by Mr Markku Niskala, Secretary-General,  
International Federation of Red Cross and Red  
Crescent Societies**  
*(Original English)*

Excellencies, Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to summarize here the background for the proposal made in operative paragraph 3 that this Conference create a framework for the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. As part of my presentation I will read out three quotations from the key texts.

Condition one for the recognition of a National Society requires that it "be constituted on the territory of an independent State."

The neutrality of the ICRC and of the Movement as a whole prevents us from taking a stand on this question.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society on 28 November 2005 stated that it was concluded in an effort to facilitate the adoption of Additional Protocol III and to "pave the way for the membership of both Societies in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement."

The Final Act of the Diplomatic Conference adopting Additional Protocol III referred to the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society on 28 November 2005 to facilitate the adoption of Additional Protocol III and, again, to "pave the way for the admission of both Societies to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at the next International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent."

This clearly demonstrates the wish of the National Societies concerned to become part of the Movement and expresses the importance the States Parties attach to admitting both into the Movement. It indicates the readiness of the participants at the Diplomatic Conference to agree that the Movement should work towards this objective, but in a way which does not set a precedent for the future.

Consultations with the States Parties have further revealed that there is widespread support for considering that the proposed resolution of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent reflects the unique circumstances pertaining to the Palestinian situation. It has been recognized by the international community that, without determining the application of condition one, the ICRC and the International Federation could be requested respectively to recognize and admit the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

The International Conference adopted the Statutes of the Movement. It can therefore also take a decision on questions relating to their application and give this mandate to the ICRC and to the International Federation.

**H.E. Mr Masood Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan, Geneva, speaking on behalf of the OIC**  
*(Original English)*

We have taken note of the resolution introduced by Mr François Bugnion and the Secretary-General of the International Federation. Pakistan and Tunisia have tabled amendments to draft resolution 06/IC/DRO4.1-REV2. These amendments, which enjoy the support of the OIC countries, enrich and integrate the resolution's content in an endeavour to remove possible lacunae. Our amendments reaffirm that the Geneva Conventions and the Movement's rules, especially Resolution 11 of the 1921 International Conference, are applicable to all Arab territories occupied since 1967 – the Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan and the Lebanese Shebaa Farms area – and within the jurisdiction of their respective Arab National Societies. Our amendments also state that the Palestine Red Crescent Society covers the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. We make another reaffirmation: that admission of any National Society is conditional upon full recognition and implementation of Resolution 11 of 1921. We request the ICRC and the International Federation to ensure full implementation of the resolution and to report thereon to the next International Conference.

Most of the amendments stem directly from the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 28 November 2005 by the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society. Resolution 11 of the 1921 International Conference defined the geographical scope of the operational activities and competences of the National Societies as in the Memorandum of Understanding. If they were good enough for the Memorandum of Understanding, they are good enough for the resolution. None of these amendments adds or subtracts anything from agreed and established humanitarian norms and laws. These amendments are not political in nature. They are firmly anchored in law and in humanitarian norms. By supporting them, I think all the participants of this International Conference will make history; by rejecting them, we dent the consensus and demonstrate partiality. I appeal to the entire Conference to take on board the amendments submitted by Pakistan and Tunisia, in order to facilitate consensus.

Mr Chairman,

I understand that the Palestinian delegation has asked for the floor. In all fairness, since they are the primary party concerned, we have to address their concerns, and their dissent has to be respected. I appeal to you to give the floor to the Ambassador of Palestine.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I hope that the statement by the Palestinian Ambassador is not going to provoke any discussion, because I cannot allow this. However, because we are working in such a nice atmosphere, I will allow him to take the floor for a couple of minutes. I hope that nobody asks for the floor, because the Palestinians are concerned with the resolution. They are key partners in all we are trying to work for.

**H.E. Dr Mohammad Abu-Koash, Ambassador,  
Permanent Observer, Permanent Observer Mission of  
Palestine, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

I am grateful to our leader, the distinguished Ambassador of Pakistan. It is the right of my delegation to speak on issues concerning us. You closed the debate on the item concerning the Memorandum of Understanding. Since the Memorandum has not been implemented, since there are reports even by the depositary State that implementation should be followed up, since the Israeli Ambassador also indicates in his letter that these matters have to be followed up and that there is more work to be done, when you closed the debate you closed the door to the follow-up of the question of implementation. I therefore ask you kindly to consider that there should be guarantees with regard to follow-up. We will follow this matter up with you informally.

I turn to the question of the amendments. The amendments put forward by the OIC are absolutely anchored in international humanitarian law, and their wording is taken primarily from the agreement which the Israeli National Society signed with the Palestine Red Crescent Society. We also know – everybody knows – that the Israeli National Society would not have signed that agreement without the approval of its national authority, namely the Israeli Occupying Power. What we are saying, therefore, as the delegation of Palestine and as mentioned by the leader of the

OIC, is that we are in favour of a genuine consensus. We reject any other interpretation that encourages dissension. We are here to preserve international law and its application, and that application should be across the board. I would like to remind everybody, including the delegation of the United States, who are going to celebrate their independence on 4 July. You were occupied. You are all countries that gained independence, so please remember the victims, remember the Palestinians and reject anything that diminishes their rights.

Mr Chairman,

We have been more than forthcoming, despite the fact that the legality of this Conference is questionable. We said we would go it alone. We set aside the fact that there were OIC amendments in order to move forward. I think the rest is up to those who think that they can use the stick to get the rest of the world to run after them. The Palestine delegation will not heed anything except international legality. We simply want to be independent like you. Is that too much to ask?

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Dr Bugnion and Mr Niskala gave us the background for the key elements of the draft resolution circulated to everybody. We also heard a statement from Ambassador Khan about the proposed Tunisian and Pakistani amendments. I would like to remind you that consultations are still taking place. As you always say, Ambassador Khan, “we all have to walk the extra mile.” I hope we can all walk these extra miles, and meet half way and agree on a consensus. I am not going to give the floor to anybody now. I want to break until three o'clock. I understand that the OIC meeting is taking place in room 5 at 1.30 p.m.

**H.E. Mr Samir Labidi, Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative, Permanent Mission of Tunisia,  
Geneva, speaking on behalf of the Arab Group**  
*(Original Arabic)*

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the Arab Group, allow me to express our sincere gratitude for the endeavours that you are making to reach a consensus. We must all work to reach a consensus. I would like to endorse the statement delivered by the Ambassador of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC countries. We in the Arab Group have taken note of what you said.

Mr Chairman,

I wish to point out that the amendments tabled by the Arab Group and the OIC are designed to rectify the shortcomings in the first version of the draft resolution. The Arab Group and the OIC also seek reaffirmation of Resolution 11 of 1921 and of the need to monitor its implementation. The Arab Group and the OIC are hoping that these concerns will be taken seriously and supported by the participants attending this Conference. We also hope that these amendments will be taken into consideration and that the resolution will be adopted by consensus in order to maintain the Movement's unity and promote the principles of international humanitarian law, which is our common objective.

*The meeting was suspended at 12.30 p.m. and resumed at 3 p.m.*

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

Dear Friends,

I would like to announce, on behalf of everyone at the Conference, that I am very grateful to the Vice Chairman, Ambassador Strommen, because he was able to work out a text that brings together different points of view. We had to put a great deal of pressure on everybody to accept this draft, which is now available. We need some more time to continue with our consultations with everybody. I can see that the OIC members are still meeting and I guess that we need to come back again just around four o'clock. We will take a decision on the outcome of the consultations. I am still hopeful that we can carry this forward by consensus. However, a great deal of hard work has to be done in the meantime. I call on all of you to talk to your friends and to make sure that we can bring the two different points of view as close together as possible. Thank you for your understanding. I am sorry about the delay but there will be another announcement soon. We will meet around four o'clock and continue with the plenary. Thank you for your understanding. I am sure that you all are behind us as we work for a positive outcome so that we can continue in the future and in the interest of our great International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

*The meeting was suspended at 3.05 p.m. and resumed at around 7.30 p.m.*

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

Dear Friends,

I am deeply sorry that we have kept you waiting for so long. We promised, right from the beginning of this Conference, that we would try to achieve a consensus. We have been in serious negotiations with all parties concerned, right from the very beginning. As you all know, it is not easy to agree on everything that is in a resolution. This is why it has taken us much longer than expected. At one point we even thought that we would have to tell you that there was no hope of going any further. I can tell you now that there is a small window of hope. I am just waiting for a few minutes and then, if we cannot reach the consensus that we have tried desperately to reach, in keeping with the tradition of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Chair will unfortunately have no other option but to call a vote, even though we would rather adopt the resolution by consensus. I am giving everybody one last chance. I know you are tired, I know you are bored and some of you are fed up. But I appeal to you all to bear with us for just a few more minutes, in the hope that we can wrap this up nicely and go home satisfied that we have done something. I would like to give the floor to the President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

**Dr Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**  
(Original Spanish)

Mr Chairman,

I would simply like to underscore what you have just said and ask the National Societies, and of course the governments, too, to make this small extra effort. I think the atmosphere is now favourable again. I do not want to give people false reason to hope, but the climate for dialogue has improved and we are going to make every effort to reach the consensus to which the Chairman has repeatedly referred. I know that we are accustomed to resolving issues like this and reaching a consensus more quickly. We are not used to doing things like this, but I think these issues are sufficiently important for us to show some patience. I can assure you that I, too, am learning a great deal, and therefore ask you to bear with us just a moment longer. In a few minutes, in more or less half an hour, we may have news, and if not, the Chairman will proceed as he thinks best. On behalf of the

International Federation, I ask all of you to make an extra effort. I think it is worth it.

*The meeting was suspended at 7.45 p.m. and resumed at around 9 p.m.*

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Dear Friends,

I have here both Vice-Chairmen, Ambassador Strommen and Ambassador Martabit, and also Dr del Toro, the President of the International Federation. We regret that we have kept you for so long. We sympathize with you. It is very important for you to stay since the negotiations are still ongoing. I was hoping that we could wrap things up much more quickly, but the negotiations continue and I appeal to all of you to be present and not to leave. Do not leave the Conference because after these consultations we might have a vote and your vote is needed. In the name and on behalf of all the victims who need us whenever disaster of any kind strikes, I appeal to you all to show unity, support and solidarity with us on this very special evening. I thank you very much and I really appreciate your understanding.

