

Daily bulletin

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30th International Conference of
the Red Cross and Red Crescent
Geneva, 2007

XXXe Conférence internationale de
la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Genève, 2007

XXX Conferencia Internacional de
la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
Ginebra, 2007

المؤتمر الدولي الثلاثون
للصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر
جنيف، عام ٢٠٠٧



From words to action

Ms **Mandisa Kalako-Williams** closed the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on Friday with a call to all participants to return home and make the commitments made at the Conference a reality. She said the words, written and spoken, during the past week had to be translated into a reality that could be understood by her grandmother in her village, an orphan needing help or a vulnerable youngster on the run. Delegates from States and National Societies had to leave Geneva with a determination to act to improve the lives of millions of people. The challenges identified by the Conference had to be followed by solutions. "It does not end here," she said. ■

Workshops and side events a significant contribution

Throughout the past week, International Conference members have taken the opportunity to participate in a wide-range of side events and workshops organized by National Societies, government representatives, the ICRC, the International Federation and other organizations.

The ten workshops, which were attended by 1,000 people, covered subjects including the benefits of cooperation between National Societies and governments, restoring family links, IHL and armed conflicts, substance abuse, diversity and climate change.

While most of the side events presented various aspects of IHL and armed conflict – such as gender, the safety of the media, sanctions and assisting landmine victims – there were also events on climate change, health and cooperation.

During one event on Tuesday, the book *Killing civilians: Method, madness and morality in war* by Dr Hugo Slim was launched.

Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki (Japan), the rapporteur of the Conference, said: "The workshops were very relevant and I believe they made a significant contribution to the value of the conference as a whole."

The ambassador's full report on the workshops is on the ICRC and Federation websites. ■



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Pledging to work together for humanity



Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki

It is a well-established tradition that participants at the International Conference pledge to undertake specific humanitarian commitments and this year has been no exception.

Seventy-one governments, 121 National Societies, the International Federation, the ICRC and three observers have submitted a total of 340 individual and joint pledges for the period 2008-2011.

In his report on pledges, **Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki** (Japan) said: "Components of the Movement, governments and observers have used this opportunity to turn goodwill into specific and measurable humanitarian commitments."

He noted those commitments particularly focused on the themes of the conference and the declaration "Together for humanity", stating: "The pledges clearly display the readiness of States and National Societies to work together to achieve their objectives." He encouraged participants to remember that with commitment comes responsibility and to start implementing their pledges immediately.

Pledges are recorded in an honour book on the ICRC's website. Participants can continue to make pledges after the conference by contacting the ICRC or International Federation. ■

Future vision and direction

The “state of thinking” of the International Conference on major contemporary humanitarian challenges, was how Ambassador Masood Khan of Pakistan, described the draft declaration Together for Humanity.

As chairman of the drafting committee, he presented its report to the final plenary session saying the participation of the Movement’s components had shown commitment to partnership with governments to confront environmental, international migration, urban violence and public health issues.

He said he could testify that National Societies along with governments had made excellent contributions and enriched the content of the documents the plenary subsequently endorsed.

“They showed what ‘Together for Humanity’ means in real terms,” Ambassador Khan went on, and how results can and should always follow good intentions. The documents before you thus represent an aggregation of interests of the Movement and States party to Geneva Conventions.” They reflected “a common denominator for future vision and direction”.

Earlier, reminding the Conference that its outcomes would form the basis of the work of the Standing Commission, Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid thanked delegates on behalf of all five newly-elected members for the confidence placed in them. He also thanked the outgoing members. Finally he said that in shaping the strategies for tomorrow he hoped they would be guided by a Japanese proverb;

Vision without action is a daydream – Action without vision is a nightmare

Declarations and resolutions adopted



Following the report from the drafting committee the conference declaration and a range of resolutions were unanimously adopted.

By adopting the declaration “Together for humanity”, governments and National Societies acknowledged the humanitarian threats posed by climate change, international migration, urban violence and emergent and recurrent diseases, and stated their commitment to working closely with each other, the Red Cross and Red Crescent and other organizations to address them.

The resolutions covered the nature of the auxiliary role of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the continuing importance of the implementation of international humanitarian law. They committed to adopting the International Federation’s IDRL guidelines, and finally, agreed to hold the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2011 on a date and in a place to be decided by the Standing Commission. ■