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Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

This bulletin once again affords me the pleasure of addressing you, and there is much news to convey. A year of intensive work awaits us.

First the Council of Delegates. As you certainly know, it was decided in November to schedule that event for 22-23 June in Geneva, just after the 23rd session of the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Given the exceptional circumstances resulting from the pandemic, and following the Federation Secretariat's lengthy assessment of security and other practical considerations, Geneva is viewed as the most appropriate place to hold these meetings.

I have no doubt that you will understand this decision, and wish to thank the Dominican Red Cross members, volunteers and leadership for their hard work preparing the meeting that was to have taken place in the Dominican Republic. It is my hope that it will be possible to experience Dominican hospitality before long. I would also like to thank all other National Societies who offered to host these meetings, thus demonstrating their sense of responsibility and commitment to the Movement.

We will keep you regularly informed of progress in preparing the Council of Delegates. This



bulletin contains a great deal of information about the Council's provisional agenda and the nine online workshops to be held from January to May. These workshops will all be completed before the Council convenes. They are intended to supplement the Council's deliberations as set out in its agenda, and their result will be presented to the Council's plenary and included in its summary record. I encourage you all to share the information on these workshops and to take part yourselves. The more participants there are, the more useful the discussion; and the better prepared the Movement will be to fit its purpose.

The Henry Dunant Medal, the Movement's highest distinction, will be awarded at this June's Council of Delegates to nine individuals (two of them posthumously) thanks to whose service we have a better Movement. On behalf of the Standing Commission, allow me to warmly congratulate all recipients, their families, as well as the Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations of which the recipients are, or were, members.

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Finally, I would like to give Jan Egeland my special thanks for kindly making his contribution to this bulletin. As part of his work as one of the Grand Bargain's Eminent Persons, Jan Egeland will be striving to ensure that a greater role is played by local organizations and better financing for humanitarian endeavour generally. This aligns perfectly with the Movement's desires and efforts. Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are a key part of local humanitarian response.

I wish you all an excellent 2022. May it find you in good health and may it see fruitful exchanges between members and friends of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Yours sincerely,



>> Henry Dunant Medal 2021

The Henry Dunant Medal is the Movement's highest distinction, awarded to individual members for outstanding achievements and acts of great devotion. The Standing Commission thanks all the nominating Societies and their co-sponsors for submitting many nominations of high quality and diverse profiles. Based on a unanimous decision made during its October meeting, the Commission is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021 Henry Dunant Medal, who will be honoured at the next Council of Delegates in June 2022.



Mohammed Al Maadheed

Former president of the Qatar Red Crescent Society

In leadership positions within the Qatar Red Crescent from 2000 to 2020, Mohammed Al Maadheed strove enthusiastically to strengthen the operational and institutional capacities of many National Societies with fewer resources. This was accomplished through cooperation programmes and regional partnerships. He worked with various Movement components, other organizations and governments across the world to build disaster-response ability, devise rehabilitation plans, and promote international humanitarian law. Earning international recognition, Dr Al Maadheed was elected vice-president of the International Federation in 2009 and chaired the Board Priorities Oversight Group.



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Philippe Gaillard

Former ICRC Delegate

Halfway through his long and exemplary career with the ICRC, Philippe Gaillard was appointed head of the organization's Rwanda delegation shortly before the ethnic genocide that ripped the country apart. Mr Gaillard took the extremely courageous decision to keep the ICRC – by contrast with most international organizations – operational in Rwanda. Working with the Rwandan Red Cross, the ICRC continued taking injured people to hospital, setting up makeshift field hospitals and helping the population as best it could. The ICRC under Mr Gaillard's leadership saved an estimated 80,000 lives. Many times, he crossed the frontlines on his own to negotiate passage for the injured to be taken for medical care. His unfailing personal courage and devotion to humanity fully justifies this award.