*The meeting was suspended at 9.05 p.m. and resumed at around 9.30 p.m.*

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

We have all had a very hard day and everybody has worked very hard. We tried to bring the different positions as close together as we could. Regrettably, we were unable to reach a consensus. Before going into that, however, I wish to inform the Conference that I have received a letter from the OIC, signed by both Ambassador Khan and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tunisia, Ambassador Samir Labidi. The letter concerns the legality of the Conference. In it they ask me to circulate the letter as an official document. As I said earlier, this will be reflected in the minutes of the Conference (see section 4.5)

I thank you for your understanding, and remind you that, according to our legal adviser's interpretation of the Statutes, the Conference was lawfully convened under Article 10, paragraph 3 (b).

I now give the floor to Ambassador Strommen, who conducted the consultations aimed at reaching a consensus on the proposed amendments to the resolution.

**H.E. Mr Wegger Strommen, Vice-Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Delegates will recall that I was given the task of trying to negotiate a consensus resolution and to report back to you, Mr Chairman, and to the Conference. I would briefly like to state that I called an open consultative meeting yesterday afternoon. It feels like a week ago, but it was only yesterday afternoon. In my view, the meeting was well attended and a number of States and National Societies participated very constructively. I asked Ambassador Khan to introduce the amendments on behalf of the OIC. He explained what we should know about the amendments and walked us through the text. After that, some delegations expressed their opposition to the OIC amendments, some supported them and some stated various objections that I would describe as between opposition and approval. A fair number of legal issues were raised. After that, throughout the evening, into the night and through the course of today, I pursued negotiations, again with a view to obtaining a consensus, as per my mandate, bilaterally and in smaller groups with a number of interested bodies and parties. Delegates may have seen a paper assessing where the negotiations stood as of this morning. The paper was pretty clear that no consensus had been reached, and after that fresh efforts were made throughout the day by you, Mr Chairman, and by others. However, as you have just said, the conclusion of my report is that it was not possible to reach a consensus. That is all I can say at this point. I did my best.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

For the past two days we have had plenary debates and informal consultations. The positions of all have been made very clear and the amendments submitted by the Pakistani and Tunisian delegations have been eloquently put to the Conference. I am convinced that further debate will not bring the Conference any closer to our objective of consensus. Furthermore, in the interest of bringing this Conference to a close and in order to be fair, I will allow two speakers to speak for the amendments submitted by Pakistan and Tunisia and two speakers to speak against the amendments. After that I will put the amendments straight to a vote.



I will give the floor first to Ambassador Khan. If any other delegation would like to speak in support of the amendments put forward, please ask for the floor now.

**H.E. Mr Masood Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan, Geneva, speaking on behalf of the OIC**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

I would like to thank you, the members of the Bureau and all those delegations with whom we have consulted in the last 24 hours. I would like to thank all delegates for their patience and their resilience during this Conference. It was as much a test for them as for ourselves, and we appreciate their constant indulgence. Let me introduce once again the amendments presented by Pakistan and Tunisia, and explain the rush now.

At its meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 19 June, the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers issued a communiqué strongly appealing to this Conference to promote respect for and the application of international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territories and in the Syrian Golan. Pakistan and Tunisia tabled amendments to draft resolution O6/IC/DR4.1-REV 2. These amendments, which enjoy the support of the OIC countries, complete the resolution and remove all possible lacunae. Our amendments reaffirm that the Geneva Conventions and the Movement's rules, especially Resolution 11 of the 1921 International Conference, are applicable to all Arab territories occupied since 1967. This includes the Palestinian territory (including East Jerusalem), the Syrian Golan and the Lebanese Shebaa Farms area, which are within the jurisdiction of their respective Arab National Societies. Our amendments also state that the Palestine Red Crescent Society covers the occupied Arab territories, including East Jerusalem. We also reaffirm that admission of any new National Society is conditional upon full recognition and implementation of Resolution 11 of 1921. We request the ICRC and the International Federation to ensure full implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the next International Conference.

Mr Chairman,

There is no political content in these amendments. They are agreed, accepted and applied law. Without the inclusion of these elements proposed by Pakistan

and Tunisia, the text of the resolution would be incomplete and partial. More importantly, it might, by omission, set a precedent that is not supported by the Geneva Conventions or the Movement's rules.

The amendments seek legal clarity. There are two basic questions. What is the territorial use of the emblem that we are going to adopt? What is the geographical scope of the operational activities and the competences of the National Societies that will be admitted into the Movement as a result of the decisions that will be taken today?

Are these questions too much to ask? Is such ambiguity desirable in a territory where occupation is a legal fact, not fiction? We commend the two National Societies, the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom, for coming to an understanding in order to promote our humanitarian cause. Should we now leave them by the wayside and not tell them what their competences are?

What is really surprising is that all the OIC's suggested amendments were explicitly or implicitly accepted in the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom on 28 November 2005. In fact, they constitute the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding. If Resolution 11 of 1921 and the explanation of occupation were good enough for the Memorandum of Understanding, why can they not be included in the operational decision we are taking today?

This is counter-intuitive. The OIC countries believe that it will guillotine the monitoring mechanism. Switzerland, the depositary State, has done a good job. We heard detailed reports from Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey and Ambassador Pfirter yesterday. Ambassador Blaise Godet has been involved in the process for a very long time. The ICRC and the International Federation have done a commendable job in preparing for this Conference. I sincerely believe that without their efforts, this decision that we are going to take today would not be possible. If the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference can take a decision about the red crystal and all the surrounding issues, the 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference should have the right to know how the earlier decision was implemented. None of the amendments suggested by us subtract from agreed humanitarian norms and laws. They reflect the letter and spirit of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

We appeal to all National Societies and States Parties to support these amendments. By supporting them you will make history. By rejecting them we will

undermine the consensus and demonstrate partiality. Please support these amendments in the name of humanity, in the name of humanitarianism and in the name of humanitarian law.

**H.E. Mr Samir Labidi, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Tunisia, Geneva, speaking on behalf of the Arab Group**  
(Original Arabic)

Mr Chairman,

The Arab Group fully supports the statement delivered by Ambassador Masood Khan on behalf of the OIC and wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the members of the Bureau for their endeavours and to all the members of the Conference, who, we are sure, are attending with a view to achieving commendable aims. We believe that the amendments proposed by the OIC and the Arab Group reflect the essence of the emblem displayed to the right and left of us, the emblem of the protection of human dignity. It is human dignity that unites us. The image of a human being to my right and left has no face, no religion and no ethnic identity. As I said, the honourable mission that unites this distinguished gathering is the noble aim to protect human dignity. However, if our aim is to protect human dignity, this protection needs to be intensified in occupied territories, where it merits even greater concern. Accordingly, when the OIC and the Arab Group tabled these amendments they did so merely in order to secure greater protection for the population of occupied territories and not with a view to politicizing the issue or furthering any national, regional or international political interests.

Mr Chairman,

I will not speak at length. As my colleague, Ambassador Khan, has already indicated, in calling for a vote on these amendments we are simply calling for support for these noble values. We hope that all the members present will support these amendments.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

I will now ask two delegations who are against the amendments to speak, starting with the Ambassador from the United States delegation.

**Hon. John B. Bellinger, Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State, United States of America**  
(Original English)

I am so sorry that it is nearly 10.30 on our last night and that we have not yet resolved the matter before us. I said yesterday that the purpose of this Conference was to focus on a humanitarian goal. We, the governments, gathered in December to prepare Additional Protocol III, which paved the way for the Conference today. We are joined at the Conference now by delegations from National Societies from around the world. To you, I apologize for the fact that we are here at the last minute, still debating questions, not of humanity, of serving people on the ground, but political questions. I think that it has become clear over the last two days that we have become more focused on politics than on supporting the important work of the humanitarian Societies that are here, and particularly the two most concerned in the region, the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

I want to emphasize that the United States Government has worked extremely hard to try to achieve a consensus that we could all agree to. The amount of time devoted over the last two days to try to reach agreement with the OIC on the amendments has been considerable, and I would like to thank in particular Ambassador Strommen and the Chairman for their efforts to craft a compromise. The United States Government has been extremely flexible in trying to work out something that all parties could agree to. I think you saw that an effort was made in the paper handed out at two o'clock today. I think that all could have agreed that it addressed the concerns of everyone here. I am disappointed that we did not have an opportunity to vote on that document, because I am convinced that if it had been put before this chamber it would have been warmly approved because it was a document that supported the people on the ground.

We need to put aside our political concerns. Instead we are presented with the amendments that my colleague, Ambassador Khan, has explained to you as merely a restatement of international legal principles. Unfortunately, I cannot agree. There are very serious legal and political problems with these amendments. There are, of course, some basic humanitarian principles that they quote and we agree that these are important principles: the principles of the Geneva Conventions, the rules of the Movement and even the rule of 1921. These are things that we agreed on in the document that was distributed today

at two o'clock, and it is unfortunate that we cannot agree on those things. I think it must be obvious to everybody here, in particular the National Societies who are joining us here this evening, that it goes far beyond the basic principles of the Movement to insert sensitive political issues relating to the Middle East in the resolution. These are important issues and all of us know that they need to be addressed, but it is not for this body to attempt to address them. These are issues that have been debated for 30 years in political bodies, that continue to be debated in United Nations bodies, in the Security Council and in the General Assembly. These are not issues that we can attempt to resolve here by stating which territories are occupied under 1967 orders. These are simply not issues that can be resolved here and they do not have a place in the amendments to this resolution.

Beyond that, however, there are serious legal problems as well. I will mention just a few of them. For example, operative paragraph 5 suggests that the admission of any new National Society is dependent upon its recognition and implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. This simply constitutes a legal error. Everyone knows that it is not up to the National Societies to implement the Geneva Conventions but the States that have signed the Geneva Conventions. We corrected that error in the document that we presented to you at two o'clock today by stating that National Societies will continue to be guided by international humanitarian legal principles. Similarly, operative paragraph 6 puts forward the concept of a follow-up mechanism so that we can follow up on the substantial progress that has been made on the ground and needs to continue to be made. We support follow-up and we support the International Committee of the Red Cross's involvement in that process. That is again why the document presented to you at two o'clock today contained a compromise. You can look back at it, it is before you: I would have had the ICRC monitoring and reporting back. But instead the ICRC is placed in the impossible legal position of ensuring full implementation. The ICRC is not an enforcement body; it cannot ensure full implementation of the resolution. That is why we had tried hard to work together, under Ambassador Strommen's auspices, to reach a consensus, to correct the legal errors, to take out the sensitive political issues that have no place in this resolution and to reach a consensus. Unfortunately, we are left with a resolution that, as I said, is both legally flawed and poses important political problems.

