

# Bulletin

## Letter from the Chair



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Dear friends,

On behalf of the Standing Commission – comprising the members elected at the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on 30 October 2024 and the *ex officio* members – I would like to express our gratitude, as trustee of the International Conference, for the trust placed in us for the next four years. I am sure that I speak for us all when I say that we feel very honoured by this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who took part in the 18th Session of the Standing Commission; I am most appreciative of their commitment to serve both the commission and the Movement.

While a change in the composition of the Standing Commission may present a challenge, with the commission's new members, I feel certain that we will do everything possible to fulfil the legacy left by the previous team.

As we take up our duties, we know that a major challenge lies ahead. We will do our utmost to serve the interests of the Movement and to ensure that we carry out the tasks and functions assigned to us in the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as those that you all expect of us.

We will continue to work assiduously to encourage all parties to implement the resolutions of the 34th International Conference and the Council of Delegates, and these important decisions that were taken now form the common commitments for us all over the course of the next four years.

Find out the latest decisions of the Standing Commission on this webpage:  
<https://standcom.ch/meetings-and-decisions/>

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I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz for her excellent work as chair of the International Conference, as well as her entire team who took part in the plenary sessions, the drafting committee, the commissions and the spotlight sessions. It was an incredible job, well done! I would also like to thank the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for their organizational support; and of course, thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the statutory meetings a success.

I am convinced that there is a genuine need for the Standing Commission to exist as the trustee of the International Conference, which can ensure that the Movement responds in a coordinated and effective way to emerging challenges, while upholding the Fundamental Principles.

On a personal note, I would like to say that I feel proud to have earned your trust. I take on the responsibility of chairing the Standing Commission for a second term with complete humility and in the confidence that we have the support we need to meet the expectations and goals of our organization in carrying out our important work.

Please do not hesitate to bring to the Standing Commission any issue that you believe merits our attention – I know we can count on your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely,  
Mercedes Babé



The unexpected encounter at the October 2024 statutory meetings of five former and present chairs from the 14th to the 19th sessions of the Standing Commission. From left to right: Greg Vickery, George Weber, Mercedes Babé, Mohammed Al-Hadid and Massimo Barra.

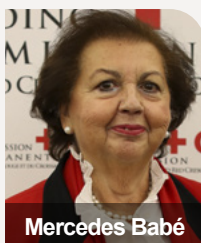
# New membership of the Standing Commission

The 34th International Conference elected five members of the Standing Commission on 30 October 2024. They are all members of different National Societies, each elected in a personal capacity. They are joined on the Standing Commission by two representatives of the ICRC and two representatives of the IFRC, including their respective presidents.

In accordance with the current rules, H.E. Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz, the chair of the 34th International Conference, convened a meeting of the new Standing Commission immediately after the election. Its members decided that Mrs Mercedes Babé would be chair and Mr Wang Ping vice-chair for its 19th Session.



## 19th Session of the Standing Commission: membership



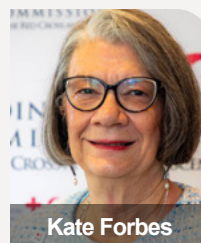
Mercedes Babé

Chair

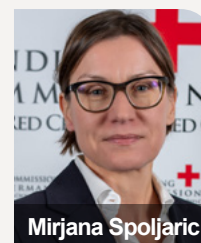


Wang Ping

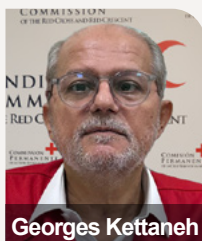
Vice-Chair



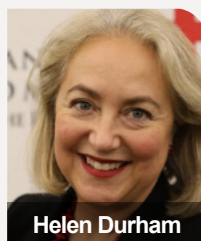
Kate Forbes



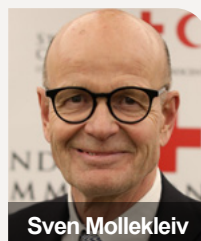
Mirjana Spoljaric



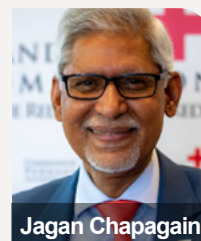
Georges Kettaneh



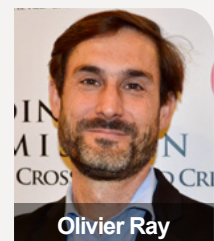
Helen Durham



Sven Mollekleiv



Jagan Chapagain



Olivier Ray

### What does it mean to be a member of the Standing Commission?

The Standing Commission's *raison d'être* is to act as the trustee of the Movement's highest deliberative body, the International Conference, which meets every four years.

