

XVI SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT
Meeting SC XVI – 8 3
June 2014 Florence, Italy
DECISION SHEET

Approved at Standing Commission Meeting
SC XVI – 9, Geneva, 17 November 2014

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chairman opened the meeting and expressed the appreciation of the Commission for the warm welcome and excellent arrangements put in place for the meeting by Toscana regional Committee of the Italian Red Cross under the Chairmanship of Dr Francesco Caponi.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Decision: **The agenda was adopted as circulated.**

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING XVI-7

Decision: **The revised minutes incorporating the comments received were adopted as circulated.**

4. REVIEW OF DECISION SHEET FROM MEETING XVI-7

The Chairman reviewed the decision sheet. No comments were offered and no questions were raised.

5. FINANCE MATTERS: REPORT, BUDGET

The Head of Secretariat gave an update on the financial situation up to end of April, projected the expenditure covering the first half of 2014, and proposed a revised budget for the current year.

The reason for the revised budget was due to two additional activities – the MoU monitoring now under the SC auspices and the Movement Strategy review exercise, which had not been foreseen in the original 2014 budget.

The 2015 budget was presented at an earlier stage than usual as result of a request from the ICRC and the International Federation in order to enable the two institutions to incorporate the actual budget in their own budgeting for 2015.

Decision: **The Commission approved the revised budget for 2014 as presented. The Commission approved the draft budget for 2015 as presented.**

6. BRIEFINGS FROM ICRC AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UKRAINIAN AND RUSSIAN RED CROSS SOCIETIES

Following correspondence between the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, the ICRC, the International Federation, and the Standing Commission, the Chairman had asked for a briefing from the institutions.

Decision: **The Standing Commission will be updated on the situation in Ukraine and related matters at its forthcoming meeting XVI 9.**

7. UPDATE FROM ICRC AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION ON CHANGE PROCESSES AND GOVERNANCE MEETINGS

A couple of suggestions were put forward – the Standing Commission to send a representative to the Federation’s working group meetings; or to invite the IFRC working group chair to attend the Commission’s working group meetings. In short, communication would be needed to avoid working in a vacuum. The Commission received updates from the ICRC and the International Federation, respectively, on the changes underway and foreseen in their senior management teams. The International Federation also mentioned its processes designed to achieve reform of its governance and its mechanisms for preparations for its own statutory meetings.

Decision:

The Commission emphasized the importance of close co-ordination of processes that affect the manner in which the statutory meetings are organised in 2015, including by the Standing Commission being invited to the International Federation’s Working Group on the Statutory Meetings and the Chair of that Group being invited to the meetings of the Standing Commission’s advisory group on the International Conference.

8. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITHIN THE MOVEMENT – BRIEFINGS BY ICRC AND THE FEDERATION

The Commission received updates on the continuing process of developing co-operation and co-ordination within the Movement as foreseen in resolution 4 from the Council of Delegates in 2013, which also requested the Federation and the ICRC to keep the Standing Commission regularly informed of progress in this work.

Decision: **The Commission will be regularly informed on the progress of the efforts to develop co-operation and co-ordination within the Movement.**

9. STRATEGY FOR THE MOVEMENT, FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH SWEDISH AND NETHERLANDS RED CROSS

The Commission received a briefing by the Chairman on a meeting with the Red Cross Societies of Netherlands and Sweden, held in Geneva in May 2013 as foreseen in decision 5 of Meeting XVI 7 which requested that as a first step further consultations with the two Societies that had the most vocal observations on the question of a new Strategy for the Movement should be organised.

Decision: **The Commission decided to develop a vision paper as the next step in the process of renewing the Strategy for the Movement, and agreed to request its member, Mr Pär Stenbäck to lead its development in collaboration with the Geneva institutions and involvement of National Societies, including but not limited to, the National Societies of Sweden and the Netherlands, as well as other relevant external expertise, in the initial phase. The draft vision paper would be circulated to National Societies for consultation when available.**

10. ANNIVERSARY OF FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

This agenda item was combined with that of International Conference.

11. ANNIVERSARY OF THE HENRY DUNANT MEDAL

The Chairman reviewed previous discussions and decisions and invited members to comment and present further ideas for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Henry Dunant Medal.

Decision: The Commission agreed with the proposal of publishing the miniature biographies of those individuals who have received the Henry Dunant Medal on the Standing Commission's website as part of marking the 50th anniversary of the Medal.

