

## From the Chair



*I am honoured to send you this message in my new capacity as chair of the Standing Commission, following the decision made by my fellow members at the Commission's last meeting on 11 September. This development followed the resignation of Ms Eva von Oelreich from the chairmanship and*

*membership of the Standing Commission for personal reasons.*

*Mr Chrystold Chetty was chosen by the Commission as its vice-chair.*

*I wish to pay tribute to Ms von Oelreich for her remarkable commitment over the last two years as chair of the Standing Commission. I am thankful for the rich and stimulating exchanges we had whenever our paths crossed, not the least in my time as her vice-chair of the Commission. I am committed to continuing the good work she started, namely to sharpen the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as a forum for debate and decisions on humanitarian issues, and to ensure the Commission plays its part in strengthening the Movement's capacity to operate in a fast-changing and increasingly challenging environment.*

*I am pleased to announce that Mr Ibrahim Osman, of the Sudanese Red Crescent and former under-secretary-*

*general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has joined the Commission to fill the vacancy left by Ms von Oelreich. The extensive experience and depth of knowledge that Mr Osman brings with him will be a valuable asset to the Commission as a collectivity.*

*As you all know, the upcoming Council of Delegates in Antalya, Turkey, on 10–11 November will discuss important issues to the Movement and make decisions to guide its action in the coming years. I thank the Turkish Red Crescent Society for its tremendous efforts in hosting this important meeting.*

*The November meetings are also an important milestone in preparing and supporting the Movement's dialogue with States, in particular with a view to the 33rd International Conference in 2019. This is certainly what we expect the Council of Delegates to achieve. Moreover, the additional day of the RC2 Forum, scheduled for 9 November between the IFRC General Assembly and the Council of Delegates, will offer more open and forward-thinking exchanges on emerging trends and humanitarian concerns. The Movement must be prepared to ensure the ongoing relevance of its action in serving the most vulnerable, as well as strategically developing its members and position vis-à-vis States, the humanitarian community and other partners.*

*I look forward to seeing you for a stimulating and fruitful Council of Delegates in Antalya!*

George Weber  
Chair

## CHANGES IN THE STANDING COMMISSION

At its meeting of 11 September, the Standing Commission noted with profound regret the resignation of Ms Eva von Oelreich, its previous member and chair since 2015, owing to very understandable personal reasons; it unanimously expressed its gratitude to Ms Eva von Oelreich for her remarkable commitment to the Commission over the last two years and for her legacy on which the Commission will continue to work, and further wished her every success in her future endeavours. The Standing Commission unanimously elected Mr George Weber as the new chair of the Standing Commission and Mr Chrystold Chetty as vice-chair. In application of Article 17.2 of the Statutes of the Movement, the Standing Commission appointed Mr Ibrahim Osman as a new member, welcoming a Movement person of great experience and wisdom.

Consequently, the Standing Commission is now composed of:

### ELECTED MEMBERS AD PERSONAM:

Mr George Weber (Canada), chair  
Mr Chrystold Chetty (Seychelles), vice-chair  
Dr Massimo Barra (Italy)  
Mr Ibrahim Osman (Sudan)  
Mr Greg Vickery (Australia)

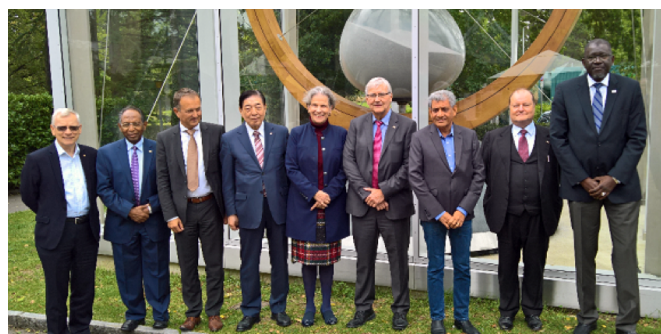
### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

#### ICRC:

Dr Peter Maurer, president  
Mr Balthasar Staehelin, deputy director-general

#### IFRC:

Mr Tadateru Konoé, president  
Mr Elhadj As Sy, secretary-general



Members of the Standing Commission on 11 September 2017  
From left: Mr Greg Vickery, Mr Ibrahim Osman, Mr Balthasar Staehelin, Mr Tadateru Konoé, Ms Christine Beerli (representing Dr Peter Maurer), Mr George Weber, Mr Chrystold Chetty, Dr Massimo Barra, Mr Elhadj As Sy

The progress report on the work of the Standing Commission (2015–2017) can be found [here](#).

