

**The Standing Commission
of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

SC XVI – 7th meeting

**10-11 February 2014
Divonne, France**

DECISIONS

Decision 1 (Opening of the meeting):

The Chairman noted that Ms Victoria Gardner would replace Ms Charlotta Relander as the support person for the ICRC during this meeting. He also noted that the portions of the meeting concerning the review of the 2013 Council of Delegates and preparations for the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent would be attended by Ambassador Nicolas Lang of Switzerland, who has been appointed Commissioner for the next Conference. Finally, he noted that this meeting would be the last one for the current Secretary General of the International Federation, Mr. Bekele Geleta, and thanked him for his contribution and announced the formal farewell would be said at the dinner scheduled for the same evening.

Decision 2 (Agenda):

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

Decision 3 (Minutes):

Two minor edits in the draft minutes of meeting SC XVI- 6:

- Under item 5, decision 5 – intrinsically valuable “metal” replaces “medal”
- Item 8 – delete second paragraph

Decision 4 (Review of decision sheet):

As there were no comments the Decision Sheet from Meeting SC XVI- 6 was approved as circulated.

Decision 5 (Review of the Council of Delegates 2013):

The Standing Commission heard from the ICRC and the International Federation, about the evaluation undertaken by the International Federation, which is based on 50 interviews and over 200 questionnaires. Both institutions indicated that the Council of Delegates had been a success.

The joint opening ceremony was a good start – celebratory and without extravagance. The panel discussion was deemed a success despite the difficult process of inviting guests. The 9 workshops, an important part of the Council, were well attended and went well. Among aspects which could benefit from improvement were better visibility for the media and also for the general public – and making the workshops more fluid and less formal, without compromising on the quality of the background material or the debates.

It was agreed that the ideas contained in the report of the Working Group on Movement Fora should be implemented and built on by the Standing Commission.

Youth delegates' participation was impressive and many of them took the floor on behalf of their Societies. This might be an indication of better integration between the new and older generations.

It was agreed that youth participation will be further promoted in the future, preferably as a regular part of the preparatory process.

It was decided that the next Henry Dunant Medal Ceremony should be more elaborate, feature all the Members of the Standing Commission, and include more and stronger visual elements.

Decision 6 (Strategy for the Movement):

The Standing Commission discussed the nature of the Strategy it wishes to propose to the Council of Delegates in 2015, and agreed this should be structurally simple and emphasize directions rather than specify actions, and it should be closely aligned with other priorities of the Movement.

The Standing Commission agreed to a proposal that, as a first step, further consultations with the two Societies that had the most vocal observations on the question of a new Strategy for the Movement should be organised.

Following this a new draft will be produced in close consultation with ICRC and the International Federation, and circulated as early as possible to National Societies for comment and feedback.

Decision 7 (Movement Fora):

The Standing Commission decided to establish a small advisory group to be chaired by the Vice Chairman of the Standing Commission, Mr Steve Carr, to continue the work of the Working Group on Movement Fora, to liaise closely with the Joint Organising Committee and to advise the Standing Commission in relation to the preparations for the 32nd International Conference. The Commission invited Dr Massimo Barra, Member of the Standing Commission, to join the group and decided to invite three National Society Representatives as well as representatives of the ICRC and the International Federation, and Ambassador Lang in his capacity of Commissioner.

Decision 8 (Strengthening Movement coordination and cooperation):

The Standing Commission was briefed on the process between ICRC and the International Federation aiming to improve co-ordination and co-operation within the Movement, and asked to be kept updated on progress.

Decision 9 (Standing Commission Plan of action 2014 – 2015):

The Plan of Action was adopted as circulated, with the addition of an item relating to the work required to further the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between Palestine Red Crescent Society and Magen David Adom in Israel.

Decision 10 (Finance – accounts 2013):

The Standing Commission approved the provisional accounts for 2013 and asked for the final version to be circulated when the final adjustments have been made.