Between conferences, the Standing Commission provides strategic guidance in the interest of all components of the Movement. In addition to its responsibilities regarding arrangements for the International Conference and meetings of the Council of Delegates, the Standing Commission strives to:

- promote harmony in the work of the Movement and coordination among its components
- encourage and further the implementation of International Conference resolutions
- examine matters that concern the Movement as a whole.

The Commission is not intended to be an operational body of the Movement. It seeks to encourage the preparation, adoption and implementation of relevant and effective commitments and policies for the Movement and the International Conference and to maintain and strengthen the Movement's cohesion, adherence to common principles and positions and harmonious coordination in its humanitarian work.

# Outcome of the 2024 Statutory Meetings of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

October 2024 saw the Movement gather in Geneva, Switzerland, for the global Red Cross and Red Crescent meetings, starting with the 24th Session of the IFRC General Assembly and its Youth Forum, followed by the Council of Delegates with the participation of all the Movement components and culminating in the 34th International Conference together with the States party to the Geneva Conventions.

As Statutory Meetings of the Movement prepared by the Standing Commission, the trustee of the International Conference, and co-organized by the ICRC and the

IFRC, the International Conference and the Council of Delegates aim to:

- contribute to respect for and the development of international humanitarian law
- improve the safety, security and dignity of individuals by strengthening legal frameworks and policies
- shape the global humanitarian agenda
- foster relationships, alliances and synergies.

## 34th International Conference

### “Navigate uncertainty, strengthen humanity”

The 34th International Conference was held from 28 to 31 October, presenting a critical opportunity to focus on concrete ways to address some of the world’s most pressing humanitarian challenges. It brought together over 2,400 participants who took part in formal and informal events, including plenary sessions, Drafting Committee meetings, three Commissions and their 12 thematic spotlight sessions, 27 side events and the Humanitarian Village.

After three days of discussions and drafting, the International Conference adopted the following **five resolutions**:

- Building a universal culture of compliance with international humanitarian law ([Resolution 1, 34IC/24/R1](#))
- Protecting civilians and other protected persons and objects against the potential human cost of ICT activities during armed conflict ([Resolution 2, 34IC/24/R2](#))

- Strengthening disaster risk governance through comprehensive legal and regulatory frameworks ([Resolution 3, 34IC/24/R3](#))
- Enabling local leadership, capacity and delivery in principled humanitarian action and strengthening resilience ([Resolution 4, 34IC/24/R4](#))
- Protecting people from the humanitarian impacts of extreme climate and weather events: Working together to strengthen anticipatory action ([Resolution 5, 34IC/24/R5](#))

Additionally, [Resolution 6, 34IC/24/R6](#) endorsed Resolution 4 of the Council of Delegates on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Operational Arrangements dated 28 November 2005 between Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society.



The resolutions were supplemented by voluntary commitments made by participants in the form of **pledges**. Pledges are important tools for facilitating and improving cooperation and dialogue between humanitarian organizations, public authorities and other

partners present at the International Conference. Please note that the deadline for submitting other pledges has been extended to **30 June 2025**. You can find the pledging guidelines and the [2024 pledge database here](#).