The Commission further agreed that for 2015 National Societies would be encouraged to identify and profile "today's young Henry Dunants" and nominate candidates accordingly.

Moreover, the Commission agreed that it would be necessary actively to project the inspiration of such candidates at the international level through effective communications and through a Medal Award Ceremony that is much more attractive event with strong and emotional visual elements, to be broadcast by a wider range of media / social media, and possibly introduced by a well-known personality.

The two institutions undertook to brief their respective communications departments in line with this decision and ask them to develop a strong communications plan.

12. 32ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

a. Advisory Group on the International Conference

Mr Carr, as Chairman of the Advisory Group, briefed the Commission on the meeting of the Advisory Group that had taken place recently. The meeting, which had been very constructive, emphasize the importance of ensuring that the Conference becomes relevant to all members and other major stakeholders as the primary humanitarian forum. The Group highlighted the need for the agenda to be linked those of other important fora, and would endeavour to "package" the Conference accordingly, building on the capacities of the ICRC and the International Federation. Moreover, the Advisory Group encouraged efforts to raise the profile of the Conference in the media and among the general public. To this end, the Advisory Group recommended the use of external expertise, including event planners, to work with the communications teams of the two institutions. At the Advisory Group meeting, the ICRC and the Federation undertook consulting their respective communications people on their capacity and revert by the end of June.

Decision: The Commission adopted the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Group. The Commission welcomed the report from the Chairman of the group and encouraged it to continue its work in the same direction, placing even more emphasis on developing the substantial contents of the International Conference. It welcomed the development of thinking around communications in the two institutions.

The Commission decided, subject to agreement by the International Federation's Governing Board, to organize the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva, on the 7th, 8th, and 9th December 2015.

b. Feedback from Briefing of Permanent Missions in Geneva, 14 May

The ICRC and the International Federation organized a first briefing of Permanent Missions in Geneva on the outcome of the 2013 Council of Delegates and preparations for the 32nd International Conference. The next briefing of Permanent Missions is planned for September 2014 at approximately which time a Group of Ambassadors will be formed, too.

c. Concept and draft agenda

The Commission heard from the Institutions on the matter of the concept paper for the International Conference and the work towards a draft agenda, and had a rich discussion on that basis.

Decision: The Commission reaffirmed its decision to have the Fundamental Principles, as the overarching theme for the 32nd International Conference

The Commission adopted the Group's recommendation to organize the issues brought to the International Federation in clusters Conflict / IHL; Disasters /IDRL; and Aid Effectiveness resulting from adherence to the Fundamental Principles supported by effective Movement Co-ordination and Co-operation.

The Commission agreed that the process of establishing a Group of Ambassadors should commence in September 2014, and that its decisions in that regard would be taken by correspondence.

d. Update concerning Cyprus and the 32nd International Conference

The Commission had received a letter from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus on the issue of participation in the Conference of observers. The Commission discussed the letter and related matters.

Decision: The Commission decided to stand by its decisions on these issues in relation to the Council of Delegates in 2013. The Commission decided that with the acknowledgement of receipt of the letter from its Secretariat no further action was required for the time being.

13. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU BETWEEN PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY AND MAGEN DAVID ADOM IN ISRAEL

The Commission received an update from Mr Stenbäck in his role as one of the Standing Commission representatives on the issue of monitoring of the implementation of the.

Decision: The Commission decided that a set of Terms of Reference for the monitoring should be developed.

The Commission agreed that field verification should be conducted by the ICRC and Federation delegations, and that the Commission's involvement in the Monitoring must be visible to stakeholders, if necessary by use of technology.

The Commission will provide a report on these efforts to the forthcoming International Conference.

14. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Decision: The Commission decided to meet in Geneva Monday 17 November and to have an informal dinner the evening before. The first meeting in 2015 will be held in Houston on the eve of the Inter-Americas Regional Conference currently scheduled to commence on 27 March.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr Barra briefed the Commission on his contacts with the Holy See and proposed that the discussions he had had should be continued.

Decision: The Commission asked Dr Barra to continue, in conjunction with the Secretariat, contacts with the Holy See, and report on the outcome of these at the next meeting.

16. CLOSURE

The Chairman extended his heartfelt appreciation to Dr Spoerri on this, his last, Standing Commission meeting before leaving his current position to assume new responsibilities within the ICRC. On behalf of fellow members, the Chairman thanked Dr Spoerri for his tremendous contributions and guidance to the Commission over a long period, and wished him success in his new position as Head of the ICRC Delegation in New York. He then closed the meeting.