Tadateru Konoe

Former president of the Japanese Red Cross, former president of the International Federation

Tadateru Konoe has dedicated over five decades, his entire professional life, to advancing the Red Cross / Red Crescent's humanitarian work from a range of positions in both the Japanese Red Cross and the Federation. Twice elected Federation president (2009 and 2013), Mr Konoe has done much to enhance cooperation within the Movement and to strengthen Federation governance by ensuring integrity and accountability. Among his other activities, he has involved himself deeply in the Movement's advocacy for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Mr Konoe embodies quiet, sincere enthusiasm for the Movement's values and ideals.



Christine Lightbourne

Volunteer in the Bahamas Red Cross

A life-long volunteer in the Bahamas Red Cross's Abaco branch, Christine Lightbourne has worked as a welfare officer and shelter manager and has been deeply involved in her National Society's disaster-mitigation programmes over three decades. She has unfailingly demonstrated commitment to serving the vulnerable in hurricane-rescue operations, which she has headed in her branch, often being among the first on the spot and the last to leave. Consistently placing other people's safety above her own in life-threatening situations, Ms Lightbourne has set an example of selfless dedication, galvanizing many younger people to follow in her footsteps.



Manuel Salazar Alvarez

Veteran member of the Costa Rican Red Cross

Manuel Salazar Alvarez was an early pioneer in training first-aiders and promoting that work in his National Society and subsequently throughout Central America. He has taken part in numerous high-risk rescue operations in connection with both natural disaster and armed conflict. His service has so far spanned no less than six decades. Mr Salazar has many outstanding achievements to his credit in a number of areas to improve the service and development of his National Society, including his pivotal role in promoting international humanitarian law in Costa Rica and beyond. Still an active volunteer, Mr Salazar is an inspiring figure who has rallied many people to the Movement's cause.

The Standing Commission also agreed to award two more medals posthumously this year to two recently deceased members for their outstanding contributions.

Ligia Leroux de Ramirez (1937 – 2020)

Former president of the Dominican Red Cross

As president of the Dominican Red Cross from 2000 onward, Ligia Leroux de Ramirez pushed through a number of programmes to develop her National Society by expanding and deepening its local activities, as well as by strengthening cooperation with other National Societies in the region. Dr Leroux made a significant contribution to the Movement's work internationally and was elected president of CORI (Inter-American Regional Committee of the Red Cross) in 2007 for a four-year term. A devoted and visionary leader of great personal warmth, Dr Leroux died still president and working hard at the head of the Dominican Red Cross's covid-19 operations.



Ivan Usichenko (1938 – 2021)

Former president of the Ukrainian Red Cross

Ivan Usichenko headed the medical effort in the wake of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. His exceptional performance and leadership in that crisis as well as in running the rehabilitation programme in the disaster's aftermath won him broad international recognition. During the country's civil unrest in 2013 and the Crimea crisis in 2014, Dr Usichenko ensured that the Ukrainian Red Cross played a major, well-recognized and neutral role in the midst of the conflict. Dr Usichenko was widely hailed for relentlessly taking the initiative and showing unfailing commitment to defending the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

>> Council of Delegates 2022

Consultation time on the Council agenda and resolutions

Owing to the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and its far-reaching consequences, the Council of Delegates was postponed from 2021 to 2022. As a result of intensive work to assess the health situation and practical options for hosting our next statutory meetings, the IFRC leadership and the Standing Commission have together decided to convene the 23rd session of the General Assembly and the Council of Delegates in Geneva, Switzerland, from 19 to 23 June 2022.

Accordingly, on 10 December 2021 the Standing Commission sent its [invitation](#) to the Movement's components, announcing that the Council of Delegates will be held on 22 and 23 June 2022, after the traditional joint opening with the IFRC General Assembly. Special conditions for participation will apply in 2022, which will allow a limited presence of delegates at the in-person plenary meeting. Additional delegates will be able to participate online. Practical information will be provided in due time on registration, visas, accommodation, travel, etc. for in-person and online participation in the plenary meeting. This information will also be available on the website of the Statutory Meetings: www.rcrcconference.org.

