

**XVI SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

Meeting SC XVI – 9

**17 November 2014
Divonne, France**

Decisions

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Decision:

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members and support staff, extending a special welcome to the two new Members, Mr ElHadj As Sy, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Mr Balthasar Staehelin, Deputy Director General of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA OF THE SCXVI-9 MEETING

Decision:

The Chairman proposed adding an update on developments from the two institutions to item 6, Co-operation and Co-ordination within the Movement. In addition, he suggested the briefing on the situation in Ukraine agreed at the previous meeting could be done at the same time. With those modifications, the agenda was adopted as circulated.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SCXVI-8 MEETING

Decision:

No comments were offered in relation to the minutes circulated, and they were therefore adopted.

4. REVIEW OF DECISION SHEET FROM MEETING XVI-7TH

Decision:

Apart from the item on Ukraine, no comments were offered as the decision sheet was accepted as an accurate record of actions taken since the last meeting.

5. 32ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Decision:

For this item, the Commissioner for the Conference, Ambassador Nicolas Lang, as well as Ms Elyse Mosquini from the ICRC and Ms Anca Zacharia from the International Federation, joined the meeting.

Having heard a report from a meeting of its Advisory Group on the International Conference, the Standing Commission proceeded to have a full discussion of the draft Concept Note and other aspects of the preparations.

Based on those discussions, the Standing Commission decided to use the expression “Power of Humanity: Fundamental Principles in Action” as the “heading” for the Conference.

The three broad, crosscutting issues before the Conference will be

- “Preventing and Responding to Violence”
- “Safeguarding safety and access to humanitarian assistance and services”
- “Reducing disaster risk and strengthening resilience”

Moreover, the Standing Commission agreed on some modifications in the structure of the topics and consequent changes to the text of the Concept Note. The Joint Organising Committee was tasked to finalise the Concept Note in accordance with the views expressed by the Commission and to circulate it to all Members of the International Conference without further delay.

The Standing Commission confirmed the continued use “pledges” in support of Conference outcomes, and to seek ways to encourage these to be both focussed and realistic.

The Commission also welcomed the initiative to support the preparatory process and the process after the Conference through a “Global Engagement Initiative” based in the communications departments of the two institutions.

It was agreed that to avoid burdening National Society Members of the Conference with too many communications, the initial documents for the General Assembly of the International Federation, the Council of Delegates preceding the International Conference, the Conference itself would be distributed together.

The Standing Commission also welcome the plans for the redevelopment of the International Conference website (<http://rcrcconference.org>) to be of use for all three meetings.

After a brief discussion, the Commission decided to delegate decision-making on the selection of speakers and panellists to the Secretary General of the International Federation, the Director General of the ICRC, and the Chairman of the Commission.

With regard to briefing of Permanent Missions in Geneva, it was decided to make use of, in the first instance the end-of-year briefing for the same group, organised by the International Federation and scheduled to take place 3 December 2014, to also share information about preparations for the Conference.

It was also decided that, as opposed to previous Conferences, the Group of Ambassadors – to be convened in the second half of January – will be open-ended but restricted to Ambassadors and Chargés d’Affaires.

6. CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION WITHIN THE MOVEMENT – BRIEFING BY ICRC AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

Decision:

The ICRC provided an analytical overview of the situation and developments in Ukraine and Syria and noted the good co-operation between all components of the Movement, especially in the context of Syria.

The International Federation gave the Commission a brief overview of the proceedings of the recent meeting of its Governing Board, as well as its work with National Societies in the

countries affected by Ebola and emphasised the importance – in this situation and more generally – of having trained and organised volunteers in all communities.

The Commission was also briefed on progress in implementation of Resolution 4 of the Council of Delegates in Sydney on Co-operations and Co-ordination within the Movement.

7. VISION PAPER FOR THE MOVEMENT

Decision:

Following up on decision 9 of the previous meeting, which asked its member, Mr Pär Stenbäck, to lead work to develop a vision paper for the Movement, Mr Stenbäck briefed the meeting on his activities, conclusions, and recommendations.

The Commission requested the two institutions and Mr Stenbäck to proceed to draft a 3-5 page paper for review at the next meeting of the Commission.

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

Decision:

The Commission received a briefing from its Member, Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, on a recent monitoring visit to Israel and Palestine. The meeting held between Magen David Adom in Israel and Palestine Red Crescent Society had taken place in a positive atmosphere marked by mutual respect, without shying away from the difficult issues. However, the discussions focussed not on the past, but on what needs to be done during the next 12 months to fulfil the obligations of the Standing Commission with regard to implementation of the MoU.

The Standing Commission was requested to write a letter to Magen David Adom in Israel to serve as support for it in its discussions with the Government of Israel. The ICRC will provide a draft of the letter.

9. ANNIVERSARY OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Decision:

The Commission heard from the two institutions what activities are ongoing or foreseen in the run-up to the anniversary in October 2015.

10. HENRY DUNANT MEDAL

Decision:

It was decided to invite nominations from National Societies in the near future. The Secretariat of the Standing Commission gave a brief update on the status of the collection of miniature biographies of all past recipients that will be produced: a preliminary version will be posted on the Standing Commission website, shortly. The Secretariat also informed the Commission that

a provision has been made in the budget for the statutory meetings in 2015 to support an improved award ceremony.

11. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Decision:

The Commission received a brief update on the current financial position.

12. UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR EMAIL SERVICES AND WEBSITE

Decision:

The Secretariat briefed the Commission on action that has been taken to improve the Standing Commissions e-mail facilities, and plans for updating the website, both of which were supported by the Commission.

13. SHARING INFORMATION BETWEEN THE ICRC, THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION AND THE STANDING COMMISSION, ITEM DEFERRED FROM THE SC XVI-6 MEETING, 16-17 SEPTEMBER 2013

Decision:

The Commission was briefed on, and briefly discussed, circumstantial and structural issues affecting the co-operation and communication between the two institutions and the Secretariat of the Commission on all matters of common interest.

14. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

Decision:

The Commission confirmed its meetings in Houston, on the eve of the InterAmerican Conference and modified the precise timing. The meeting will take place in the afternoon of 26 and morning of 27 of March 2015.

The Commission agreed to pencil in a meeting in Geneva on 4 May 2015, and to meet in Vienna in early October 2015, probably the 6th of that month, in conjunction with the events being organised by Austrian Red Cross to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the Fundamental Principles.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Decision:

The Secretariat briefed the Commission on its ideas for a small project to better understand the obstacles to effective participation in global meetings of the Movement of "small" National

Societies, and to identify, in consultation with them, possible action, tools and best practices that could be shared in advance of the 32nd International Conference.

The Commission supported this idea.

No other business was raised.