## 2024 Council of Delegates

The Council of Delegates, held on 27 and 28 October, was an opportunity for all the components of the Movement to discuss and take decisions on a wide range of humanitarian issues of common interest. The Council adopted the following **nine resolutions**:

- Protection in the Movement: Improving our collective impact in protecting people ([Resolution 1, CD/24/R1](#))
- Migration Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2024–2030 ([Resolution 2, CD/24/R2](#))
- Weapons and international humanitarian law ([Resolution 3, CD/24/R3](#))
- Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Operational Arrangements dated 28 November 2005 between Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society ([Resolution 4, CD/24/R4](#))
- Call for respect and support for principled humanitarian action ([Resolution 5, CD/24/R5](#))
- Extension until 2030 of the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025 ([Resolution 6, CD/24/R6](#))
- Reaffirming the role of the Movement as a factor of peace ([Resolution 7, CD/24/R7](#))
- War in cities: A solemn appeal from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement ([Resolution 8, CD/24/R8](#))
- Work of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent ([Resolution 9, CD/24/R9](#))

Last but not least, the Council of Delegates adopted the agenda of the 34th International Conference.

All background reports supporting resolutions and progress reports on the implementation of previous resolutions are available on the [2024 Council of Delegates official documents webpage](#). They include the Standing Commission's report to the Council of Delegates ([CD/24/12](#)) outlining the main work it carried out from 2022 to 2024. It details the preparation of the 2024 Statutory Meetings, its work to promote harmony, cooperation and coordination within the Movement and administration of the Movement awards. It also looks ahead to World Expo 2025 in Osaka and to the centenary of the Council of Delegates and the Standing Commission in 2028. Special mention was made of the Movement Policy Framework, the purpose of which is to provide Movement-wide guidance on the development and life cycle of policies and resolutions, including ownership, preparation, approval, promotion, implementation and review.

The adoption of these resolutions was a remarkable achievement by the Council of Delegates and the 34th International Conference. Implementing the resolutions and the many voluntary pledges that have also been made will be of utmost importance in the months and years ahead in order to demonstrate the uniqueness of these Statutory Meetings and the humanitarian commitments made at them and live up to the spirit of the Movement, which is to strengthen humanity above all else.

# Movement Awards Ceremony



On the evening of 27 October 2024, a joint awards ceremony was held at the Council of Delegates featuring the presentation of the Henry Dunant Medal, the Movement's highest distinction, and the newly introduced Movement Family Links Medal, along with a tribute to the 2023 winners of the Florence Nightingale Medal.

With Claire Doole as the master of ceremonies, Standing Commission Chair Mercedes Babé read out the tributes summing up the outstanding achievements of each winner and presented them with their medal:



**Dora James**  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross



**Margareta Wahlström**  
Swedish Red Cross



**Greg Vickery**  
Australian Red Cross



**Massimo Barra**  
Italian Red Cross



The ceremony was also an opportunity to recognize the five winners of the Movement Family Links Medal, honouring them for their exceptional contributions to restoring family connections during crises. The recipients were Aida Kenneth from the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, Albino Okello from the British Red Cross, Christine Farès from the ICRC in Lebanon, Hassane Adam Alamey from the Red Cross Society of Niger and Natalia Mimi Alex Muperi from the South Sudan Red Cross.



During the ceremony, the 37 winners of the Florence Nightingale Medal, which honours outstanding nurses for their exceptional courage and devotion to the victims of armed conflict and natural disaster, received a tribute for their service.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM!**



# The Red Cross and Red Crescent at the World Expo 2025

The next World EXPO will be held in Japan in Osaka/Kansai, Japan from 13 April to 13 October 2025. The Japanese Red Cross Society has decided to participate in the EXPO by running a Pavilion of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to show case key humanitarian issues related to the protection of civilians in war zones, disaster response and prevention, climate change, etc.

Anyone interested from within or outside the Movement is encouraged to visit the Red Cross Red Crescent Pavilion, either by coming to Japan in person or by taking a virtual tour online.



**INTERNATIONAL  
RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT  
MOVEMENT PAVILION**

April 13-October 13, 2025



Learn more about the Movement Pavilion through this QR code







Mercedes Babé



Wang Ping



Georges Kettaneh



Helen Durham



Sven Mollekleiv



Kate Forbes



Jagan Chapagain



Mirjana Spoljaric



Olivier Ray

*Happy new year and best wishes*  
*Bonne année et meilleurs vœux*  
*Feliz año y mejores deseos*  
*سنة جديدة سعيدة وأطيب التمنيات*