## COUNCIL OF DELEGATES 2017

The Council of Delegates, due to take place on 10–11 November, is approaching fast. It will gather together the 190 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC and the IFRC with the aim of identifying possible solutions to pressing humanitarian concerns. A revised draft provisional agenda and programme, as well as reports, background documents and draft resolutions, will be sent to the participants by the end of September. You will also be able to access the documents at <http://rcrcconference.org/council-of-delegates>. We thank the National Societies for their engagement in the various consultation processes on the proposed concept, agenda and draft resolutions. Your input has been very useful in guiding our work.

The two-day Council of Delegates discussions will contribute to building a common vision, positions and strategies on a wide range of crucial issues, such as addressing the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants, people under the threat of epidemics and pandemics, separated families and missing persons. In addition, the Council will reflect on the mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by armed conflict, natural disasters and other emergencies, as well as the consequences of the disruption of education services. The Movement will reaffirm its long-standing commitment to helping the victims of armed conflict, strengthening respect for the obligations of international humanitarian law and working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Furthering the ongoing work on strengthening Movement coordination and cooperation, Movement-wide resource mobilization will be important to improve the Movement's coherence and effectiveness in operations and other areas in order to meet increasing challenges posed by a rapidly changing environment.

The daily bulletin highlighting the proceedings and deliberations will be posted on the [rcrcconference.org](http://rcrcconference.org) website once the meetings have started.

We appreciate the efforts of the members of the International Conference to report on the current implementation status of the resolutions and pledges adopted by the 32nd International Conference. The mid-term review of that implementation is available on the 2017 Council of Delegates webpage and all the reports can be

found in the online database. As this new tool allows for progressive reporting, we encourage you to continue to do so through the [rcrcconference.org](http://rcrcconference.org) website reporting function. Sharing your success stories, challenges and overall experience in implementing the outcomes will be inspirational for the other members of the International Conference and will be highly appreciated and valued.

A briefing session for the Geneva-based permanent missions is due to take place by the end of this year, to provide a summary on the significant outcomes and observations of the statutory meetings and look ahead to the 33rd International Conference in 2019.

## RC<sup>2</sup> FORUM

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The RC<sup>2</sup> Forum will be a discussion platform dedicated to considering potential futures that might impact the Movement and the way it works. The Forum will take place on 9 November, between the IFRC General Assembly and the Council of Delegates. There will be panel discussions and other events based on the consultations with National Societies that took place throughout 2017, which will also include speakers who will bring views from outside the Movement. Participants will gain insights into our changing world and be encouraged to reflect on potential needs, not only to adjust to changes, but also to capitalize on opportunities. Rather than offering solutions, the RC<sup>2</sup> Forum will flag issues and raise questions in an informal spirit of innovation and creativity, focusing on the consequences of major societal shifts and the way the Movement can adapt and work effectively. The RC<sup>2</sup> Forum is also meant to serve as a link to the 33rd International Conference – its outcomes will provide input for developing topics and areas for further reflection.

More information about the RC<sup>2</sup> Forum programme can be found [here](#).

## VISION FOR THE MOVEMENT

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Further to the Standing Commission's previous decision to promote the Vision for the Movement, a letter from the presidents of the Movement was sent to all the National Societies together with the vision paper in the form of a leaflet. This was meant to familiarize National Society leadership with this important common vision, so that they can take this into account when they plan their own strategic directions.

The progress report on the Vision for the Movement (2015–2017) can be found [here](#).

## BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS

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At the outset of the Standing Commission's current term of office, the Commission reaffirmed its role as Movement think tank, addressing issues of importance and common interest for all the components of the Movement. At a brainstorming session on future trends held at the end of 2016, the Commission identified some of the most important future trends and their impact on the Movement's humanitarian action, and explored possible responses to those trends, notably in relation to: uneven economic growth and increasing inequality; digital disruption; loss of sense of shared humanity and values; food and water crises, climate change, demographics and population movements; and safeguarding Red Cross and Red Crescent integrity. This exercise was also intended to feed into the planning of the Council of Delegates and the RC<sup>2</sup> Forum.

A brainstorming session in late March 2017 was specifically dedicated to effective governance and integrity. The Commission wished to collect ideas and reflect on the Movement-wide perspective as well as external issues and developments related to transparency, accountability and the fight against fraud and corruption; and to explore the need for the Movement to strengthen, harmonize or develop norms, strategies and tools.

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

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Independent monitor Robert Tickner made a visit to the region in August 2017, the third visit of the year since his last report to the Movement on 23 December 2016. His final report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding will be submitted to the Council of Delegates. The Commission thanks Mr Tickner for his efforts on monitoring the progress needed for full implementation.

The Secretariat of the Standing Commission in Geneva welcomes visits by officials from National Societies and permanent missions. The chair and other members of the Standing Commission, as well as its newly appointed secretariat head, Mr Yves-Jean Duménil, are at your disposal if you have any questions, remarks or suggestions regarding their roles and functions within the Movement.



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and Red Crescent**

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