Decision 11 (Finance – budget 2014 – 2015)

The budget was approved as proposed, with the exception of the proposal to increase the reserves available to approximately three months average expenditure. The Secretariat was asked to provide a revised budget for 2015 at the meeting of the Commission planned for June so that any request for an increased contribution can be taken into account in the budgeting in ICRC and the International Federation.

Decision 12 (Preparations of the 32nd International Conference):

After a wide-ranging discussion, the Commission agreed that the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Movement's Fundamental Principles must be given ample space at the next IC. It decided to express this through choosing, as an overarching theme for the Conference, "Principled Humanitarian Action". While it was too early to discuss specific elements of the agenda, it must be an agenda that is meaningful to all members of the Conference, as well as to the wider humanitarian audience. The Commission also determined that the agenda of the International Conference should be more focused. More attention must be given to ensuring that the Conference resolutions and other outcomes are presented in a manner more suitable for media and wider Movement use at the end of the Conference.

The Commission emphasised the importance of improving the "choreography" and organisation of the Conference to make it a more attractive *event* while retaining its important role as a leading forum for international humanitarian debate. It also stressed its wish to be more open, both to the media and in terms of visibility to the general public.

Efforts will be made to involve National Societies earlier in the preparatory process than has been the case in the past. Options for the more active involvement of other humanitarian actors will be explored. With regard to consultations with States there will be a dual approach of establishing a "Group of Ambassadors" or similar, as was the case for previous International Conferences, combined with regular open-ended briefings for Permanent Missions in Geneva. The first such will take place in the spring 2014.

A task force drawn from among its members, National Societies, and representatives of the ICRC and the International Federation was set up to further discuss the necessary changes and draw up the new concept.

The Commission agreed that it will be beneficial to invest more in an interactive Conference website (<http://www.rcrcconference.org>) and also to explore the scope for further improvements in the Pledge mechanism.

The 32nd International Conference will be of three day's duration.

Decision 13 (50th Anniversary of the Henry Dunant Medal update):

The Standing Commission agreed to pursue options for marking the 50th anniversary but stipulated that no significant costs ought to be incurred by the Commission beyond what is budgeted for.

Decision 14 (Fundamental Principles – 50th anniversary):

The discussion of the 50th Anniversary of the Fundamental Principles was incorporated in the discussion about preparations for the 32nd International Conference and conclusions are reflected under that item.

Decision 15 (Memorandum of Understanding between PRCS and MDA):

The Standing Commission reaffirmed the decision, taken at its meeting in Sydney in November 2013, regarding its role in the continuation of the monitoring of the implementation of the MoU, and decided that the former Independent Monitor and Member of the Standing Commission, Min (Hon) Pär Stenbäck, and Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Member of the Standing Commission, have the responsibility of the monitoring process and work closely with the ICRC's Head of Delegation in his role of chairing regular meetings, at a senior level, between the National Societies concerned, Magen David Adom in Israel and Palestine Red Crescent Society, on behalf of the Standing Commission. Min Stenbäck and Dr Al-Hadid were asked to visit the region during the spring of 2014 to help start the process, and to follow up with other visits as needed, and assist in preparing report for the 32nd International Conference.

Decision 16 (Situation in the Nicaraguan Red Cross):

The Standing Commission received a briefing from the International Federation on the situation in the Nicaraguan Red Cross and the efforts underway to achieve a resolution of the disagreements that weaken the organisation. The Commission asked to be kept informed of any new developments there.

Decision 17 (Changes underway in ICRC and the International Federation):

The Standing Commission was briefed in a closed session by Presidents *Peter Maurer* and *Tadateru Konoe*.

Decision 18 (Next meetings):

The Standing Commission decided to meet

- In Florence on the occasion of the European Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference. An informal dinner will be organised in the evening of 2 June, while the meeting will take place all day on 3 June.
- In Geneva on the occasion of the meeting of the Governing Board of the International Federation in November. The informal dinner will take 16th November and the meeting will take place 17-18 November.