With six months to go before the Council of Delegates, a [provisional agenda and programme](#) was circulated to its members, inviting them to **ensure that any observations, amendments or additions are received by 23 April 2022**.

The Council of Delegates will address major humanitarian issues based on the feedback received from consultations held within the Movement earlier this year. Some matters require immediate decision by the Movement, some prepare the ground for the next Council of Delegates and the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and others take stock of progress made on previous resolutions. The Council of Delegates provides a platform for achieving the ambition of a **Movement fit for purpose**. The Council's general theme will be fostering the development and consistency of Movement positions,

policies, strategies and practices on humanitarian issues and thereby strengthening cooperation, coordination and mutual trust among Movement components and, ultimately among the people we serve.

[Eight draft zero resolutions](#) have already been prepared and are now available online:

- "A Movement approach to ensuring patient safety and quality of care"
- "Movement Family Links medal"
- "Revision of the regulations for the Henry Dunant Medal and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity"
- "Strengthening anticipatory humanitarian action in the Movement: Our way forward"
- "Strengthening the resilience of urban communities: Our way forward"
- "Towards a Movement strategy on migration"
- "War in cities"
- "Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: 2022–2027 action plan"

The [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations](#), which was adopted by the IFRC and the ICRC in May 2021, will also be presented to the Council of Delegates for endorsement by the whole Movement. National Societies are invited to sign the Charter individually, and almost a third have already done so.

All components are encouraged to **share comments and proposed amendments on the draft zero resolutions by 1 March 2022**.

Draft resolutions will be presented at a later stage. The **official working documents**, including the draft resolutions and reports will be sent to all participants at least 45 days before the opening of the meeting, i.e. in early May 2022.

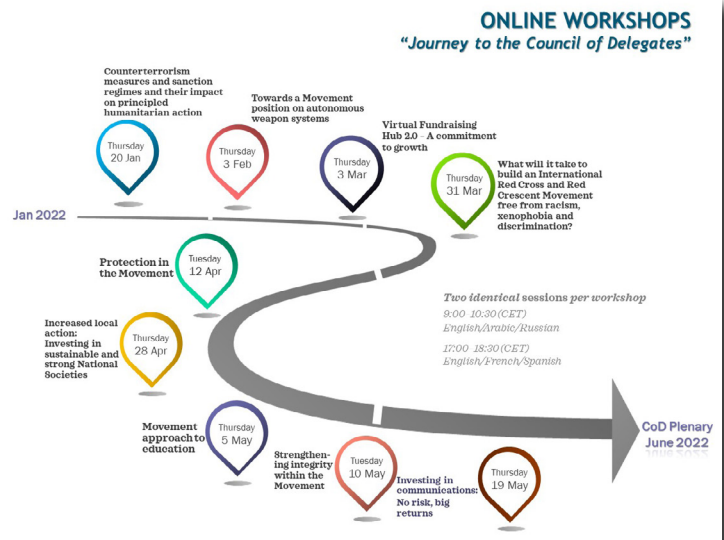
Comments and proposals can be sent at conferences@rcrcconference.org

- on the Council's provisional agenda and programme by 23 April 2022
- on draft zero resolutions by 1 March 2022

Journey to the Council: online workshops

The Standing Commission and its co-organizers propose a different organizational model for the 2022 Council of Delegates, with a **supplementary programme of nine workshops that will be held online from January to May 2022**. The invitation and [information on the programme and registration have been posted online](#) and will be updated regularly. Workshops will be open to all Red Cross and Red Crescent leaders, volunteers and staff, as well as to observers and guests of the Council.

As many of you can join the workshops as wish to. They are easy to navigate online. You will find presentations and discussions on present issues facing the Movement, such as the impact on humanitarian action of counter-terrorism measures and sanctions regimes, and on the use of autonomous weapon systems; the Movement's proper role in protection, education and countering racism, xenophobia and discrimination; and its goal of strengthening its integrity and increasing its investment in National Societies, in communications and in virtual fundraising. The outcomes of the workshops will be presented at the plenary meeting of the Council of



Delegates and be reflected in its summary record. Many workshops are paving the way for future decisions to be taken by the International Conference and the Council of Delegates.

