

Together for humanity
Ensemble pour l'humanité
Juntos por la humanidad
معاً من أجل الإنسانية



30IC/07
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**30th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

Geneva, Switzerland,
26-30 November 2007

**SUMMARY PRESENTATION OF THE WORKSHOPS TO BE
HELD DURING THE 30TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Outlines prepared by
the organizers of the workshops**

Geneva, 7 November 2007

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Workshop: Benefits of Governments and National Society cooperation

Date and venue: Wednesday 28 November 2007, 18.15 – 20.00, CCV, Room A

I. Organizers

Canadian Red Cross and the Government of Canada

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

The workshop will address the topic of “National Societies as Auxiliary to their public authorities in the Humanitarian Field.” To this end, the Government of Canada and the Canadian Red Cross Society will showcase The Auxiliary to Government Project and some of its preliminary findings. This project, funded by Public Safety Canada, seeks to strengthen the framework for cooperation between CRC and governments at all levels and reaffirm the auxiliary relationship for the 21st century. The methodology is unique in its wide-ranging engagement of Canadians, NGOs, and governments across Canada.

The workshop will also illustrate *collaboration and “auxiliary” in action* by highlighting joint initiatives to address the special needs of vulnerable populations:

- pandemic influenza planning and preparation;
- disaster management planning for high risk populations; and
- capacity building in the voluntary sector.

III. Questions to guide the discussions

1. How can governments and national societies work collaboratively to identify and address their country’s most urgent humanitarian needs?
2. What are the key benefits and challenges of closer government-national society collaboration and more active engagement of national societies as auxiliaries to public authorities?
3. What are the unique challenges and opportunities of collaborative partnerships between States and National Societies in the developing world?

IV. Model pledges

The workshop organizers plan to draft (a) model pledge(s) that will be circulated during the Conference

V. Contributors/panellists

Moderator: Paul Wharram, Interim Secretary General, Canadian Red Cross

Other contributors (experts, panellists):

The Hon. David Pratt, Special Advisor, Auxiliary Role Project, Canadian Red Cross;

Dr. Dave Hutton, Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response, Public Health Agency of Canada;

Dr. Pierre Duplessis, Special Envoy on Avian and Human Influenza for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;

List to be completed

Workshop rapporteur: Ms. Kathryn Howard, Visiting Executive, Auxiliary Role Project Canadian Red Cross

VI. Languages

English, French, Spanish, Arabic

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Workshop: 10 years after the anti-personnel mine ban: Addressing the human cost of landmines, explosive remnants of war and cluster munitions.

Date and venue: Wednesday 28 November 2007 18.15 – 20.00, CICG, Rooms 5 and 6

I. Organizers

Norwegian Red Cross, Afghan Red Crescent, Australia Red Cross

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

Landmines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, continue to threaten, maim and kill indiscriminately long after hostilities have ended, and impede post-conflict reconstruction and economic development. It is a terrible reality that civilians are so often caught up in the horrors of modern conflicts. Yet, it is simply unacceptable that the lives of innocent civilians are devastated, after the fighting stops and long after wars have ended, by weapons that have ceased to serve any military purpose.

While the burden of clearing these weapons is a daunting challenge, efforts are underway to address the problem. 10 years ago, governments responded to the humanitarian crisis caused by landmines by adopting the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines. This has already become one of the most widely ratified arms related treaties of international humanitarian law. Though much work remains to be done, tens of millions of mines have been destroyed, thousands of square kilometres of land have been cleared and the number of new victims has significantly decreased. In 2003, States adopted a Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, which seeks to reduce the threat to civilians from all forms of abandoned and unexploded ordnance. There is also growing international momentum to address the humanitarian impacts of cluster munitions, including on-going discussions among a group of States that have committed themselves to negotiate a treaty on cluster munitions in 2008.

The purpose of the workshop is to discuss the achievements and challenges in addressing these three issues, with a particular focus on the contributions the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement can make. This workshop follows up on the commitments made by States and components of the Movement under Final Goal 2 of the Agenda for Humanitarian Action adopted by the 28th International Conference. It also links to objective 3 of the 30th International Conference: “to reaffirm the continued applicability and relevance of international humanitarian law for preserving human life and dignity in armed conflict”.

III. Questions to guide the discussions

- Anti-personnel mines, explosive remnants of war and cluster munitions are being addressed in separate political processes and through different legal frameworks. Does this lead to an overall increase in attention and resources devoted to these issues or is there a risk of fragmentation? What opportunities for synergy exist between these issues and fora and how can these be brought to bear to achieve an improvement in the situation on the ground?
- What are some of the lessons learnt in the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines, which may be useful in addressing the explosive remnants of war and cluster munition problems?
- Is a broader norm developing that States are responsible for preventing and addressing the post-conflict impact on civilians of weapons they have used?

