



INFORMATION NOTE
FOR THE MEMBERS, OBSERVERS AND GUESTS
OF THE 29TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT
(20-21 June 2006)

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I. SUMMARY INFORMATION ON THE STATUTES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT¹

1. Fundamental Principles

- ⇒ The Fundamental Principles, namely the principles of Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary service, Unity and Universality, are defined in the **Preamble of the Statutes** of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- ⇒ The States shall at all times respect the adherence by all the components of the Movement to the Fundamental Principles².

¹ The full text of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure are at participants' disposal on request to organizers.

- ⇒ The International Conference contributes to the unity of the Movement and to the achievement of its mission in full respect of the Fundamental Principles³.
- ⇒ All participants in the International Conference shall respect the Fundamental Principles and all documents presented shall conform with these Principles⁴ (...).

2. Composition of the International Conference

Members

- ⇒ The members of the International Conference shall be the delegations from the National [Red Cross and Red Crescent] Societies, from the International Committee [of the Red Cross] (ICRC), from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and from the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions⁵.
- ⇒ A delegation shall not be represented by another delegation or by a member of another delegation⁶.

Observers, guests and invited organizations

- ⇒ In addition to the members entitled to take part the International Conference, observers (...) may attend the meetings of the Conference⁷ (...).
- ⇒ The Standing Commission shall establish by consensus the list of observers⁸ (...).
- ⇒ The host organization may issue invitations to guests to the opening and closing ceremonies and to such other occasions as the Standing Commission or the Bureau of the Conference may decide⁹.

3. Provisional Agenda of the Conference

- ⇒ The Standing Commission shall prepare the provisional agenda of the Conference for submission to the Council [of Delegates]¹⁰.
- ⇒ Observations, amendments or additions to the provisional agenda must be received by the Standing Commission at least sixty days before the opening of the Conference, unless the Standing Commission agrees to a later date¹¹.
- ⇒ When meeting prior to the opening of the International Conference, the Council [of Delegates] shall adopt the agenda of the Conference¹². **[Prior to the 29th International Conference, the Council of Delegates will take place on 19 June 2006].**

² Statutes, art. 2, par. 4

³ Statutes, art. 10, par. 1

⁴ Statutes, art. 11, par. 4

⁵ Statutes, art. 9, par. 1

⁶ Statutes, rule 9, par. 4

⁷ Statutes, art. 11, par. 5

⁸ Statutes, art. 18, par. 1 d)

⁹ Rules of Procedure, rule 10

¹⁰ Statutes, art. 18, par. 1 c)

¹¹ Rules of Procedure, rule 6, par. 2

¹² Statutes, art. 14, par. 2 b)

4. Debates, languages and documents

Political controversies

- ⇒ All participants in the International Conference shall respect the Fundamental Principles and all documents presented shall conform with these Principles. In order that the debates of the International Conference shall command the confidence of all, the Chairman and any elected officer responsible for the conduct of business shall ensure that none of the speakers at any time engages in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature. The Bureau of the International Conference, as defined in the Rules of Procedure, shall apply the same standard to documents before authorizing their circulation¹³.

Official working documents

- ⇒ The [official working] documents shall be despatched, with the approval of the Standing Commission, by the ICRC and the International Federation to the members and observers (...) at least forty-five days before the opening of the Conference¹⁴.

Consensus and votes

- ⇒ The International Conference shall endeavour to adopt its resolutions by consensus as provided in the Rules of Procedure. If no consensus is reached, a vote shall be taken in accordance with these Rules¹⁵.
- ⇒ Consensus shall be understood to mean the absence of any objection expressed by a delegation and submitted by it as constituting an obstacle to the adoption of the resolution in question¹⁶ (...).
- ⇒ If no consensus is reached, resolutions shall be taken by a majority of those members present and voting¹⁷.
- ⇒ Any amendment [to the Statutes or Rules of Procedure] shall require a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting¹⁸.
- ⇒ As a general rule, the vote shall be taken by a show of hands. If ten delegations so request, the vote shall be taken by roll call. If ten delegations so request, the vote shall be taken by secret ballot.¹⁹
- ⇒ The vote of each delegation shall be expressed by its head or by the delegate he has designated to replace him²⁰ (...).

¹³ **Statutes** art. 11, par. 4

¹⁴ **Rules of Procedure**, rule 7, 2nd sentence

¹⁵ **Statutes**, art. 11, par. 7

¹⁶ **Rules of Procedure**, rule 19, par. 1

¹⁷ **Rules of Procedure**, rule 19, par. 2

¹⁸ **Statutes**, art. 20

¹⁹ **Rules of Procedure**, rule 20, par. 4, 5, 6

²⁰ **Rules of Procedure**, rule 20, par. 2

Working languages and Official languages

- ⇒ The working languages of the Conference shall be English, French and Spanish. The working languages are those in which simultaneous interpretation is provided and are the only languages in which documents relating to items on the agenda will be prepared. Any delegate using a language which is not a working language shall provide for its interpretation into one of the working languages²¹.
- ⇒ The official languages of the Conference shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The official languages may be used in debates without the prior permission of the Chairman. Any delegate wishing to speak in a language other than an official language shall first obtain the permission of the Chairman²².

5. Amendments to the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure

- ⇒ Any proposal to amend the present Statutes and the Rules of Procedure must be placed on the agenda of the International Conference and its text sent to all members of the Conference at least six months in advance. To be adopted, any amendment shall require two-thirds majority of those members of the International Conference present and voting, after the views of the International Committee and the International Federation have been presented to the Conference²³.

II. OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. Welcome desk at the Geneva airport

A welcome desk will be organized at the Geneva airport to assist participants arriving by plane. Shuttle buses will be arranged from the airport to hotels in Geneva.

2. Registration

International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG)

Rue de Varembe, 15 – 1211 Geneva 20

Sunday 18 June 2006, from 14.00 onwards

For security reasons, participants will not be able to enter the Conference Centre without an **identification badge** of the 29th International Conference. Each and every participant will receive an identification badge at the time of registration.

N.B. The 29th International Conference will be preceded by meetings of the Governing Board and the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

²¹ **Rules of Procedure**, rule 12, par. 2

²² **Rules of Procedure**, rule 12, par. 1

²³ **Statutes**, art. 20

3. Opening of the 29th International Conference and Reception

Please take note of the following time-schedule on 20 June 2006:

10.00 a.m. Opening of the Conference at the CICG

6.30 p.m. Reception offered by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Geneva, 4 May 2006