Awards: Regulations reform in sight



The Standing Commission is mandated to administer and award the Henry Dunant Medal (the Medal) and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity (the Prize). The Medal – the Movement's highest distinction, created in 1965 – is awarded every two years to individual members for outstanding service and acts of great devotion. The Prize, instituted in 1987, can most frequently be awarded once every four years. It honours either National Societies or individuals in the Movement for their active contribution to a more peaceful world and has been awarded four times since its creation.

In 2020, the Standing Commission adopted new [guidelines for awarding the Medal and the Prize](#), with a view to supplementing the provisions of their regulations of [1965](#) and [1987](#), respectively, on the eligibility and desired qualities of nominees, the nomination process and the review and decision-making process. The new guidelines were also intended to foster diversity and inclusion and uphold the highest standards of integrity and ethics.

At its meeting of 9 December 2020, the Standing Commission agreed to further reform the awards of the Movement and consider changes to their Regulations of 1965 and 1987, with a view to submitting those changes to the next meeting of the Council of Delegates. The Standing Commission is grateful to the advisory group, set up in early 2021, for helping and advising it on the scope and content of the [draft resolution prepared for the 2022 Council of Delegates](#). The draft includes revised Regulations for the Medal and the Prize which align their nomination processes and amend or incorporate from the guidelines key elements relating to eligibility requirements, diversity, inclusion and integrity.

Questions and suggestions on the draft resolution and the revised HDM and PPH Regulations can be addressed to the Standing Commission Secretariat:
standing.commission@standcom.ch

>> Walk the Talk - from resolutions to actions

In 2019, the Council of Delegates adopted [12 resolutions](#) and the 33rd International Conference adopted [eight resolutions](#). These were supplemented by voluntary commitments from participants in the form of [151 pledges](#). All resolutions and pledges amount to calls to action for members to make a difference in the service of Humanity. This section highlights some of the progress being made.

Reporting on resolutions and pledges of the 33rd International Conference

We are now at the halfway point between the 33rd International Conference and the next Conference at the end of 2023. In a few months, the Movement will meet in the form of the Council of Delegates, where action following up the 2019 resolutions will be presented. Further discussions will pave the way for the next statutory meetings in 2023.

A new [reporting system](#) on the follow-up to resolutions and pledges from the 33rd International Conference has been online since August 2021. This new and simple system enhances flexibility and allows multiple reports to be submitted at any time, until the next International Conference in 2023. With feedback from all members, we hope to demonstrate the collective impact of the Conference for the broader community.

Sharing information on implementation of resolutions and pledges is critical for Conference members because:

- it demonstrates their collective impact on the community as well as the partnerships entered into by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, governments and others,
- it showcases experiences implementing the resolutions and pledges, inspiring other Conference members to take similar action,
- it allows other members to offer their support where challenges are being encountered during implementation.

As you know, a [Conference blog](#) was also set up in 2020 on the [Red Cross / Red Crescent statutory meetings website](#). Members are very welcome to visit the blog and share their implementation stories.

- Access the reporting system on the six resolutions and the pledges through the [“follow up on the outcomes of the 33rd IC”](#) web page.
- Share your implementation stories on the [Conference blog](#).

For any questions about the reporting system, the blog or the International Conference, please contact: conferences@rcrcconference.org

Follow up of the Statement on Integrity of the Movement

“The integrity and ethical behaviour of each component of the Movement, at an individual level as well as at an institutional level, is of paramount importance to the Movement as a whole.”

A desire to ensure integrity and ethical behaviour is what prompted the [Statement on Integrity of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement](#), adopted by the Council of Delegates on 8 December 2019. Its adoption posed a major milestone in building a Movement whose components all work together to enhance integrity. The Statement provides a framework for individual and collective action to make the Movement accountable, transparent, and ethically irreproachable.

