

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

Meeting SC 18 – 14

**20-21 March 2024
Geneva**

Decision sheet

1. Opening of the meeting: welcome and procedural matters

Decisions:

The Standing Commission

- welcomed Ms Kate Forbes, IFRC president, as a new Member of the Standing Commission.
- welcomed back Mr Jagan Chapagain, IFRC Secretary General, as a Member of the Standing Commission.
- expressed its deep thanks and appreciation to Ms Niamh Lawless for her dedication and commitment to the Standing Commission over the past four years and wished her every success in her future endeavours.
- Noted the absence of its Member, Dr Abbas Gullet, whose leave of absence has been provisionally extended
- approved the draft Agenda for the meeting SC 18-14 (Rev2) as circulated.
- adopted the minutes of the meeting SC 18-13, 19-20 November 2023

2. Outstanding issues for the Movement

Decisions:

The Standing Commission

- heard reports from the IFRC and ICRC on some of the crises and immense challenges currently facing the Movement, whether in high-profile contexts (e.g., Israel-Gaza conflict and repercussions in the region in Egypt, Lebanon and beyond; Russia-Ukraine conflict) or less visible contexts (e.g., conflicts and armed violence in Sudan, Haiti, northern Mozambique, eastern DR Congo, Myanmar; food security and the new large-scale cholera epidemic, etc.).
- noted the ICRC's adoption of its new institutional strategy (2024-2027), which reaffirms its commitment to cooperating with the Movement's components and strengthening the Movement as a credible and impactful humanitarian network.
- heard an update on the situation of the two National Societies whose IFRC membership status remained suspended and expressed the hope that ongoing efforts would enable these situations to be normalized before the October 2024 statutory meetings.

3. MoU/AOA between MDA and PRCS: update and next steps

Decisions:

The Standing Commission

- noted that a small group of around 5 National Societies would be set up by the end of April 2024 to help draft the next report and resolution to the Council of Delegates on the implementation of the MoU/AOA between MDA and PRCS and offered that one of its members would represent the Standing Commission on this group as an observer.

4. Seville Agreement 2.0

Decisions:

The Standing Commission

- thanked the IFRC and ICRC for preparing common indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Seville Agreement 2.0 (SA 2.0) as well as the draft terms of Reference and proposed membership for a National Society Consultative Support Group, contributed its advice to the proposed monitoring approach and noted the finalization of these documents, the selection of individual members of the Consultative Support Group and the activation of the Group by the end of April 2024.
- discussed the role and conditions for the Standing Commission to establish the "ad hoc independent [arbitration] body" provided for in article 15.9 of SA.2 .0, thanked the head of the secretariat for the research into the existence and practice of this arbitration body since 1995, confirmed until further notice its previous decision of March 2012 (SC16-12) retaining the model Rules of Procedure for an arbitration board as endorsed by the 1997 Council of Delegates (Resolution 1) and agreed to continue this reflection at the next meeting in order to clarify where necessary the conditions of operation and the Rules of Procedure of this arbitration body.

5. Movement Awards 2024

Decisions:

In recognition of their outstanding services and act of great devotion to the cause of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Standing Commission unanimously decided to award the Henry Dunant Medal for 2024 to (*in alphabetical order*):

- Mr Massimo Barra, from Italy
- Ms Dora Athalyne James, from St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Mr Greg Vickery, from Australia
- Ms Margareta Wahlström, from Sweden

The Standing Commission

- expressed its gratitude to the National Societies that had submitted nominations of high-value personalities for the Movement's awards, among whom it had to make difficult choices. It also thanked the Nomination Review Group for its efforts in preparing the call for nominations for the Movement Awards 2024, reviewing the nominations and preparing the files submitted to the Standing Commission.
- received for the 2024 Movement awards, reiterating its commitment to further encourage diversity and inclusion in the nomination and awarding process as well as uphold the highest standards of integrity and ethics. It also reminded that the Movement's awards are primarily intended to honour outstanding achievements, especially those of international significance for the Henry Dunant Medal.

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

Decisions:

The Standing Commission

- Welcomed S.E. Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz, National Chair of the Malaysian RC and H.E. Amb. Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva and expressed its gratitude to them for agreeing to be designated Chair and Secretary-General respectively of the 34th International Conference.
- Agreed that participation in the 2024 statutory meetings would be in person, and that a recommendation would be made to registered delegations to limit to five the number of their members.
- Approved the streaming of all sessions of the 2024 statutory meetings taking place in the plenary room (opening and closing ceremonies, plenary sessions, including plenary commissions and two spotlight sessions). Sessions of the Drafting Committee and "Voices from the Conference" would not be streamed. It