I return to my first point: our purpose here today must be not a government purpose, but to support the important humanitarian work of the National

Societies, particularly the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society. They have already worked out an agreement between themselves in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding. Ambassador Khan has referred to this, and it represents the key central arrangement that has already been agreed to. If we add these legal and political constraints, we will perversely actually be more likely to hurt the delivery of humanitarian services to the people on the ground in this difficult region. That is not what we wanted to do today. So while it pains me that we are now at this point, I encourage you to reject these amendments and instead to support the resolution as it was originally drafted.

**Dame Maeve Fort, Trustee, British Red Cross**  
*(Original English)*

Three government representatives have spoken. We believe it is important that National Societies, and not just States, have a voice in this debate.

With all due respect to the OIC, the British Red Cross wishes to explain briefly why it feels unable to support the four amendments.

In general terms, our objections are based on the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. As we all know, all of us at the International Conference are required to respect the Fundamental Principles during our proceedings. These principles include neutrality.

Mr Chairman,

I suggest that all of us here at this International Conference feel particular sympathy for the vulnerable populations in the Middle East. However, for us to support the first two proposals in the OIC set of amendments would be for us to take a political position on territorial disputes between States. It is important to resolve these disputes, but the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent is, I submit, the wrong forum in which to attempt to do so. Indeed it would reflect badly on our neutral humanitarian Movement for such a resolution to be adopted at this Conference.

The third proposal is, I regret to say, wrong in law. Yes, there are ten important conditions for recognition of a new National Society. However, "full implementation and recognition of resolution 11 of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of 1921" is not stated in our Statutes to be one of them. Yes, recognized

National Societies are committed to comply with all past International Conference resolutions. However, it would be wrong and misleading to single out Resolution 11 of the 1921 International Conference, as proposed in the draft amendment.

We oppose the fourth amendment because it is related to the previous three proposed amendments. Further, it could be beyond the capacity of the ICRC and the International Federation to ensure the “full implementation” of such a resolution. Additionally, a report might best be made to the Council of Delegates rather than to the next International Conference.

Mr Chairman,

For the reasons stated, in particular to safeguard the Fundamental Principles of our worldwide Movement, especially those of neutrality and unity, we respectfully ask delegations to vote against the OIC-proposed amendments. We fear that a vote in favour would damage our ability to provide protection and assistance to vulnerable people on all sides in a conflict. Our objective is to maintain the Movement’s integrity.

#### **4.7.2 ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 1 OF THE 29<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

##### **A. Roll-call vote on the inclusion of the proposed amendments in document 06/IC/04.1- REV 2**

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

We have heard two speakers for the inclusion of the proposed amendments and two speakers against. I now open the voting procedure. I remind you that once the vote has commenced it cannot be interrupted, except for a point of order relating directly to the voting procedure.

The vote now is on the inclusion of the proposed amendments in document 06/IC/04.1-REV 2. For these amendments to be included in the draft resolution, a majority of the delegations present must vote for their inclusion. Abstentions are not taken into account in determining the majority. As set out in the Rules of Procedure, the vote shall be taken by show of hands.

**H.E. Mr Masood Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan, Geneva, speaking on behalf of the OIC**  
*(Original English)*

We would like to request a vote by roll call.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I have a motion for a roll-call vote. I would like to have 10 delegations present in the room second the motion.

*A number of delegations raised their nameplates.*

Ten delegations have seconded the motion, so we can proceed to a vote by roll call.

**Ms Grace R. Princesa, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Philippines, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

I have a point of order. Can we ask the staff to determine how many delegations are present, so that we can determine the majority vote of one half plus one?

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

The majority is determined by the number of delegates present and voting either for or against. We need the majority of those present and voting.

**Ms Grace R. Princesa, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Philippines, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

That is my question: how many are actually present at the moment?

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

We will know after the vote, because we will know then how many people have voted yes and how many people have voted no. We will count them and see what the majority is.

**Ms. Grace R. Princesa, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Philippines, Geneva**  
(Original English)

And abstentions?

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

Abstentions are not taken into account in determining the majority, only those voting for and those voting against.

The question before us is whether we want to include the proposed amendments in draft resolution 06/IC/04.1-REV 2.

I will begin as per Rule 25.5 of the Rules of Procedure: in a roll-call vote, each delegation will be individually called upon in alphabetical order. If your delegation is voting in favour, please say "yes" when your delegation is called. However, if your delegation is voting against the inclusion of the amendments in document 06/IC/04.1-REV 2, then you should say "no" when your delegation is called. If you wish to abstain, say so clearly: "we abstain." We have three possibilities: "yes," "no" or "we abstain." I emphasize that you are only authorized to provide one of these three answers.

The delegations of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will be called first, in French alphabetical order. The first National Society to vote will be decided by the drawing of lots. After the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have voted, we will proceed with the States present here, again in alphabetical order, the first being determined by the drawing of lots. Finally, we will ask the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and then the International Committee of the Red Cross for their votes.

I will now open the vote. I ask Mr Frank Mohrhauer to draw the first lots and then read out the names of each National Society.

**Mr Frank Mohrhauer, Assistant Secretary-General of the Conference**  
(Original English)

I will start now with the roll call in French alphabetical order. We will start with the National Societies. The first National Society under D is "Denmark."

**Votes of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on the amendments proposed by Pakistan and Tunisia:**

**In favour:**

Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Djibouti, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Guinea, Iran, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Mauritius, Mauritania, Niger, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Yemen (32)

**Against:**

South Africa, Albania, Germany, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Republic of Korea, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Dominica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Spain, Estonia, United States, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Cook Islands, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (The former Yugoslav Republic of), Malawi, Malta, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, New Zealand, Uganda, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Netherlands, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Suriname, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe (116)

**Abstentions:**

Afghanistan, Belarus, China, Congo (Republic of the), Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Namibia, Switzerland, Swaziland, Tanzania, Chad, Czech Republic, Togo, Turkmenistan (15)

This completes the roll call of the National Societies.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

We will now proceed with the votes of the States.

**H.E. Mr Christoph Bubb, Secretary-General of the Conference**  
(Original English)

We will now proceed with the States, followed by the International Federation and the ICRC.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

I would like to ask any National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society that was not called to raise its nameplate, so we can take your vote.

*(Different statements to ensure that the votes of the National Societies of Vanuatu and Dominica were taken into account)*

Can we proceed now with the vote by the States? We now start with the States.

**Mr Olivier Dürr, Assistant Secretary-General of the Conference**  
(Original English)

I will start with the same alphabetical order.

**Votes of the States on the amendments proposed by Pakistan and Tunisia:**

**In favour:**

Afghanistan, South Africa, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Brunei, China, Congo (Republic of the), Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Cuba, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Oman, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Chad, Tunisia, Venezuela, Yemen (41)

**Against:**

Albania, Germany, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Colombia, Korea (Republic of), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Spain, Estonia, United States, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau,

Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (The former Yugoslav Republic of), Malawi, Malta, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Nicaragua, Norway, New Zealand, Paraguay, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, United Kingdom, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Suriname, Czech Republic, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Uruguay (73)

**Abstentions:**

Armenia, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Holy See, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo (28)

**Votes of the international components of the Movement on amendments proposed by Pakistan and Tunisia**

**Against:**

International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

May I ask any delegation present whose name has not been called to raise its nameplate? I see no one. Ambassador Khan is asking for the floor on a point of order.

**H.E. Mr Masood Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan, Geneva**  
(Original English)

I have a point of order and a notification. Can the head of the delegation of a National Society vote twice, once on behalf of the National Society and once on behalf of a government?

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

No, he cannot.

**H.E. Mr Masood Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

Then why has Papua New Guinea voted twice? Is there a mechanism by which the election officer can monitor which governments or National Societies are actually voting?

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Thank you, Ambassador Khan. Can you give me a few minutes to clear this matter up with my colleagues?

**Ms Grace R. Princesa, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Philippines, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

I also have a point of order. I think the documents distributed included a proxy form. Since there is a question about who is authorized to vote, perhaps we should determine which delegations are voting by proxy and whether they have submitted the proxy form.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I will now ask our legal adviser to respond to the two remarks from the floor.

**H.E. Mr Idriss Jazairy, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Algeria, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

We would like to know in what way the Secretariat has checked that those voting on behalf of governments have the green sticker. Has this been checked?

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

If we have no more requests from the floor we will be able to answer how the vote is conducted. I will ask

the legal adviser to provide you with information on how this is done normally.

**H.E. Mr Mohammed Loulichki, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Morocco, Geneva**  
*(Original French)*

Mr Chairman,

I would like to ask the legal adviser for a clarification regarding the proxy. Does the proxy have to be deposited before or after the vote?

**Ms Elise Baudot, Legal Adviser, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**  
*(Original English)*

A number of questions have now been raised about the vote by roll call. The first question was about the proxy form. You are correct, according to the Rules of Procedure, it is the head of each delegation who is entitled to vote. We only use proxy forms in secret ballots, because what we want to avoid, especially in a secret ballot, is one delegation voting twice: once because an unauthorized member of the delegation has voted and then later because the head of delegation votes as well. In a roll-call vote, it is the practice at conferences basically to trust that it is the head of delegation who says "yes" or "no." You are all sitting together. There is no risk of another member of the delegation voting in opposition to what the head of delegation would have wanted to vote. It is a pragmatic decision to go through the roll call without checking the proxy for each delegation called.

On the question of a government voting on behalf of a National Society or vice versa, you are absolutely correct. One delegation cannot delegate its vote to another delegation. Thank you very much for drawing this to our attention. We have checked it. In fact, it was a misunderstanding. Unfortunately, the delegate had stepped out of the room and came back into the room when his country's name was called and said "yes," not realizing that it was now a vote for his State. If there are any other delegations who have mistakenly voted on behalf of the State when they are a National Society or on behalf of a National Society when they are a State, please let us know now. You can either announce it publicly or let us know confidentially.

