

**18th SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

Meeting SC 18 – 13

**19 – 20 November 2023
Hanoi, Vietnam**

Decision sheet

1. Opening of the meeting: welcome and procedural matters

Decisions:

The Standing Commission

- expressed its heartfelt gratitude to the authorities of the Vietnam Red Cross Society and the IFRC for their invitation to participate as observers in the 11th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Hanoi (November 21-23, 2023), and for facilitating the organization of its SC18-13 meeting on site (November 19-20, 2023).
- welcomed Mr Olivier Ray, ICRC director for Mobilization, Movement and Partnerships, as a new Member of the Standing Commission.
- welcomed Mr Manuel Bessler, IFRC vice-president, and Mr Gilles Carbonnier, ICRC vice-president, representing the absent IFRC and ICRC presidents respectively.
- expressed its deep thanks and appreciation to Francesco Rocca and Katrin Wiegmann for their dedication and commitment to the Standing Commission over the past six and four years respectively and wished them every success in their future endeavours.
- noted the absence of its Member, Dr Abbas Gullet, who is temporarily in leave of absence from the Standing Commission and is relieved of his duties until the election of the new IFRC president in December 2023, for which he is a candidate.
- approved the proposed Agenda for the meeting SC 18-13 as circulated.
- adopted the minutes of the meeting SC 18-12, 28-29 June 2023.

2. Outstanding issues for the Movement

Decisions:

The Standing Commission

- thanked the ICRC and the IFRC for the update on outstanding operational issues for the Movement.
- shared its deep emotion and concern at the immense human cost of the armed conflicts, climatic catastrophes and other disasters that have succeeded one another in the past year, often in complex emergency contexts, such as the earthquakes in Turkey/ Syria and Morocco, the flash flooding in Libya and the armed conflicts between Ukraine and Russia, between Azerbaijan and Armenia in Nagorno-Karabakh, in Sudan, and most recently in Israel and the Gaza Strip. It expressed its admiration and encouragement for the volunteers and staff of the various components of the Movement who are tirelessly engaged in responding to these major crises, often under perilous conditions.
- [Decision below approved by anticipation and published in the Standing Commission Bulletin of December 2023]

On the occasion of its meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam, the Standing Commission expressed its deep concern for the devastating consequences for all civilians affected by the dramatic escalation of the armed conflict in Israel and Gaza since 7 October 2023 and voiced its solidarity with all the volunteers and staff of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement involved.

Volunteers and staff have spared no effort in providing assistance and protection to the affected populations and the most vulnerable, while upholding the Fundamental Principles and values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Standing Commission shared its grief for those who had been killed or injured in the line of duty while rescuing and assisting victims of the violence.

The Standing Commission reaffirmed the importance of all parties acting with restraint and complying with their obligations under international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions. Civilian populations must be protected and the parties to the hostilities must allow and facilitate access to humanitarian aid and the vital resources civilians need. Humanitarian aid workers and medical personnel and facilities must be protected at all times and be permitted to deliver unimpeded life-saving services.

In these darkest moments, the Standing Commission calls for HUMANITY.

- noted with satisfaction the progress made by the Working Group for the follow up of the 2019 Movement Statement on Integrity in its mission to promote the Statement, strengthen the culture of integrity and develop a community of practice within the Movement, while recalling that this work also relies on the effectiveness and speed of the mechanisms dealing with integrity cases at the level of the Movement and each of its components.
- regretted the lack of significant progress for the implementation of the MoU and AOA between the Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society and even in the establishment of a mechanism to facilitate dialogue between the parties concerned, prospects made even more uncertain in view of the brutal resurgence of conflict and violence since October 7, 2023 (see 2.a. above).

3. Seville Agreement 2.0

Decisions:

The Standing Commission

- noted the report presented by the IFRC Under Secretary General for National Society Development and Operations Coordination and the ICRC Director for Mobilization, Movement and Partnerships on progress in operationalizing the Seville Agreement 2.0 (SA2.0), developing the knowledge of it and monitoring its implementation.
- contributed its advice to the forthcoming setting up, in the 1st quarter of 2024, of the SA2.0 monitoring and implementation support group made up of representatives of National Societies, the ICRC and the IFRC, which will participate in the preparation of the first progress report to the 2024 Council of Delegates.
- agreed to include on the agenda of its next meeting SC18-14 in March 2024 an orientation discussion on the problem-solving mechanisms provided for in Article 15 of SA2.0, in particular the possibility for the Standing Commission to establish an "ad hoc independent arbitration body", based on the experience of the arbitration mechanism already provided for in the first Seville Agreement of 1997.