- approved the possibility for pre-identified speakers to connect and present on-line but ruled out the possibility of delegates taking part in debates or decisions without being present in person.
- approved the draft provisional agenda of the 34th International Conference to be dispatched with the notice of convocation to the Conference in accordance with Rules 5 and 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement.
- welcomed the presentation of the following five draft zero resolutions (and draft background reports) and agreed that they be shared with members of the International Conference for consultation at the time of sending the convocation:
 - Toward a universal culture of compliance with IHL
 - Protecting civilians and other protected persons and objects against cyber and information operations during armed conflict
 - Strengthening disaster risk governance through comprehensive disaster laws, policies and plans
 - Empowering local leadership, capacity and delivery in principled humanitarian action and strengthening resilience
 - Protecting people from the humanitarian impacts of extreme climate and weather events: Working together to strengthen anticipatory action
- Noted the planning of engagement events with members and observers of the Council of Delegates and the 34th International Conference until October 2024, encouraging its members to actively take part as far as possible.
- Reiterated the great importance it placed on the preparatory meeting of May 6 and 7, 2024 as an opportunity for members of the International Conference to exchange views on the draft zero resolutions and contribute to consensus-building, a practice it had decided to introduce before the previous International Conference and to renew following very positive feedback from participants; it confirmed that it would be represented by its Chair and Vice-Chair at this preparatory meeting, and was pleased to note the presence of both the ICRC and IFRC Presidents;
- Noted the Joint Organizing Committee's plan to receive proposals by the end of March 2024 for organizing side events during the International Conference, which will be analyzed and shared with the Standing Commission for decision by May 1, 2024 and inclusion in the Conference program.
- Noted the preparations underway by the electoral committee for the election of the Standing Commission in October 2024, notably for the call for candidates scheduled in April, at least 6 months before the 34th International Conference.
- Noted the proposal for revised Terms of Reference for the Electoral Committee and requested that its composition be changed to include three eminent figures from the Movement who are independent and have no vested interest in the forthcoming election, preferably former elected members of the Standing Commission, with the technical support of an electoral team comprising experts from the IFRC, the ICRC and the secretariat.
- **[subsequent decision of 16 April 2024]** approved the revised Terms of Reference of the Electoral Committee for the Election of the Standing Commission.
- **[subsequent decision of 16 April 2024]** appointed Ms. Eva von Oelreich from Sweden (Europe), Mr. Chrystold Chetty from Seychelles (Africa), and Mr. Eamon Harrison Courtenay from Belize (Americas) as members of the Electoral Committee.
- **[subsequent decision of 16 April 2024]** endorsed the Campaign Standards for the Election of the Standing Commission.
- approved with changes the draft provisional agenda of the Council of Delegates to be dispatched with the notice of convocation to the Council in accordance with Rules 24, 25 and 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Movement.
- welcomed the presentation of the following seven draft zero resolutions (and draft background reports) and agreed that they be shared with members of the Council of Delegates for consultation at the time of sending the convocation:
 - Protection in the Movement: Improving our collective impact in protecting people
 - Migration Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2024–2030

- Weapons and international humanitarian law
- War in cities: A solemn appeal from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Call for respect and support for principled humanitarian action
- Extension to 2030 of the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025
- Reaffirming the role of the Movement as a factor of peace

7. 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 fourth meeting (20 March) on progress made in the implementation of the group's action plan and recommendations for further actions.
- Agreed with the following recommendation:
 - The MPF would be presented for information to the 2024 Council of Delegates under the already existing agenda item as amended: Report on the work of the Standing Commission, *including the Movement Policy Framework initiative*, also with an oral presentation and a cover (procedural) resolution encouraging further development of the MPF.
 - The search for support from within the Movement should be prioritized to develop the MPF and its related projects in 2024-2026, first and foremost to obtain from an interested National Society the secondment of an expert to participate in the development and coordination of these projects.
 - The Terms of Reference of the Working Group would be revised to better reflect its objectives for 2024-2026

8. RCRC Movement at the World Expo 2025 – Osaka (Japan)

Decisions:

The Standing Commission

- welcomed Mr Hiroto Oyama and Mr Satoshi Sugai in the meeting, thanked the latter for his presentation and congratulated the Japanese Red Cross Society for its initiative to ensure the Movement's presence and promotion at the World Expo 2025, to be held in Osaka/Kansai from April 13 to October 13, 2025, including the setting up of a Red Cross Red Crescent Pavilion and the organization of various events designed to shed light on the reality of humanitarian action in the world today. It expressed its support and encouragement for the preparation and full success of this remarkable endeavour.

9. Any other business and closing

Decisions:

The Standing Commission

- welcomed the Chair's proposal and agreed to issue a new joint message with the Presidents of the ICRC and the IFRC on the occasion of the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day on 8 May 2024.