The last question is whether there is a monitoring system. We have, as you can see, volunteers all around the room who are looking to see if the delegation

called is actually the delegation speaking. This is also on the overhead screen, as you saw.

Again, if you saw your neighbour vote when they should have not been voting, let us know confidentially. Is this clear?

**H.E. Mr Elsadig Mustafa Osman Almagly, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Sudan, Geneva**

*(Original English)*

In fact, there is no clear response as far as the point of order is concerned. The concern is very clear. Have you checked whether those voting, first, are really the head of delegation, and whether they have proxy or not? This is very important. Next, the legal adviser is asking the floor to volunteer whether somebody has committed a mistake. I think this is illegal, because nobody, if he had made a mistake and voted twice, would volunteer that information. I can tell you that I voted twice and want to withdraw my vote. This is not a satisfactory clarification. I need more clarification based on legal or procedural grounds.

**H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Syria, Geneva**

*(Original Arabic)*

Mr Chairman,

I listened with great interest and concern to the explanations provided by the legal adviser. I was greatly astonished to hear what she said. Does the legal adviser wish to turn us into spies against each other in this distinguished forum? Is she asking the delegations to spy on each other in order to discover who voted in favour and who voted against? Are the delegations obliged to do this instead of the Bureau and the Secretariat? Should the Secretariat not have given some thought to this sensitive issue at such a crucial Conference? What credibility can be attached to the figures that we have heard and to the voting procedure that has been proposed to us when we see that those who voted in favour and those who abstained were equal in number to those who voted against? Where is the credibility in this matter?

We are attending an International Conference that is supposed to determine the future of the Statutes of the International Movement. We are no longer speaking of the Protocol here; we are concerned with an amendment to the Statutes of the International Movement. In other words, we are not within the 50/50 framework here. The Conference cannot

modify the Statutes of the International Movement by a majority of two or three votes. I invite you to look into this matter and to respond carefully to the observations made by delegations. We are no longer sceptical solely about this question. We are now basically sceptical about the legality of this Conference, as we said yesterday, and we confirm what we said. This Conference is illegal. The manner in which it is being conducted is illegal and the legal opinions that we hear from time to time have no credibility. The Secretariat needs to fulfil our expectations and treat delegations with respect. The intelligence of many delegations at this Conference should not be insulted. Is it reasonable to turn us into spies against each other? Is this the manner in which such an important Conference should be conducted?

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

I do not think that it has come to this. We have always acted in good faith. I find that some of the remarks from the floor are not acceptable. The United States has also asked to speak on a point of order. I will give the floor to the United States, then I will break for two or three minutes, and then I will give my ruling. We cannot proceed in this manner. We need to have respect for each other. This is not how we treat each other, with accusations. Everything has been done in good faith. We have monitors all around and this is the first time this has ever happened. One delegate made a mistake and voted twice; we have confessed and said that this was done, yes. We do not want to do anything behind anybody's back. We have been transparent with everybody right from the beginning. It is not acceptable to say that.

**Hon. John B. Bellinger, Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State, United States of America**

*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

It has become clear that I can be very brief in my remarks because I think that the delegates gathered here today - and it is now nearing midnight - have already provided their support for your efforts. Everybody here knows that you and those who are assisting you are trying their very best. The vote, by my tally, overwhelmingly rejected the amendments. They were not even close to being carried. They needed to have had the majority of the votes. Instead more than 70 per cent of the votes were against. The



suggestions that we need to check the cards of heads of delegation or check for "green dots" are completely inconsistent with normal international practice. None of us here who has participated in conferences goes into a roll-call vote insisting that each person present their credentials to prove who he or she are. I protest this effort to delay our sincere efforts to try to move ahead. I would simply vote that we support you in your efforts to move forward and to move onto the next item of business.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I am not going to open a debate on points of order. While we are waiting for the vote to come through, I will let speakers take the floor until I get the votes.

**H.E. Mr Masood Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

This is an unforgettable experience for me: a hall full of people applauding a wrong vote. All I have asked is about the status of the vote of Papua New Guinea. That was the only question that I asked and there is an answer to that question. The answer to the question whether you have a mechanism in place should have been "yes." As simple as that.

**H.E. Mr Elsadig Mustafa Osman Almagly, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Sudan, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

I have raised a point of order. I drew attention to Rule 18.3 of the Rules of Procedure.

*(Original Arabic)*

"If, during a discussion, a delegate raises a point of order, the discussion shall be suspended and the point of order decided immediately by the Chairman. A delegate raising a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion." I raised a point of order and this procedure is very clear. I quote once again: "If, during a discussion, a delegate raises a point of order, the discussion shall be suspended and the point of order decided immediately by the Chairman." This did not happen, Mr Chairman.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I will go now to the question that was asked again by Ambassador Khan regarding the extra votes, as we have one delegate who voted twice, once for his government and once for his National Society. Although we may have given the impression that we were counting that vote, it was not intended that way and the vote cast for the Government of Papua New Guinea has been deleted. We will only consider the vote for the National Society. That is one thing.

The question was asked whether we have a mechanism in place. Yes, we do. We have many people sitting and watching the room. We cannot base everything on distrust. This is not the way we work in the Red Cross, as the only interests of this Conference are the victims we are helping and the voices of the people who are waiting for us to lend a hand. Our mission is to alleviate suffering wherever it occurs. We are trying to do this, but not by squabbling over votes and who is sitting next to whom and what is happening. This is not the way we can go forward. We can only go forward by trusting each other, belonging to this Movement, showing that we are united. If one vote does not go the way we want, it does not matter. We held the vote in a very democratic way. Some lose, others win; but, at the end of the day, we are all winners because we have followed the Rules of Procedure. This is what should really rule the way we go forward. I hope that you accept this from me. I am now very grateful and pleased to give you the results of the vote.

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Sorry about the delay. We are just double-checking the votes, so that everybody is happy with the way this is done. We are checking the numbers twice, and three times, to make sure that we have the right numbers.

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#### **Results of the vote**

We have the results of the vote. The total number of delegations recorded as present and voting "yes" or "no" is 263. The majority is 132. We have recorded a vote of 72 "yeses" (in favour), 191 "noes" (against), and 44 abstentions. Therefore the proposed amendments to the draft resolution have not been adopted.

**H.E. Mr Wolfgang Petritsch, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Austria, Geneva, speaking on behalf of the European Union**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The European Union acknowledges the humanitarian concerns addressed in the amendments introduced by Pakistan and Tunisia and supported by the OIC.

Mr Chairman,

You asked the Ambassador of Norway, Mr Strommen, to hold consultations on the amendments to the draft resolution. The European Union commends Ambassador Strommen on his efforts. Unfortunately, in spite of Ambassador Strommen's valiant efforts, we were not able to agree on an amended text of the draft resolution that takes on board these additional humanitarian concerns. This explains why we voted against the amendments. Let us now devote all our energy to adopting the draft resolution, which – let me remind you – fully respects the Movement's principles and is entirely humanitarian in nature.

**H.E. Mr Blaise Godet, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Switzerland, Geneva**  
*(Original French)*

My delegation regrets that neither side showed the flexibility required to reach a consensus. We are therefore forced to make a choice we would have preferred to avoid. We have missed an opportunity to show public opinion that the Movement is humanitarian, even in difficult circumstances, and that it can stay above the fray, as Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey said she hoped it would in her statement yesterday. Switzerland, as the sponsor of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Operational Arrangements of 28 November 2005, cannot contest the applicability of the Geneva Conventions to the occupied Arab territories or that of Resolution 11 of the 1921 International Conference. In addition, the Confederation has always been opposed to having the Movement's deliberations dominated by political considerations. In the eyes of my delegation, it was not opportune for this Conference to take a stand on a specific conflict, given that its aim was to amend the Movement's Statutes following the adoption of Additional Protocol III last December. This is why the Swiss delegation abstained.

**H.E. Mrs Clemencia Forero Ucros, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Colombia, Geneva**  
*(Original Spanish)*

Colombia considers that the matters dealt with in this forum should be purely humanitarian in nature. It respects the reasoning underlying the proposal submitted by the Governments of Pakistan and Tunisia regarding amendments to the draft resolution of 9 June 2006. However, those amendments were brought to our knowledge only during this Conference, and we therefore did not have an opportunity to consult with our national authorities. This is why Colombia voted along the legal lines adopted by the previous International Conference.

## **B. Roll-call vote on the adoption of draft resolution 06/IC/04.1- REV2**

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Now that we have got the vote over with and have results, we have a draft resolution to take a position on. For the last time in this Conference, I would like to appeal to all of you here to try and accept this by consensus. Accepting by consensus means that after the voting is over you still have the right to state your views and that in the interest of reaching a consensus you are joining the rest of the Conference. First of all, then, before I proceed to a vote, I would like to ask you if you agree that we adopt the draft resolution as it is presented to you by consensus.

**H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Syria, Geneva**  
*(Original Arabic)*

I apologize to my colleagues in this hall for once again taking the floor.

Mr Chairman,

We appreciate your appeal for a consensus. However, I honestly and sincerely believe that this appeal has been made far too late. A consensus cannot come from a single party. A consensus requires real unanimity among all the delegations. I had hoped to hear such applause during the vote on the amendments proposed by Pakistan and Tunisia. I had truly hoped to hear such applause during the attempts to achieve the consensus to which we were all aspiring. At a Conference such as this, in which we are addressing the question of an amendment

to the Statutes of an international Movement that is over 100 years old, it is imperative to avoid an atmosphere such as that which has prevailed here. Although the International Federation might acquire one or two new member National Societies, it could, regrettably, lose its credibility in the field of the protection of international humanitarian law and might set a dangerous precedent that could deal a mortal blow to what the founding fathers of this law have built up in past decades.

The Movement would be the loser. There are no winners and no losers at this Conference. We are all losers. This is a fact. It is unreasonable to amend the Statutes of the Movement on the basis of a vote. In this regard, it is even more surprising that a grave mistake was made at the previous so-called Diplomatic Conference last December. While that mistake could be tolerated on the grounds that it related to the adoption of an additional protocol, the mistake that has been made, or is about to be made, today is unforgivable, since it relates to the amendment of the Movement's Statutes, a Movement whose credibility mankind has striven to establish and preserve. This distinguished Conference has in its hands a trust that we must all safeguard diligently. We must avoid dishonesty, polemics and theatrics designed to cover up the very serious mistakes that have been made since the beginning of this Conference.