IV. Model pledges

The workshop organizers plan to draft (a) model pledge(s) that will be circulated during the Conference

V. Contributors/panellists

Workshop chairman and / or moderator: Mr. Trygve G Nordby, Secretary General Norwegian Red Cross

Other contributors (experts, panellists):

Mr. Peter Herby, ICRC

Mr. Robert Tickner, Secretary General, Australian Red Cross

Ms Fatima Gailani, President, Afghan Red Crescent

list to be completed

Workshop rapporteur: Mr. Tørris Jæger, Norwegian Red Cross

VI. Languages

English, French, Spanish, Arabic

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Workshop: Restoring Family Links – a partnership between States and National Societies

Date and venue: Thursday 29 November 09.00 – 10:45, CICG, Rooms 5 and 6

I. Organizers

Principal organizer: Australian Red Cross and co-organizers: American Red Cross, British Red Cross and German Red Cross

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

1. The broad aim of the Workshop is to facilitate shared understanding and commitment by States and National Societies in working together to strengthen restoring family links (RFL) activities around the world.
2. In line with the Conference objective 2 (the 'auxiliary' role), the Workshop will call on States and the Movement's components to support the implementation of the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for instance through joint pledges. (The RFL Strategy for the Movement has been distributed to the participants of the International Conference 30IC/07/10.2 and CD/07/4.1)
3. Every year, thousands of people around the world are separated from loved ones due to armed conflict, disasters, international migration and other humanitarian crisis. In these difficult times, individuals need to be in touch with their families, which is the most important coping mechanism for most of us. By strengthening the global Family Links Network, the Movement can make a difference in people's lives.
4. Restoring Family Links (RFL) is the generic term given to a range of activities that aim to prevent separation and disappearance, restore and maintain contact between families and clarify the fate of persons reported missing. These activities are often related to the psychological, legal and material support to families and persons affected, resettlement or reintegration programmes and social welfare services. Other activities include the management of human remains and forensic identification.
5. Under international law, everyone has the right to know what has happened to missing relatives, and to correspond and communicate with members of their family from whom they have been separated. The main responsibility for ensuring that these rights are respected lies with authorities of the State and, in situations of armed conflicts, any other organized armed groups. In line with Conference objective 3, the workshop will reiterate the relevance of international humanitarian law in armed conflict, by reinforcing the need to restore family links.
6. The components of the Movement have a clear role in RFL, based on the Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols, the Movement's Statutes and the resolutions of the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and those of the Council of Delegates. They have been helping people without news of or separated from their relatives for decades.
7. The Strategy is the first of its kind and sets a clear framework for improving the capacity and performance in Restoring Family Links, by enhancing the coordination and effectiveness of Movement cooperation and strengthening its responsibility in this field. Because of the complexity of the situations in which the response to RFL needs has to be provided, States and National Societies need to work in partnership, each in the framework of its responsibilities, in order to ensure the best possible service to those affected.

III. Questions to guide the discussions

1. How can States and National Societies work more closely to ensure that RFL activities are included in national disaster/emergency response plans?
2. What forms of State-National Society co-operation in RFL have worked well and which have proved more challenging and why? What can be done to mitigate these challenges?

3. What are the benefits to States of closer co-operation with National Societies in RFL activities?

IV. Model Pledges

Workshop organizers do plan to prepare specific model pledges that will be circulated during the 30th International Conference

V. Contributors/panellists

Workshop chairman and/or moderator: Mr John Pinney, Vice President, Australian Red Cross

Other contributor(s) (experts, panellists) : to be completed

Workshop rapporteur : Mr. Nick Young, Secretary General, British Red Cross

VI. Languages

English, French, Spanish and Arabic

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Workshop: Addressing armed violence reduction as an humanitarian and development issue

Date and venue: Thursday 29 November 09.00 – 10:45, CICG, Room 18

I. Organizers

Governments of Switzerland, Canada, Brazil, on behalf of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

Armed violence as a result of both armed conflicts and criminality has a severe impact on the physical integrity and material situation of vulnerable people worldwide. It is also severely affecting sustainable development in many countries, including many urban spaces, in which children are recruited into organized armed violence.

This workshop relates to the first objective of the Conference. It aims in particular at developing a common understanding on the negative impact of armed violence on development in a variety of contexts, including spaces outside of traditional conflict analysis, and at building partnerships in order to make the world safer for development. The organizers of the workshop are States that have endorsed the *Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development* of 7 June 2006, which has been adopted so far by over fifty countries. By addressing the security issue of armed violence as integral part of humanitarian and development strategies, the *Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development* brings together disarmament and humanitarian / development communities.