In order to further the Movement’s commitment to integrity and realize the goals set out in the Statement, a *Working Group for the Follow-Up of the Movement Statement of Integrity* was set up. It comprises highly experienced National Society leaders from around the world. The IFRC and the ICRC currently serve as the Group’s co-chairs.

After it was set up, the Group agreed upon terms of reference and drew up its Action Plan. The Plan initially calls for thinktank events, webinars, and research work, as well as the consolidation of a “library” of integrity-related policies and guidance. The Plan then moves on to explore integrity-related dashboards, harmonization of the various modes of risk assessment within the Movement, and due diligence requirements for any partnerships entered into. The plan also notes several ongoing actions and initiatives the Movement’s components are already taking in order to bolster integrity.

In October, the Working Group held a successful session on the integrity theme in Planet:Red. There were over 50 participants from National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC. A live poll was conducted with the participants to determine what aspects of integrity they consider to be most important. Their highest priority was “understanding/adherence to the Fundamental Principles”, followed by “transparent, diverse, and principled leadership”, “accountability to affected people” and “accountability and financial management and systems”. This session’s work will help shape the Group’s future work and improve its ability to accurately reflect the diverse perspectives across the Movement. The session also heard inspirational examples from National Societies on how they have strove to boost integrity within their organizations.

Looking to the future, the Group is forming two subgroups to consolidate an integrity-resourcing platform and organize thinktank sessions and regional dialogues. In the run-up to the next Council of Delegates, the Working Group will also draft a report on progress made with the Action Plan. It will also propose a pre-Council workshop on strengthening integrity within the Movement, as part of the journey to the Council of Delegates.

By Gabriel Gavin Green

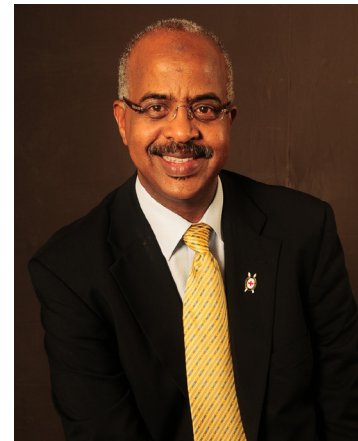
On behalf of the secretariat of the *Working Group for the Follow-Up of the Movement Statement of Integrity*

>> Standing Commission member's corner

A talk with Dr Abbas Gullet

Abbas Gullet is Chief Executive Officer of Boma PanAfrican Limited, the holding of commercial entities set up by the Kenya Red Cross Society. He is the Society's former secretary general and has served as deputy secretary general and director of operations of the International Federation.

Dr Gullet was elected to the Standing Commission at the 33rd International Conference (December 2019).



At the mid-point of this 18th session of the Standing Commission, what are the priorities you believe the Standing Commission should focus on in the next two years?

Half-way through the current session, I believe our priority should be to complete what we have been working on over the past two years. We should concentrate on preparing the forthcoming Council of Delegates and on implementing the decisions of the previous Council of Delegates, held in Geneva in 2019. In addition, the Standing Commission should step up preparations for the 34th International Conference in 2023, with a view to making it a meaningful humanitarian forum.

What specific areas would you, as an individual member, want to advocate or promote in the Movement?

The issue of reviewing the Seville Agreement* has elicited various reactions from different components of our Movement. Positions among the Geneva-based organizations and National Societies remain divided, with a majority of Southern National Societies supporting a review. (*The 1997 Seville Agreement determined the respective responsibilities of the Movement's components in international activities; the Agreement was augmented by Supplementary Measures in 2005.) In my humble opinion, this matter can no longer remain on the back burner since that would run the risk of leaving ever more National Societies feeling disenfranchised and tempted to go their own way. We have to address important issues sooner rather than later. Greater effort must

be made to hear and understand everyone's expectations, to bridge gaps and to achieve significant progress by the next Council of Delegates in strengthening the Movement's relevance in the future as well as solidarity and mutual trust among its components.