Mr Chairman,

The proposal that we have just heard from the representative of the European Union not only fails to answer the major concerns of the OIC; it also fails to understand the Fundamental Principles on which the Movement is based. It is a proposal that in no way reflects the spirit that motivated the originators of the 1921 rule. For the last time, Mr Chairman, what is the problem in this regard? The problem is that no one can interpret the 1921 rule arbitrarily at his own convenience. This Conference cannot be tailored to suit a particular National Society, especially when we are aware that the National Society to which some wish to tailor this Conference is a National Society in a State that is not only violating humanitarian law and occupying the territory of others but, far from being content with the occupation of Arab territories, has even annexed them. This occupation and subsequent annexation of Arab territories is reminiscent of the Nazi occupation of the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia and the Danzig corridor in Poland during the Second World War.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Dr Al-Ja'afari, can I ask you please to state your views on the voting procedure, because others are asking for the floor.

**H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Syria, Geneva**  
*(Original Arabic)*

The proposals that we have heard concerning a vote on the alternative advocated by the distinguished representative of the European Union have come far too late after the extraordinary flexibility shown by the OIC, to which you can testify, Mr Chairman.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I would like to clarify one thing. We are not voting on what Austria is proposing. We are taking a vote on the draft document. Austria has stated the European Union position and what they would have liked to have seen, but that is not the case now. I want you to state your view on the proposed draft resolution as circulated in document 06/IC/04.1-REV2. Tell me whether or not you can join the consensus, then I will put it to the vote. I would be very grateful because it is very late now. It is getting too late and people need their sleep.

**H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Syria, Geneva**  
*(Original Arabic)*

We wish to put this proposal to a direct vote in the same way as the others did with the amendments proposed by the OIC. I trust that this vote will be by roll call.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

We have a proposal from the floor that we do the voting by roll call. Do I have the support of ten delegations? If you support the motion that we vote by roll call, I need to see ten nameplates. About the people who are raising their nameplates: does anybody claim that they are not sitting in the right place or that they are not the right people? Do we

agree that we conduct the vote within the context we have just explained ? We have a mechanism. Are you happy with the mechanism? Are you happy with the way we do it?

*(Applause)*

**H.E. Mr Masood Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan, Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

I have the feeling that you are starting to enjoy this Conference and are indulging in repartee. Let me tell you that this time the delegations are the right delegations at the right places.

*(Applause)*

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Good. Now that everybody is happy with the procedure and with the roll call, I have one appeal to make to the delegates. We cannot register your vote of “yes” or “no” unless it is heard loud and clear. Speak into the microphone and let us hear it. Then there will be a pause, and if anybody thinks that somebody is voting instead of someone else, let us know straight away. May I ask the tellers, the monitors who are going round the room, to make sure that everybody is following the right procedure.

**H.E. Mr Enrique A. Manalo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Philippines, Geneva**

*(Original English)*

I suggest, to avoid questions, that if we are voting as a government delegation, we raise the black sign. If we are voting as a National Society, we raise the red sign. That way everybody knows who is voting.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Thank you. When you speak into the microphone, please also raise the black or the red sign.

**Mr Frank Mohrhauer, Assistant Secretary-General of the Conference**

*(Original English)*

We will start again with D, and with the National Societies. We will start again with D for Denmark.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Now we have to explain what it means if you vote “yes,” and what it means if you vote “no.”

**Ms Elise Baudot, Legal Adviser, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**  
*(Original English)*

If your delegation is voting in favour of the adoption of the draft resolution amending the Movement’s Statutes (06/IC/04.1-REV2), as you received it, please state “yes” when your delegation’s name is called. If you are voting against the adoption of the proposed amendments to the Movement’s Statutes set out in document 06/IC/04.1-REV 2, please vote “no” when your delegation’s name is called. If you wish to abstain, please state clearly “we abstain” when your delegation’s name is called. To clarify, the vote concerns the resolution itself, which includes amendments to the Statutes. It is a vote on the entire resolution.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Before we proceed, is everybody clear about the way we are going to vote, or is there anybody in the room who does not understand?

**Mr Sione Taumoefolau, Secretary-General, Tonga Red Cross Society**

*(Original English)*

Could you repeat what is at issue? We are almost asleep.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Before we read it again, I will give the floor to Syria.

**H.E. Dr Bashar Al-Ja'afari, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Syria, Geneva**  
(Original French)

Mr Chairman,

I note that another serious mistake has been made. It is a procedural mistake, but nevertheless a serious one. I have just heard the legal adviser use the word "resolution" to refer to the document on which we are shortly to vote. We all know that the document is a draft resolution and not a resolution. I therefore ask you to check not only who votes "yes" and who votes "no," but also the *fetwa*, the consultative opinions, we occasionally hear.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original Arabic)

I apologize. It is now past midnight. Everyone is a little tired.

(Original English)  
Now we will proceed.

**H.E. Mr Murad Hamaina, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Geneva**  
(Original English)

I have a point of clarification on the voting process. Since we are voting to amend the Statutes of the Movement, which requires a two-thirds majority, will this draft resolution require two-thirds of the vote?

**H.E. Mr Masood Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan, Geneva**  
(Original English)

Mr Chairman,

I just want to point out that once you started the voting you should not have interrupted it. You had checked the mechanism. You had activated the mechanism and you were on to the first vote when the Chair himself interrupted the process. That is why we have problems.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

Thank you again. I wanted to make sure that everybody understood what was said by my assistants. I will say this again. Now we will proceed with a vote by roll call. I remind you once again that once the vote has commenced it cannot be interrupted, except for a point of order relating directly to the voting procedure. The question before you is whether we want to adopt draft resolution 06/IC/04.1-REV 2 as distributed to you. In accordance with Rule 20.5 of the Rules of Procedure, on the roll-call vote, each delegation will be individually called upon, in alphabetical order, to state its vote. If your delegation is voting in favour of the adoption of draft resolution 06/IC/04.1-REV 2, please say "yes" when your delegation's name is called, and speak into the microphone. If your delegation is voting against the adoption of the draft resolution as presented to you in document 06/IC/04.1-REV 2, please say "no" when your delegation's name is called. If you wish to abstain, please say clearly: "we abstain." I emphasize that you are only authorized to provide one of these three answers: "yes," "no" or "we abstain." In answer to the point raised by the delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, any amendments to the Statutes require a two-thirds majority of those taking part in the vote. The whole resolution therefore needs a two-thirds majority to pass. Please raise your nameplates, so that we can see whether a government or a National Society is voting. I thank you for your understanding and I now give the floor to Frank Mohrhauer to start the voting procedure.

**Mr Frank Mohrhauer, Assistant Secretary-General of the Conference**  
(Original English)

I start again with the National Societies and with the letter D in French alphabetical order.

**Votes of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on the adoption of draft resolution 06/IC/04.1-REV 2:**

**In favour:**

South Africa, Albania, Germany, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Republic of the), Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Korea (Republic of), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti,

Dominican Republic, Dominica, Egypt, El Salvador, Ecuador, Spain, Estonia, United States, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Cook Islands, India, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (The former Yugoslav Republic of), Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, New Zealand, Uganda, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Netherlands, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Chad, Czech Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe (136)

**Against:**

Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates, Guinea, Iran, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Qatar, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen (21)

**Abstentions:**

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Togo (6)

**H.E. Mr Sameh Shoukry, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Egypt, Geneva**  
(Original English)

Mr Chairman,

Can you verify the last three votes? No indication has been spoken into the microphone, since I did not hear one.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

Let me check. The last three votes were from Papua New Guinea, Paraguay and the Netherlands. I will ask Papua New Guinea to raise its nameplate again (yes), Paraguay (not here), the Netherlands (yes). Is the delegate from Egypt satisfied with this before we proceed?

**H.E. Mr Sameh Shoukry, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Egypt, Geneva**  
(Original English)

I am satisfied, Mr Chairman.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

Thank you. This ends the roll call of National Societies. I now call on Mr Dürr to call the roll of States.

**Mr Olivier Dürr, Assistant Secretary-General of the Conference**  
(Original French)

I am starting now, in the same order.

**Votes of the States on the adoption of draft resolution 06/IC/04.1-REV 2:**

**In favour:**

Albania, Germany, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Korea (Republic of), Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Spain, Estonia, United States, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Ireland, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (The former Yugoslav Republic of), Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, New Zealand, Oman, Paraguay, Netherlands, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, San Marino, Holy See, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Suriname, Tanzania, Czech Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay (99)

**Against:**

Afghanistan, South Africa, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Chad, Tunisia, Yemen (33)

**Abstentions:**

Azerbaijan, Belarus, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Congo (Republic of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Togo, Venezuela (12)

**Votes of the international components of the Movement on the adoption of draft resolution 06/IC/04.1- REV 2:**

**In favour:**

International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2)

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

May I ask the delegations to remain in their seats until we count the votes.

**Results of the vote**

The results of the votes are: the total number of delegations present and voting "yes" or "no" is 291. The two-thirds majority is 194. The number of votes in favour of the adoption of the draft resolution is 237. The number of votes against the adoption of the draft resolution is 54. There were 18 abstentions. The draft resolution is therefore adopted.

*(Loud applause)*

Thank you for your patience. I think we should have an eighth Principle: endurance. You have been so patient with us. I will now give the floor to a few speakers who have asked to explain their votes.