In particular, this workshop will:

- explore the impacts of armed violence – in particular urban violence – on humanitarian action and socio-economic development.
- address the issue of children who are increasingly recruited into criminal gangs in urban areas which experience a weak public security system.
- propose concrete measures to ensure that, in the design of reconstruction and development strategies, armed violence reduction programmes form part of a single comprehensive approach.
- identify options for collaborative actions that States, the Movement and civil society can take in the coming years to prevent and reduce the global scourge of armed violence.

The workshop will have the format of a panel discussion with both experts from Headquarters and from the field.

III. Questions to guide the discussions

1. What is the humanitarian and socio-economic impact of armed violence in your country?
2. What are the reasons children join armed violence and what role do they play in urban gangs?
3. What are the projects and programmes under way in your country, which address the reduction of armed violence and development as being part of a combined policy approach?
4. What are the key concrete measures that effectively address armed violence reduction, recruitment of children into armed gangs and short-term humanitarian action as well as medium term socio-economic development in a combined approach?
5. What could be, respectively, the role and commitments of States, civil society, national societies, ICRC, the Federation in promoting a comprehensive response to armed violence and reducing the recruitment of children into organized armed violence?

III. Model pledges

Workshop organizers do plan to prepare specific model pledges that will be circulated during the 30th International Conference.

IV. Contributors/panellists

Workshop chairman and/or moderator: Robert J. Lawson, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada

Other contributors (experts, panellists):

- H.E. Tarso Genro, Minister of Justice, Brazil
- Ambassador Thomas Greminger, Head Division for Human Security, Political Directorate, Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs
- Robert Lawson, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada
- Judi Fairholm, National Technical Director, Canadian Red Cross

Workshop rapporteur: Robert J. Lawson, Canada

VI. Languages

English and French

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Workshop: The Notion of "Direct Participation in Hostilities" under IHL

Date and venue: Thursday 29 November 09.00 – 10:45, CICG, Room 2

I. Organizer

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

In recent decades, there has been a continuous shift of military operations away from distinct battlefields and into civilian population centers, as well as an increasing involvement of civilians in activities more closely related to the actual conduct of hostilities. Even more recently, there has been a trend towards the "civilianization" of the armed forces which has introduced large numbers of private contractors and civilian government employees into the reality of modern armed conflict.

Overall, the increasingly blurred distinction between civilian and military functions, the intermingling of armed actors with the civilian population, the wide variety of functions and activities performed by civilians in contemporary armed conflict and the complexity of modern means and methods of warfare have caused confusion and uncertainty as to the distinction between persons who are and, respectively, are not entitled to protection against direct attack.

This trend has emphasized the importance of distinguishing not only between civilians and the armed forces, but also between "peaceful" civilians and civilians "directly participating in hostilities". Under IHL, the notion of "direct participation in hostilities" describes individual conduct which, if carried out by civilians, suspends their protection against direct attack. Although the notion of "direct" or "active" participation in hostilities is found in multiple provisions of IHL, neither the Geneva Conventions nor their Additional Protocols provide a definition of what conduct amounts to direct participation in hostilities. This situation calls for the clarification of the notion of "direct participation in hostilities" under IHL in light of the circumstances prevailing in contemporary situations of armed conflict.

III. Questions to guide the discussions

1. To increase awareness of the principal humanitarian and legal concerns raised by the increasing intermingling of armed actors with the civilian population and the increasing involvement of civilians in the conduct of hostilities.
2. To provide an overview of the results of a multi-annual expert process co-organized by the ICRC and the TMC Asser Institute for the clarification of the notion of "direct participation in hostilities".
3. To promote discussion on the key legal questions arising in the interpretation of the notion of "direct participation in hostilities" under IHL, namely:
 - *Who is considered a civilian for the purpose of the conduct of hostilities?*
 - *What conduct amounts to direct participation in hostilities?*
 - *What are the precise modalities according to which civilians directly participating in hostilities lose their protection against direct attack?*

IV. Contributors/panellists

Workshop chairman: Jean-Philippe Lavoyer, Head of the ICRC Legal Division

Other contributors to take part in the presentation 3 experts having participated in the Expert Meetings on "Direct Participation in Hostilities":

- Expert 1: Nils Melzer, Legal Adviser in charge of the Expert Process at the ICRC Legal Division;
- Expert 2: Tony Rogers, Lauterpacht Centre, United Kingdom;
- Expert 3: Marco Sassoli, University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Workshop rapporteur : Nils Melzer, Legal Adviser, ICRC

V. Languages

English, French, Spanish and Arabic

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Workshop title: Neutral Independent Humanitarian Action; Contemporary challenges and thoughts on efficient humanitarian action in the context of modern armed conflicts

Date and venue: Thursday 29 November 09.00 – 10:45, CCV, Room A

I. Organizers

Finnish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross and Danish Red Cross, in cooperation with the Afghan Red Crescent and the ICRC

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

The intention is to discuss the effects of military involvement in humanitarian action. Humanitarian activities have traditionally been carried out by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other humanitarian organisations, and the growing involvement of military actors in humanitarian tasks is creating a host of challenges.

