

SPECIAL ISSUE

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

Owing to the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and its multiple consequences, I would like to confirm the Standing Commission's [decision to postpone](#) until 2022 the Council of Delegates that had been scheduled for December 2021 in the Dominican Republic. New dates will be determined and communicated to you later, when conditions ensure both the safety of participants, volunteers and staff involved and equal access and other rights for members of the Council of Delegates.

This decision was taken after consulting the leadership of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to coordinate our decisions postponing respectively the Council of Delegates and the 23rd session of the International Federation's General Assembly. Allow me to reiterate my heartfelt thanks to the Dominican Red Cross for its understanding of this decision and its flexibility in hosting our global Red Cross and Red Crescent meetings.

All over the world, we see the extraordinary commitment of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers, staff and leaders in the fight against the pandemic. On behalf of the Standing Commission, I would like to express our deep gratitude and encouragement and to wish them every success in their efforts.

We all desire to see the health situation return to normal as quickly as possible, so that everyone – our loved ones, our communities and the most vulnerable among us – are safe from the pandemic. To achieve this, our Movement must, more than ever, join forces



with public authorities and others in civil society to expand its reach and strengthen the effectiveness of its work closest to the affected communities.

Statutory meetings will be held as soon as possible. The strength of our Movement also lies in the principles, policies, strategies and standards of action, concerning which we meet, discuss and agree together. In this regard, consultations are continuing and intensifying on the [concept](#) and [proposed resolutions](#) for the Council of Delegates, and I strongly encourage you to engage and contribute actively.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity provided by this Bulletin to express again my warm thanks to the International Federation, the ICRC and the 44 National Societies that have generously contributed to the Standing Commission's budget in 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Mercedes Bahi

>> Postponement of the Council of Delegates

DECISION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON THE DATE AND FORMAT OF THE NEXT COUNCIL OF DELEGATES 26 March 2021

The Standing Commission,

recalling its responsibility to select the place and dates for the Council of Delegates, and its prior acceptance of the offer of the Dominican Red Cross to host that meeting in Punta Cana in December 2021,

deeply concerned about the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic and the poor prospects for normalization in the short term, which make it highly unlikely that large-scale, in-person international meetings can take place safely in 2021,

considering the statutory, security and practical requirements that apply to the Council of Delegates, first and foremost the organizers' duty of care towards all participants, volunteers and staff, as well as the need to guarantee equality for the Movement's components in exercising their right to participate in debates and help take decisions in either a face-to-face or online format,

taking note of the various alternative options for the organization of the upcoming Council of Delegates,

considering significant technological and practical challenges that would currently make it very difficult to ensure all Movement components fair and equitable access to global meetings conducted online,

recalling that beyond the adoption of resolutions, statutory meetings provide a valued forum for promoting a strong Red Cross and Red Crescent community, in particular by fostering unity, good relationships, cooperation, alliances and mutual trust among components and individuals,

stressing its wish to observe as far as possible the principle and practice of concomitant organization of the IFRC General Assembly and Council of Delegates and to reach coordinated decisions together with the IFRC on the place and dates of the next meetings,

1. *declares* that the present exceptional circumstances do not meet the requirements for participant safety and full respect for the statutory rights of the Movement's components during the next Council of Delegates – were it to be held in December 2021, whatever the format;
2. *decides* to postpone the Council of Delegates to a more appropriate time in 2022, in line with the IFRC's decision to postpone the 23rd session of its General Assembly;
3. *agrees* to continue monitoring the health situation and the prospects for safely holding the Council of Delegates and to reach a decision at the earliest opportunity – at least nine months before the opening of the Council – on its dates, format and venue, in coordination with the IFRC's decision for its General Assembly;
4. *encourages* the organization, in the last quarter of 2021, of a global online event highlighting the Movement's common position on pandemics and climate change.

Extended deadline for nominations for the Henry Dunant Medal



As a result of the postponement of the Council of Delegates to 2022, the **deadline for submitting nominations for the Henry Dunant Medal is extended to 10 September 2021**, instead of 30 April as initially indicated in the [call for nominations of 28 January 2021](#) sent to the Movement by the Chair of the Standing Commission.

The Henry Dunant Medal is the highest distinction that the Movement can bestow on an individual member. Those selected will receive their medals at the Council of Delegates. We hope this extended deadline will allow additional worthy candidates to be presented.

Information on the [call for nominations](#), the [Regulations](#) and [Guidelines](#) for awarding the Henry Dunant Medal and the [nomination questionnaire](#) are available on the Standing Commission's website.

Please feel free to contact the Secretariat of the Standing Commission (contact@standcom.ch) if you need further information.

Thank you for your contributions in 2020 to the Standing Commission's budget

The Standing Commission strives each year to carry out its statutory duties and to work diligently and effectively while keeping its expenses as low as possible. In 2020, its total expenditure amounted to 416,800 Swiss francs, which was significantly reduced mainly owing to Covid19-induced restrictions on travel and Movement meetings.

The Standing Commission's budget is funded jointly by the International Federation, the ICRC and the National Societies on the basis of one-third each, in line with a decision taken by the 2007 Council of Delegates. National Society contributions are made on a voluntary basis. In the coming weeks, a new call for contributions will be made for 2021, to which we hope for a positive response from the Movement's various components. We are naturally well aware of the financial and operational efforts that all parts of the Movement already have to make in order to meet immense needs.

For now, the Standing Commission wishes to express its deep gratitude to the International Federation, the ICRC and the 44 National Societies of the countries listed below for their generous contributions to its 2020 budget:

Albania	Cook Islands	France	Liechtenstein	Republic of Korea
Andorra	Costa Rica	Germany	Mexico	Romania
Australia	Croatia	Greece	Monaco	South Sudan
Austria	Cyprus	Iraq	Morocco	Spain
Bahamas	Czech Republic	Ireland	Netherlands	Sweden
Cambodia	Denmark	Israel	New Zealand	Thailand
Canada	Estonia	Japan	Niger	Turkey
Chile	Ethiopia	Jordan	Norway	United Kingdom
China	Finland	Kuwait	Poland	