**H.E. Mr Burhan Gafoor, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Singapore, Geneva**

*(Original English)*

I know that the hour is late, but I have asked for the floor to explain our vote. Singapore supported the adoption of Additional Protocol III at the Diplomatic Conference in December 2005 on humanitarian grounds. Consistent with this position, we supported the resolution before this Conference,

which incorporates Additional Protocol III and the name of the additional protective emblem within the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and provides a framework for the admission and recognition of the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

Mr Chairman,

We would have preferred it if the resolution had been adopted by consensus. As members of the international community, we have a clear responsibility to facilitate humanitarian work. The resolution we have adopted today fulfils that responsibility. It will also help to strengthen the protective humanitarian role of the Geneva Conventions and contribute to the universal character of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

**H.E. Dr Mousa Burayzat, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Jordan, Geneva**  
*(Original Arabic)*

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to begin by expressing the Jordanian delegation's high esteem for the superb manner in which you have directed the work of this Conference. As a Jordanian Ambassador and a personal friend of yours, I feel proud to see a citizen of my country directing such an important and sensitive high-level conference in such an able, objective and impartial way while, at the same time, remaining totally faithful to the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, these lofty principles from which you have never departed at any moment during your chairmanship under the difficult conditions that we have faced in our arduous negotiations. I am well aware that the outcome achieved was not that to which you were aspiring in the interests of the humanitarian cause in which you believe. However, you have done everything that any human being could do to secure a consensus and maintain this Movement's unity while, at the same time, directing a distinctively democratic process. Although failing to achieve the first objective, namely maintenance of the Movement's unity, you succeeded in the second, and this remarkable achievement will always be remembered in your personal and professional record.

Mr Chairman,

The gap separating the conflicting views was far too wide for anyone to bridge and we in Jordan were unable to cross this gap, which we believe was made even wider because some, for one reason or another, felt that it was inappropriate to respond to the legitimate concerns of the Arab and Islamic States. Those concerns, in all honesty, related to the need to avoid exploiting the humanitarian situation in the occupied Arab territories in order to make political gains or to disregard legitimate political gains or circumstances for the sake of equally legitimate humanitarian considerations. Putting the ratified resolution into practical effect will have a direct impact on the legal status of the Arab territories occupied by Israel since June 1967, including East Jerusalem, because the Magen David Adom is operating in those territories as a *fait accompli* and in a manner contrary to Resolution 11 of the 1921 International Conference. This Conference's failure to take into consideration the consequences that acceptance of the Magen Adom David would have on the status of East Jerusalem and the illegal settlements on the West Bank and in the Golan was a source of concern to us and was the reason that prevented us from supporting the draft resolution and compelled us to vote against it. Regrettably, we have once again been unable to maintain the Movement's unity. However, we feel pride in the manner in which you have directed this international endeavour.

**H.E. Mr Samir Labidi, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Tunisia, Geneva, speaking on behalf of the Arab Group**  
(Original Arabic)

Mr Chairman,

I would like to begin by sincerely thanking you and all the members of the Bureau for your endeavours to ensure the success of this Conference. At this late hour, there are those who are applauding and those who imagine that there are victors and vanquished. We are all victors and we are all vanquished. The important thing, however, is that tomorrow morning the Movement should be united. We should all be united in furthering the lofty tasks that our Movement is pursuing.

I speak on behalf of the Arab Group. During the preparation of this Conference, we never sought

to politicize it. On the contrary, as you and many diplomatic delegations and National Societies can testify, until late this evening we made every endeavour to reach the consensus in which we all believe. We tried until 7 p.m. Tremendous progress was made and only one very small further step was needed. At all events, as I said, the important thing is for us to show resilience and continue our joint efforts to resolve this issue. I would like to remind you of my first intervention this evening, during which I said that your mission was to protect human dignity, which is the slogan to our right and our left. Do not forget, however, that human dignity requires increased protection in occupied territories.

**H.E. Mr Hasan Gögüs, Ambassador, Director-General of the Directorate General for Multilateral Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey**  
(Original English)

My delegation voted in favour of the resolution just adopted by the Conference on purely humanitarian grounds, given the importance we attach to the Movement's universality, and with the following observations and expectations. We listened carefully to the comprehensive and analytical monitoring report of Switzerland presented yesterday by Ambassador Pfirter. Apparently, despite considerable progress in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society, not all the commitments have been fulfilled. We also heard the statement of the representative of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, which drew our attention to the practical and legal shortcomings in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. We believe it is important that these shortcomings be addressed and expeditiously rectified. We also believe that construction of medical facilities undertaken by the ICRC in Majdal Shams should be expeditiously finalized. We have noted the commitment of Israel to facilitate implementation of the humanitarian arrangements. We welcome the affirmation of the United States to maintain and extend progress on the ground. It remains the collective responsibility of the ICRC, the International Federation and the States Parties to ensure that the Movement's principles are applied and international humanitarian law is respected. Finally, we would like to put on record that Turkey's well-known established policies vis-à-vis the Middle East conflict remain unchanged.



**H.E. Msgr Silvano Tomasi, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See, Geneva**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

I join the previous speaker in expressing appreciation for the excellent work done in conducting this Conference. The delegation of the Holy See is disappointed that in the space of six months we have had to vote twice in this forum, where consensus and cooperation were the tradition. The Holy See promotes the priority of humanitarian law and of the principles which should be the foundation of the Conference and guide the activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Therefore, in the light of the principle of universality, which is one of the pillars of the Movement, declared while explaining the Holy See supported the motion in favour of the additional emblem called the "red crystal." As the delegation of the Holy See declared, while explaining its vote, on the occasion of the adoption of Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions in December 2005, the "red crystal" must be used only in addition to, and not as a substitute for, the existing symbols. Finally, in the light of the principles of neutrality and universality and in line with the resolution adopted by this 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Holy See expresses support for the recognition and admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the creation of a framework which allows all National Societies to fulfil their humanitarian missions.

**H.E Mr Masood Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan, Geneva, speaking on behalf of the OIC**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

I thank you for your leadership, hard work, wisdom, patience and resilience. You were given a very difficult job, but you did it well, with resolve and determination. A special "Thank you" to Ambassador Strommen. He is an able and accomplished diplomat. He conducted negotiations in a transparent and impartial manner. He tried to explore common ground. We would also like to thank the United States delegation, particularly Mr Bellinger, who made several proposals behind the scenes and tried to foster consensus-building. Several European countries not only understood the rationale for all the amendments presented by Pakistan and Tunisia, they also tried to work on the basis of these amendments. These efforts had

the support of a large number of African and Latin American countries. In fact, yesterday evening the OIC and many European countries were on the same page, they in fact had a great text. It is a pity that that text could not constitute the basis for consensus for some delegations.

Mr Chairman,

The OIC showed flexibility to help win the day. Yesterday, we went from proposal to proposal to find common ground, but that was not possible. With many it was possible, with some it was not. Now we are where we are. The resolution has been adopted. After more than five decades we have closure on an issue which had kept the Movement divided. Today we thank all those States and National Societies from around the world who voted for the OIC amendments. On a personal note, I want to thank Mr Christopher Lamb of the International Federation and Mr François Bugnion of the ICRC, who worked hard with me for months and kept us informed of developments.

Mr Chairman,

We heard arguments against our amendments, but we are not convinced. The Geneva Conventions, the Movement's rules, particularly Resolution 11 of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of 1921, apply to all Arab territories. Admission of any National Society as a member of the Movement is contingent upon its respect for Resolution 11 of 1921. Because the resolution did not mention the geographical scope and competence of National Societies, we had to vote against it, with a heavy heart. We were looking for consensus, we ended with a vote. We did not masquerade our political difficulties or angers. We were candid and remained strictly within the limits of international humanitarian law.

At this point, I would like to echo the passionate appeal made by the Tunisian Ambassador, Samir Labidi, for all of us to unite. There are no winners or losers. The decision we have taken today is not the last decision. This is not the last Conference. We belong to the same family, to the same global community. Therefore, we reiterate our request that the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies should monitor the full implementation of the present resolution and that they should report on their own to the next International Conference.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent

Society was the central plan and the linchpin of this entire process. It should not be left a hollow shell. It should not be neglected. It should be given the respect that it deserves, it should be implemented faithfully. In that spirit, I have a proposal, and I would request you to give a considered response to the proposal that I am going to make. I think that this International Conference should request the depository State of the Geneva Conventions to report to the 30th International Conference on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements signed on 28 November 2005 by the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society, in close cooperation with the ICRC and the International Federation and in conformity with their mandates and competences.

**H.E. Mr Sérgio Abreu e Lima Florêncio, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Brazil, Geneva**  
(Original English)

Explanation after the vote: Brazil considers that international humanitarian law instruments should always be adopted by consensus. We were sincerely hoping that delegations could find a common agreement. We regret that it was not possible to reach such a consensus. Brazil decided to abstain with respect to the amendments by Pakistan and Tunisia, and decided to support the draft resolution of the Conference. On the amendments we recognize the inherent legitimacy of the arguments put forward by their sponsors, but it was not possible to analyse them fully. On the draft resolution, Brazil was prompted to vote in favour by the Movement's humanitarian goals and the principle of universality. As a result of the resolution adopted today, more National Societies will be able to take part in the Movement, leading to the improvement of the work on the ground for the benefit of all those who are most in need.

**H.E. Mr Itzhak Levanon, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Israel, Geneva**  
(Original English)

My delegation considers the vote this evening to be a milestone that paves the way to resolving an anomaly that has troubled the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for decades, enabling the Magen David Adom to become a full member of the Movement alongside the Palestine Red Crescent Society. At this historic moment, we

recall the founder of the Movement, Henry Dunant, who was a great humanitarian and a proud supporter of the right of the Jewish people to establish their homeland in Israel. We believe he would have been proud of his Movement tonight.

Mr Chairman,

This is the time to express our profound thanks to you and your colleagues for the way you have conducted our deliberations, to Dr Kellenberger of the ICRC, to Mr François Bugnion, to Mr Christopher Lamb from the International Federation, to the Government of Switzerland, to the many States and National Societies gathered here tonight, to Norway's Ambassador Strommen, and to the many other individuals who helped make this achievement possible.

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
(Original English)

I have several more speakers on the list. I hope that we can close the list now because otherwise we will be going into the very early hours of the morning. I therefore ask the remaining speakers not to go over two or three minutes.

**H.E. Mr Sameh Shoukry, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Egypt, Geneva**  
(Original Arabic)

I deeply regret this Conference's failure to affirm legal principles directly relating to the rules of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This in itself constitutes a triumph for political considerations over the Fundamental Principles, which are supposed to govern international humanitarian activities, and ultimately thwarts achievement of the objectives to which we all aspire. The OIC showed the maximum degree of flexibility in its attempts to reach a consensus and accepted alternative texts that enjoyed wide support in this hall. We take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to all those who diligently tried to reconcile differing viewpoints in order to achieve a consensus. Egypt voted against the resolution put before this Conference because it could not participate in any attempt to detract from international law and the rules of the Movement. An attempt to reach a just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East cannot justify refusal to acknowledge a recognized legal fact. Egypt attaches

great importance to the neutral emblem in the service of international humanitarian activities and hopes that the legal and practical requirements for its universality will be met.