It is healthy for the Movement to review its baseline agreement and practices determining how it organizes international activities. Similarly, the Standing Commission should continue to be diligent in ensuring that the Movement's statutory and policy framework remains effective and relevant to humanitarian challenges both today and tomorrow. This must be a cornerstone of the global Red Cross / Red Crescent network and should help it to fulfil its purpose by supporting collective action and cohesion within the Movement, but also by investing in strengthening and rendering sustainable the local response capacity of each National Society.

The third thing I would mention is my hope that the Standing Commission and the Movement as a whole can find a serious breakthrough in implementing the Memorandum of Understanding between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society. While understanding and appreciating the complexity of this issue, the Movement may have to evaluate whether certain remaining impediments are within its scope of action or now beyond it. If the latter is found to be the case, we should be prepared to concede that we cannot achieve the desired results.

>> Opinion

Ensuring aid reform succeeds

From Yemen to Iran, aid for people caught up in crisis is arriving too little and too late. Localisation, quality funding and meaningfully engaging with affected communities are key to helping people.

At the annual meeting of the Grand Bargain in June, donor states, UN agencies, international and national relief organizations, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent collectively reiterated our commitment to making the aid system more effective. We recognized that success is possible only when we come together with determination. As the next leader of the Grand Bargain, I am committed to turning this newfound energy into real action over the next two years.

Phase 2.0 of Grand Bargain is underway. Between now and 2024, we are guided by a framework centred around the people we are committed to serve. This recognizes the need to achieve concrete progress on quality funding, on high-quality partnerships and funding for local actors, and on making our response mechanisms more driven by actual needs.

A 'local first' mentality

When 63 signatures were given to the Grand Bargain initiative five years ago, we agreed to making principled humanitarian action as local as possible and as international as necessary. But much more still needs to be done to ensure meaningful engagement by those acting nationally and locally.

Localisation is not just about a matter of channelling funds to local and national organizations. It is not only achieved by reaching the commitment of channelling 25 per cent of funding to national actors. For a truly sustainable transformation, local groups like Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies must be at the very centre of humanitarian action.

They must be the real decision-makers.

Sitting down with nine Iranian relief organisations in Tehran last month, I was again impressed that local actors make up the bulk of the country's aid operation. They are a lifeline for many of the 3.6 million Afghans that reside in Iran.

Quality funding should drive aid

We must also prioritize the quality of funding to better help communities in need. Flexible, predictable, unbureaucratic and multi-year funding works. We know the best practices, and even have targets for it in the Grand Bargain. But too much aid is still short of meeting our goal.

Quality funding means that aid agencies have the funds they need when they need them. It also means less bureaucracy – that we have the flexibility to adapt a humanitarian response to the needs of the people we are helping and the environment we are working in.

To reach the level of quality funding needed, we first need to address risk-sharing and the politics around humanitarian funding. We need to engage in a meaningful conversation on how we share risk between donors and implementing agencies, and we need donors to trust that the money they give us will always be used, albeit flexibly, in a principled manner and based on needs alone.

Affected communities at the heart of humanitarian response

Finally, the affected communities themselves need to play an active part in the aid response. Two-way communication between communities and service providers will allow people to tell us how we can change and serve them better.

But meaningful engagement will not happen automatically. It requires a significant scale-up in funding, technology and prioritization by humanitarian leaders and donors. Willingness is necessary to make the structural changes required to shape humanitarian action around the priorities of affected communities. While we all talk about the importance of strengthening accountability, few of us have invested the resources needed to make it a reality.

This must change.

While these measures are far from groundbreaking, together they can reshape and improve how we serve people in need. We each have a role to play to achieve positive reform in the aid sector – local, national and international relief organizations, members of the UN family, donors, and you, members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Change can only be achieved when we commit to working together.

By Jan Egeland

*Secretary General of the
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