4. Movement Policy Framework Working Group

Decisions:

The Standing Commission

- thanked the Chair, facilitator and members of its working group on Movement Policy Framework (MPF) for the report of their third meeting (19 November, Hanoi, Vietnam) on progress made in the implementation of the group's action plan and recommendations for further actions.

- expressed its gratitude to the Swiss Red Cross for the secondment of Mr Thomas Gurtner and to the IFRC for the availability of Ms Yi Long staff on loan from the Red Cross Society of China, as well as to these people in particular and to the Secretariat of the Standing Commission for the quality of their work and support to the working group.
- endorsed the consolidated desired impact of the working group's action plan and projects, namely that:
 - *Key Movement resolutions / policies are identified and implemented through actions aiming at enhancing knowledge and impact of resolutions / policies of the Movement as well as resolution / policy making processes and lifecycle.*
- agreed to re-focus the 'Heritage project' previously established by the Standing Commission with the aim to "develop an online research platform on Movement decisions" (decision of 9 July 2018, SC-17-10), with a view to serving the objectives of the MPF action plan and complementing and building synergy with the work already done by the ICRC and the IFRC to digitize materials related to the Movement's statutory bodies.
- endorsed the proposed purpose, scope and (working) title of the MPF :
 - **Purpose:** *The Policy Framework provides guidance for Movement-wide resolution, policy development and lifecycle, including ownership, preparation, approval by the International Conference or the Council of Delegates, promotion, implementation and review. The Framework aims to harmonize resolution and policy making and follow-up. It further aims at ensuring that the Movement and its statutory bodies have relevant, consistent and up-to-date reference norms, that facilitate access to users concerned, and encourage monitoring and compliance where relevant.*
 - **Scope:** *The Framework applies to all resolutions submitted to and adopted by the Council of Delegates and the International Conference.*
 - **(Working) title :** *'Movement policy framework'*
- agreed that the MPF should be submitted to the Council of Delegates for adoption with the Council of Delegates calling upon the Standing Commission to provide guidance on its application, apply it and maintain its relevance.
- Would consider including a dedicated item in the agenda of the 2024 Council of Delegates.

5. Movement Statutes

6. Statutory meetings 2024: the way forward to the 34th International Conference and Council of Delegates

Decisions:

The Standing Commission

- endorsed the Terms of reference as prepared for the 34th International Conference's Chair and Vice-Chair, the drafting committee Chair and a plenary commission Chair.
- agreed to designate S.E. Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz, chairperson of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, as Chair of the 34th International Conference.
- **[subsequent decision of 9 February 2024]** Approved a first batch of 85 observers to be invited to the 34th International Conference, in line with the Standing Commission's 2019 *Guidance document and criteria for inviting guest and observers*.
- noted the planning of engagement events with members and observers of the Council of Delegates and the 34th International Conference at the end of 2023 and in 2024, encouraging its members to actively take part as far as possible.
- endorsed the guidance document for side events at the 34th International Conference, noting that a call for proposals would be launched in early 2024.
- endorsed the Pledging Guidelines, noting that a call for pledges would be launched in January 2024, with the opening of the online pledging system.

- noted with appreciation the comments received from members of the International Conference on the proposed outline of agenda topics, as well as the recent dispatch to members (November 11, 2023) of proposed elements of resolutions for the 34th International Conference, for consultation until December 22, 2023.
- recalled its decision of November 8, 2023 to authorize the preparation and forthcoming dispatch of elements for a supplementary resolution on Anticipatory action.
- noted with appreciation the comments received from members of the Council of Delegates on the proposed outline of agenda topics, as well as the recent dispatch to members (November 11, 2023) of proposed elements of resolutions for the 2024 Council, for consultation until December 22, 2023.

7. Finance of the Standing Commission

Decisions:

The Standing Commission

- expressed its gratitude to the 52 National Societies which, at the time of this meeting, had already contributed to the 2023 budget of the Standing Commission.
- approved its budget of CHF 600,000 in 2024, setting its target for contributions of CHF 175,000 from National Societies (voluntary contributions), the IFRC and the ICRC respectively, and agreeing to contribute CHF 75,000 to the budget on its own funds.

8. Any other business and closing

Decisions:

The Standing Commission

- recalled that 2028 would mark the centenary of the Standing Commission, the Council of Delegates and a Movement inclusive of all its components, inviting reflection on appropriate ways to celebrate this anniversary.