**H.E. Mr Antoine Mindua Kesia-Mbe, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Geneva**

*(Original French)*

My delegation deeply regrets the fact that the Conference was unable to reach a consensus. My delegation followed the bidding of the OIC and wanted to conform to international humanitarian law, in particular Resolution 11 of 1921. However, since the amendments were rejected, my delegation finally voted in favour of draft resolution 06/IC/04.1-REV 2, in the hope that the adoption of Additional Protocol III would enable the Israeli, Palestinian and Syrian relief societies to strengthen contact and smooth over the differences between them, for the good of the people benefiting from their humanitarian work.

**Mr Diego Ibarra, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Geneva**

*(Original Spanish)*

The delegation of the Government of Venezuela wishes to explain why it abstained in the vote on the resolution just adopted. Venezuela considered that the amendments submitted by the delegations of Pakistan and Tunisia on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference were relevant, in particular the references to Resolution 11 adopted by the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference in 1921 and its applicability to the occupied Arab territories. It wishes to express its disappointment at the Conference's inability to adopt such an important resolution by consensus, allowing non-humanitarian concerns to influence its deliberations. Lastly, my Government underscores the need for continued dialogue between the Israeli, Palestinian and Syrian National Societies and for the authorities of both the State of Israel and the International Committee of the Red Cross to comply fully with the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements signed by the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

**Dr Ibrahim Tahir, President, Nigerian Red Cross Society**

*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

We would not have spoken but for the compelling urge to note a few things. First and foremost, we have learned a lesson from you, from the very grand people in the Bureau and from Switzerland, the European Union, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation. We have learned a lesson in determination, in responsible conduct, in the pursuit of the main goals and in the determination not to be sidetracked by very powerful and very strong currents of whatever nature. We are proud to have participated with you in bringing about the passage of the resolution because we believe that it makes the humanitarian Movement more hopeful, more complete and more truly representative of our world.

We want to tell you that in December the Government of our country was unable to vote for this particular resolution. It abstained, being an OIC country and an OPEC nation. We are glad to tell you that, on this occasion, both the Nigerian Red Cross Society and the Federal Government of Nigeria voted for the resolution. We voted against the amendments because we believed that the passage from 1967 to this particular occasion teaches us many object lessons. The Ambassador of Pakistan suggests that the 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference hear about progress on implementation of the resolution and its annexes. We believe that the people from the OIC nations, of which Nigeria is one, who made very, very powerful speeches here, not only had the right to do so but also served a very useful purpose, making us aware that the humanitarian mission is far from being completely embraced in total faithfulness everywhere. We again want to say that we hope and pray that the two sides in the matter before us will continue to embrace each other in the manner reported, and then, hopefully, the situation will be what everybody desires. We thank you very much. We are grateful that you are going to end this tonight. That is wonderful because it is generous to allow us to sleep and really rest after this heavy experience.

**H.E. Mr Blaise Godet, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Switzerland, Geneva**

*(Original French)*

The statement by the head of the State delegation of Pakistan prompts me to add a clarification. Switzerland has requested no mandate and in no way wishes to institutionalize, much less perpetuate, its work to monitor implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Agreement on Operational Arrangements signed on 28 November 2005. We simply wish to honour the pledge we made to the two National Societies before the Conference of last December. At the time, we told them that we were willing, if needed, to monitor implementation beyond this Conference. My country therefore remains at the disposal of both National Societies, if they wish, in their endeavours to draw closer and cooperate. In this spirit, we stand ready to present a report, as Ambassador Pfirter did yesterday, to the next International Conference, should this Conference so decide.

**H.E. Mr Phillip Owade, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Kenya, Geneva**

*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

This is the first and last time we take the floor. We wish to thank you and commend you for the manner in which you have conducted these proceedings over the last two days. You have done so in a transparent, impartial and very fair manner.

Mr Chairman,

As this delegation pointed out at the conclusion of the Diplomatic Conference last December, Kenya attaches great importance to the humanitarian work of the Movement in providing invaluable assistance to those in need, the victims of conflict situations. We approached this meeting with the hope that we would reach agreement by consensus, in compliance with two of the Movement's principles, namely unity and universality. It is of vital importance that any decisions that we make are reached through a process of consultation so as to ensure effective implementation on the ground. We must always endeavour to avoid creating an atmosphere of division and confrontation, especially in this very volatile region.

Mr Chairman,

My delegation did not participate directly in the lengthy and protracted informal negotiations. We understood that we were very close to an agreement at one stage or another. Unfortunately, all key players willing to exercise their might needed flexibility. We want to emphasize that the spirit of multilateralism must always be characterized by flexibility and compromise. This is the only way, in our view, that we can strengthen international humanitarian law. In this regard, Mr Chairman, we recognize that under your able leadership and that of Ambassador Strommen and the Swiss delegation, serious attempts were made this time around to reach a consensus. It is truly regrettable that this was not possible. We are seriously concerned and truly regret that any decision made through any means other than consensus may not gain the support of all National Societies on the ground. Yet their support is critical to the success of our decisions. It is for these reasons that the Kenyan delegation abstained on the vote on the draft amendments proposed by the OIC. We nevertheless voted in support of the draft resolution, in the hope and expectation that its implementation would be supported by the various National Societies. There must be no losers or winners in matters of humanitarian law and humanitarian assistance.

**Hon. John B. Bellinger, Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State, United States of America**

*(Original English)*

I will try to be quick, but I want to say a number of words of thanks for those who have worked so hard for this historic day, because this is an occasion that many have been working towards for more than a decade and it has taken an enormous amount of very hard work. Let me say "Thank you" to you in particular, Mr Chairman. You have been an extraordinarily effective Chairman and have run a fair Conference, listening to all with humour and good naturedly. You were a wonderful choice for people from all parts of the world to be the Chairman of this Conference and I want to thank you for that. It has been my personal pleasure to work with you, not only in your professional capacity, but as a person.

You have been assisted by an outstanding Bureau. I particularly want to salute Ambassador Martabit, who worked extremely hard to find a consensus, and Ambassador Strommen, who worked once again all through yesterday, last night and this morning to try to find a middle ground. We were very close, and I am disappointed that we could not reach a consensus.

While the United States Government is very pleased that on this historic day we will be making the necessary statutory changes to allow National Societies to welcome both the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society, I am disappointed that we could not reach a final consensus in doing so. I also want to thank the International Committee of the Red Cross for its hard work, President Kellenberger for his hard work over many years, the International Federation, the Swiss Government for its hard work both in the last Diplomatic Conference and in this International Conference, and Ambassador Pfirter for his diligent review work and the excellent report that he provided earlier today. And, finally, I want to thank Ambassador Khan. I thank him personally for his comments. He worked constructively and diligently to try to reach a consensus. We worked well together, both personally and in our representative capacities. We in this room owe him our thanks for his hard work on behalf of the OIC.

Let me end where I began with my remarks yesterday, which is to emphasize again the humanitarian purpose that we all have today. It is my great pleasure to be not only with the governments but with the National Societies who feel so dedicated to the humanitarian work that they do. They are wonderful men and women who are extraordinarily committed to improving the lives of people affected by armed conflicts and natural disasters and I salute you for all of your hard work. Thank you for putting up with the rest of us as we work through these difficult issues. We have appreciated your support. It will make a significant difference to the people on the ground in an extremely difficult area for these two National Societies to be admitted, and that is why we had a humanitarian purpose. We have come through, and this will really make a difference for the people on the ground. Thank you all very much. It has been important for the United States Government to be able to be part of this process.

**H.R.H. Princess Margriet, Vice-President of the Netherlands Red Cross**  
*(Original English)*

Mr Chairman,

I know it is late and I will be brief. From the bottom of my heart, I want to express my warmest thanks and those of the National Societies. I dare to join our Nigerian colleague in congratulating and thanking you. Thank you for your leadership, thank you for your perseverance and thank you for your good humour in taking us through to this conclusion. I agree with the Tunisian Ambassador that we should now join forces

again and return to normal work with renewed vigour. As I said, nearly 18 hours ago, it is our strength that we can build a different home abroad, provide a range of contributions. It will make our Movement stronger to welcome our two new sister National Societies.

**H.E Dr Mohammad Abu-Koash , Ambassador,  
Permanent Observer, Permanent Observer Mission of  
Palestine, Geneva**  
*(Original Arabic)*

Mr Chairman,

The Palestinian delegation would like to begin by expressing its deep gratitude and high esteem for your wisdom and patience in directing the work of this Conference. Our delegation had hoped that the Movement's Statutes could be amended by consensus. Unfortunately, although we showed considerable flexibility, this did not prove possible, owing to the opposition of a few parties.

Mr Chairman,

When the delegations of Palestine, the sister State of Syria, the other States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and friendly States supporting Arab rights take the floor, they do so only to speak in favour of justice and the implementation of international humanitarian law and the rules of the Movement. We in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon are suffering from occupation, as many of you have also suffered. We are grateful to you for your kind attention and understanding. Even while we are speaking today, Palestinians are being victimized.

Mr Chairman,

What we are seeking is peace in our region so that all its peoples can live in freedom, security and prosperity. We wish to thank you for agreeing to admit the Palestine Red Crescent Society to the Movement, since it meets the conditions of membership and fulfils the obligations arising therefrom.

