



From the Chair

When one year ends and another begins, it's time to take stock and plan for the future.

First, a look back. In response to a changing world and the new challenges facing us, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement needs a common strategic direction. That's why the Movement Vision was adopted at the last Council of Delegates. It was based on the solid foundation of our Fundamental Principles and international humanitarian law, and may perhaps be summed up by these lines used at the time:

- *Responding to growing needs*
- *A champion of humanity through the power of its deeds*

As we all know, the gap between those who need our help and those who get it sadly continues to widen. But we continue to work hard to respond to the growing needs and to prove our worth as a Movement through the power of our deeds.

And let us look forward. To remain relevant, we need to understand what the world will be like in the future, how

changes will affect people and how we should respond as humanitarians. This is why we at the Standing Commission have started to explore these areas through brainstorming sessions and research. Our aim is to narrow down the important issues for us to discuss at the Red Cross Red Crescent Forum (RC² forum) (see below) and at the Council of Delegates in November 2017. All this will help us prepare for the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2019, where we shall together define the humanitarian agenda for the future.

Finally, as we build on the past to shape the future, let us strive to implement the resolutions that we took at the Council of Delegates and the International Conference a little over a year ago. In essence, the resolutions were based on our humanitarian values, and aim to increase the impact of our humanitarian action on the ground. We all adopted the resolutions, now we need to put them into effect.

Let us continue to be a champion of humanity through the power of our deeds.

We wish you all the very best in 2017!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eva von Oelreich', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eva von Oelreich
Chair

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES 2017

The Council of Delegates will be held on 10 and 11 November 2017 in Turkey. It was originally planned to take place in Istanbul, but the Turkish Red Crescent Society proposed that the venue be moved to Antalya. The Standing Commission has agreed to this.

One of the main topics suggested for this Council of Delegates centres on significant future challenges to humanitarian work. There will be discussions on these challenges to explore ways to meet them in an increasingly volatile environment. Some are already unfolding before our eyes, such as digital disruption and large-scale population movements. The other two proposed themes currently are: “Working as a Movement to better anticipate and respond to crises” and “Major humanitarian issues of today”.

A concept note for the Council of Delegates has just been sent to all the National Societies. It is meant to set out a more interactive way to seek input from them on both the substance and the format of the upcoming Council. The Standing Commission is counting on the active participation of National Societies in this first step of the consultation process to make the Council a true and meaningful forum for the Movement. More concrete discussions on important issues will be held in the formal sessions, while explorative exchanges on selected topics will take place in a less structured and informal setting. Further consultations will include a series of preparatory discussion sessions in process-oriented and topical webinars.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FORUM (RC² FORUM)

Following the success of the Humanitarian Dialogue that took place during the 32nd International Conference, there will be a similar event for in-depth discussion at the Council of Delegates. It will take place on 9 November and at the moment is called the Red Cross Red Crescent Forum (RC² forum).

It will be an all-day event dedicated to free-flowing discussion on likely problems and trends in tomorrow's world, understanding their impact on people and preparing the Movement's response. The forum will be distinct from the Council on account of its informality and openness to wider participation – individuals from humanitarian organizations, universities, States Parties and private sector will be invited. Participants are expected to learn from each other, share experiences, network and discuss in diverse groups – in short, to inspire and be inspired. The concept note of the Red Cross Red Crescent Forum (RC² forum) can be downloaded [here](#). The event will also serve as a stepping stone to the next International Conference in 2019. Your opinion and ideas are vital in helping the organizers shape the event.

VISION FOR THE MOVEMENT

The Standing Commission received feedback from some selected National Societies on their view of the vision paper. Although some wanted the Commission to develop a fuller version with specific strategies, the Standing Commission decided to keep the Vision for the Movement in its present format for the time being. In the coming months, the Commission will promote the paper and National Societies will be approached in due course.

MONITORING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY AND MAGEN DAVID ADOM

The Standing Commission heard a verbal report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding following Mr Robert Tickner's visit to the area in November 2016. Mr Tickner, the independent monitor, was accompanied there by senior leaders of National Societies and staff from the ICRC and the IFRC. He met the presidents of the Palestine Red Crescent and Magen David Adom, as well as senior officials from Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health.

The Commission welcomed the report and hoped that the remaining problems hindering the full implementation of the memorandum of understanding would soon be resolved. It noted Mr Tickner had planned two more trips to the area in 2017.

STANDING COMMISSION ELECTIONS

In the continued discussion on how to improve the Standing Commission's diversity through its election process, the Commission identified as a first step to update the criteria and the guidance documents for candidates. With this update, the Commission hopes that future elections will help it to be more diverse in terms of regional representation, gender and Red Cross/Red Crescent background. The Standing Commission is composed of nine members – five are elected and four come from the highest positions in the ICRC and IFRC. Together, the Commission aims to be always diverse, representative and competent.

LIST OF DONOR NATIONAL SOCIETIES TO THE STANDING COMMISSION'S 2016 BUDGET

The Standing Commission wishes to extend its warmest thanks and appreciation to the following National Societies for their contribution to the 2016 budget (as of mid-December 2016):

- Albanian Red Cross
- Andorra Red Cross
- Argentine Red Cross
- Australian Red Cross
- Austrian Red Cross
- Bahrain Red Crescent Society
- British Red Cross
- Bulgarian Red Cross
- Cambodian Red Cross Society
- Canadian Red Cross
- Red Cross Society of China
- Cook Islands Red Cross Society
- Croatian Red Cross
- Cyprus Red Cross Society
- Czech Red Cross
- Danish Red Cross
- Egyptian Red Crescent Society
- Estonian Red Cross
- Ethiopian Red Cross Society
- Finnish Red Cross
- French Red Cross
- German Red Cross
- Iranian Red Crescent Society
- Iraqi Red Crescent Society
- Irish Red Cross
- Italian Red Cross
- Japanese Red Cross Society
- Jordan National Red Crescent Society
- Kenya Red Cross Society
- The Republic of Korea National Red Cross
- Latvia Red Cross
- Liechtenstein Red Cross
- Lithuanian Red Cross Society
- Magen David Adom
- Maldivian Red Crescent
- Red Cross Society of Micronesia
- Red Cross of Monaco
- Moroccan Red Crescent
- Myanmar Red Cross Society
- New Zealand Red Cross
- The Netherlands Red Cross
- Norwegian Red Cross
- Pakistan Red Crescent
- The Philippine Red Cross
- Qatar Red Crescent Society
- Red Cross of Romania
- Salvadorean Red Cross Society
- South Sudanese Red Cross Society
- Spanish Red Cross
- Swedish Red Cross
- Swiss Red Cross
- The Thai Red Cross Society
- Turkish Red Crescent Society
- Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan



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