Mr Chairman,

In keeping with the Movement's unity and its concern for all the occupied Arab territories, I wish to emphasize that concern should not be shown solely for the occupied Palestinian territory and the undertakings given to implement the agreements pertaining thereto. We trust that this Conference and the Movement will also show concern for

the implementation of all the undertakings given concerning the other occupied Arab territories and, in particular, occupied Syrian territory. The Palestinian delegation expresses the hope that although, today, we are observers at this Conference, the day will come when we will be full members. We also hope that the request of the Ambassador of Pakistan, the Chairman of our Group, for continued monitoring and implementation of the agreement signed between the Israeli National Society and the Palestinian Society will be approved. In this regard, we wish to express our deep gratitude to the depositary State, Switzerland, for the efforts that it has made in the monitoring and implementation process. Finally, we wish to thank all the parties that cooperated with us

and endeavoured to achieve a consensus. Although this consensus was unfortunately not achieved, we nevertheless appreciate their endeavours. In conclusion, the Palestinian delegation cannot but express its pride in the fact that this Conference has an Arab Chairman. Our thanks are also due to Mr Strommen, the Ambassador of Norway, for his efforts. You will certainly agree with me, Mr Chairman, that there is another distinguished Ambassador who made extraordinary efforts and did his utmost to ensure that our work at this Conference proceeded in a calm, orderly, professional and highly diplomatic manner; for this, the Palestinian delegation is most grateful to Ambassador Khan, head of the OIC delegation.

## 4.8

# DATE AND VENUE OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We come now to item 5 of the agenda, having just closed item 4. We are coming to the end of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference. The Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent met last Sunday, here in Geneva, on 18 June and decided that our next meeting, the 30<sup>th</sup> International

Conference, would open on 25 November 2007 in Geneva. Please mark this down in your diaries. The 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference will open on 25 November 2007. Preparations for that Conference will commence immediately. We will, as in the past, seek to cooperate with National Societies and with governments in establishing the themes and main items to be discussed at that Conference. The date and place have thus been confirmed under item 5 of the agenda.





## 4.9 CLOSING CEREMONY

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I go now to item 6 of the agenda: Closure of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference. I will be reading a statement, after which the Conference will be closed. However, both the President of the ICRC and the President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have asked for the floor after we close the Conference. Whatever they say will not be discussed or debated; they just want to provide some information. I therefore beg you to remain in your seats after I finish.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent is coming to an end. I want to sincerely thank all delegations from the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, from the States party to the Geneva Conventions, from the ICRC and from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for their constructive and active engagement during these past two days. In the general debate we heard 41 statements by States and National Societies, some speaking on behalf of regions or groups. I was impressed by the solid support expressed for the work of the Movement, its Fundamental Principles and its humanitarian mission, in particular by our government partners. This is an important message for us in the Movement. We are humbled by that support, but also realize that we must remain credible and trustworthy, and preserve the unity of our Movement.

The Conference met under the theme of "Protecting human dignity." It demonstrated its willingness to listen to and to take account of all views and all arguments in striving for a conclusion acceptable to all, in full compliance with this theme. We heard many and diverse views on the matters before us, but in a spirit of genuine endeavour to reach a consensus. I am saddened by the fact that in the end that consensus was not reached and that our objectives had to be achieved by a vote. Despite this, I am confident that we, as a Movement, will remain united by our Fundamental Principles, by our mission and by the values that guide our work. We had to take a decision

and we had two options for doing so: by consensus or by vote. We reached the expected outcome in a democratic, respectful and transparent fashion, creating the conditions that will allow the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom to become full members of our Movement, on an equal footing with all other National Societies.

This Conference sends strong messages of dialogue and understanding to all people in the region. It is indeed a great pleasure for me and for the Movement as a whole to finally welcome these two new National Societies into our Movement. With the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society as full members, with their committed and courageous leadership and the support of their equally committed volunteers, the Movement is stronger than before. The principle of universality has today been achieved, after a long wait. Further, the additional emblem will enhance protection and improve the possibilities for access to victims in need of assistance where the present emblems are not perceived as providing sufficient protection.

This is the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference. Its ultimate task is to consider humanitarian issues of concern to all its members, to States as well as to National Societies. As a Movement we will never turn away from humanitarian needs and from suffering. Wherever they may be found, you will find us there. When it comes to human suffering, we are never neutral, we are on the side of the victims. Our ultimate aim is, and will remain, to bring assistance wherever it is needed, no matter what the root causes. However, in this forum we need to resolve all the underlying problems that create the need for our action, especially in situations of war and conflict. We acknowledge that the suffering of millions of people is still to a large extent man-made, that humanitarian action can never make up for the inability of people and institutions to resolve the differences that cause unrest and conflict. This Conference sends an urgent appeal to those international forums that have been established, notably within the framework of the United Nations, to seriously, and as a matter of urgency, find resolutions to the wars and conflicts around us. We appeal to all parties, especially regarding the

conflicts in the Middle East, about which we heard relevant and serious concerns. As a person from that region, my heart goes out to its people. I suffer with them as they struggle to protect their human dignity and their most basic rights to security and a life in peace. I am committed to conveying this message to those who are responsible for enabling them to find a much-needed solution, so that they can live full lives in a secure and dignified environment.

I thank you for your cooperation, for your efforts and for your commitment to the Movement. I would like to thank all of you for making my job easier. I am also grateful to the Bureau. Their wisdom and guidance helped me to see this Conference through to the end and to make it a success. I would like in particular to thank the two Vice-Chairmen, Ambassador Mariabit and my dear friend, Ambassador Strommen, who tried really hard to help us reach a consensus. I wish to express special thanks to the representatives of the ICRC and the International Federation, and special thanks to Dr Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero for his steadfast support throughout the Conference. I

would like to thank the Secretary-General, Christoph Bubb, the two Assistant Secretaries-General, Frank Mohrhauer and Olivier Dürr, and everybody else, including Helena Korhonen, the head of the Standing Commission Secretariat. We must not forget to say a big “Thank you” to the volunteers, the staff, the interpreters and the translators, who made our lives much easier. I want to thank you all and wish you sweet dreams. We have solved a long-standing problem. The emblem question is over now. We are now better able to take care of the victims.

*(Loud applause)*

I declare the Conference closed and give the floor to Dr Jakob Kellenberger and then to Dr Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero.

*The Conference closed on 22 June 2007 at around 1 a.m.*

## 4.10

# RECOGNITION AND ADMISSION OF THE PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY AND OF THE MAGEN DAVID ADOM IN ISRAEL

**Address by Dr Jakob Kellenberger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross**  
*(Original English)*

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ICRC warmly welcomes the adoption of this resolution. As you know, the Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society submitted official requests for recognition and admission several weeks ago. The ICRC Assembly examined those requests and the accompanying documents and authorized me to announce the recognition of the two National Societies, provided the Conference adopted the resolution amending the Statutes of the Movement and creating the framework for the recognition of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. This has now been done. I therefore have the great pleasure to announce the recognition of the Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society, and I convey my sincere congratulations to both National Societies.

*(Loud applause)*

This is a great day for the Movement, the ICRC, my colleagues here, and me, personally. The Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society, which have long demonstrated their humanitarian commitment, deserve our full support. The recognition of these two National Societies as members of our Movement is a major step in this direction. I would like to reassure you that the ICRC will continue to support them unreservedly.

**Address by Mr Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**  
*(Original Spanish)*

Mr Chairman, Mr President of the ICRC, Dear Friends, Distinguished Delegates,

I wish to acknowledge the ICRC's notification of recognition and tell all of you that the Governing

Board of the International Federation has given me the authority to admit the two National Societies provisionally. It is therefore my solemn honour and pleasure to inform all of you of the provisional admission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom into the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

It now falls to the General Assembly of the International Federation to finalize the incorporation of these two new National Societies. I take this opportunity to tell you that, following consultations, we have decided that about twenty minutes after this moving moment has ended, we will re-open the session of the General Assembly, with a view to taking this long-awaited step. I wish to welcome the new members formally. We will have to work just a little bit longer tonight, but I think it is worth it. I think this is a truly signal event that provides fresh opportunities to meet the aspiration for humanitarian solidarity of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. I do not forget that the process to get this far required intense debate, but it has finally been completed, and I note that the overriding importance of our Fundamental Principles and of the norms of international humanitarian law has prevailed over all the other points of views quite legitimately expressed.

Allow me to say, however, that it is now up to all of us henceforth to demonstrate, by our acts, that this Conference took the most appropriate decision. I say this after having experienced some moments of tension. Once the Assembly has given its approval, we will once again breathe in the spirit of unity and universality that characterizes our Movement.

On behalf of the International Federation, I would like to express our gratitude to the distinguished representatives of the States and governments present here, for their indispensable support in what we consider a crucial moment in the history of our world organization. Many thanks, ladies and gentlemen; you have once again shown that your countries' support is vital for the development of our International Movement's work.

I would also like to congratulate and thank the Chairman of the Conference, all his colleagues and the many people who have worked and cooperated for years to make today's achievement a reality. Since joining the Movement, I have met many people committed to the effort to accomplish what we are experiencing today. I think that the admission of these two new National Societies will have an immediate impact on the capacity to bring humanitarian assistance to those who most need it. I am also hopeful that it will contribute to renewed co-existence in the Middle East. I wish to ask the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom, specifically, to spare no effort in this endeavour on the part of our Movement.

Dear Friends,

I think that today we can all feel satisfaction at having agreed once again that co-existence is possible and to continue working for a better future for all.

*(Applause)*

**Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Conference**  
*(Original English)*

I would like to thank both Dr Kellenberger and Dr del Toro, and welcome the two National Societies, the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom, on behalf of the Conference. You are most welcome in our Movement. Thank you, everybody, and have a safe journey home.

## 4.11 LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED

Provisional agenda and programme of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference (06/IC/00), adopted by the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Geneva, 19 June 2006 - Resolution 1)

Proposal of persons to fill posts at the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (06/IC/02), endorsed by the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Geneva, 19 June 2006 – Resolution 2)

Report: *[Follow-up to Resolution 3 on the emblem of the 28<sup>th</sup> International Conference (held in 2003), prepared by the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent]* (06/IC/03)

Background paper for the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (06/IC/04.1 - 3 May 2006)

Proposed amendments to the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (06/IC/04.2 - 16 December 2005)

Draft resolution (06/IC/04.1-REV2), prepared jointly by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Amendments to the draft resolution of 9 June 2006 (06/IC/04.1-REV1), proposed by the Governments of Pakistan and Tunisia

*Legal position on the question of whether the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement can be amended before Additional Protocol III has entered into force* (Geneva, 20 June 2006, see page 87)

*Legal position of the Arab Group and the Organization of the Islamic Conference relative to the item on the amendment of the Statutes of the Movement* (Geneva, 21 June 2006, see page 88)

Information note for the members, observers and guests of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent:

- Summary information on the Statutes and Rules of Procedures of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
- Other organizational matters



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