The aim is to engage in a frank discussion about how States and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement can best cooperate in order to ensure efficient humanitarian action on behalf of victims of armed conflict. States and National Societies participating in the workshop will be encouraged to make relevant pledges.

The results of a recent survey carried out in the Nordic countries, where key members of Nordic parliaments were interviewed about their views on the interrelationship of military crisis management and humanitarian action, will frame the discussion.

III. Questions to guide the discussions

- Is it advisable for the military to engage in humanitarian action within a conflict zone?
- How can the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement ensure that its *modus operandi* in conflict zones is understood and respected?
- What are the challenges posed by civil-military collaboration within conflict zones and how might they be addressed?
- How can a military that is engaged in combat operations in a given context furnish assistance in a way that does not blur the distinction between the role of humanitarian organizations and the objectives of the military?

IV. Model pledges

The workshop organizers plan to draft (a) model pledge(s) that will be circulated during the Conference.

V. Contributors/panellists

Workshop chairman and / or moderator: Mr. Kalevi Kivistö, President, Finnish Red Cross

Other contributor(s) (experts, panellists): Ms. Fatima Gaillani, President, Afghanistan Red Crescent; Mr. Pierre Kraehenbühl, Director of Operations, ICRC

Workshop rapporteur: to be completed

VI. Languages

English, French, Arabic

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Workshop: Promote respect of IHL and operations of private military and security companies in conflict situations: challenges and prospects

Date and venue: Thursday 29 November 11.15 – 13.00, CCV, Room A

I. Organizers

- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DDFA), Directorate of International Law (DIL), Switzerland
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Legal Division

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

As an introduction, panellists will present the complex phenomenon arising from the increasing activities of private military and security companies (PMCs/PSCs).

The panel will also address the relevance of international humanitarian law (IHL). The argument that there is a gap in the law regarding such companies and their staff is incorrect: even though there is no international regulatory framework specifically focusing on this industry and its activities, not least in situations of armed conflict, IHL both regulates the conduct of the staff of PMCs/PSCs, and establishes its responsibilities, regardless of their status under IHL (ie combatants, civilians, or civilians accompanying the armed forces). IHL furthermore establishes responsibilities of States in their relations with such companies, most particularly of states hiring such companies, states on whose territory they are operating, and states from whose territory their services are exported. A clear challenge lies in how States should[can] transpose international standards into their national legal systems and practice. While some states have adopted specific regulations in this regard, most states have not.

A representative of Switzerland will then present the intergovernmental Initiative launched by Switzerland in cooperation with the ICRC to promote respect of IHL and human rights by PMCs/PSCs operating in conflict areas. The Initiative aims at initiating a dialogue among governments that are particularly affected or have particular experiences to offer with regard to such companies. The initiative undertakes to reaffirm and clarify the existing obligations of States and other actors under international law, particularly IHL and human rights law. Secondly, it seeks to identify options of regulation and other appropriate measures at the national and possibly regional or international level. Participants of the Initiative are studying non binding good practices to assist States in meeting their responsibilities under international law. Each state, however, retains its discretion to regulate, restrict, or prohibit security and military services on or from its territory. Also, this Initiative is without prejudice to any other obligation that a state may have under international law. The initiative's goal is to reduce the risk of potential adverse consequences for persons affected by conflict situations.

III. Questions to guide the discussions

1. Which are the relevant obligations under international law with regard to PMCs/PSCs operating in conflict situations? Which actors have obligations under IHL? Are activities of employees of such PMCs/PSCs mercenary activities? If yes, are they prohibited under IHL?
2. How could appropriate control over the services and accountability of PMCs/PSCs and their staff be effectively ensured? What contracting practices and regulation can States adopt to promote the respect of international law, in particular IHL, and other appropriate standards?

IV. Model pledges

Workshop organizers do not plan to prepare specific model pledges

V. Contributors/panellists

Workshop chairman and/or moderator: Dr. Cheloka Beyani, London School of Economics and Political Science, Law, Centre for the Study of Human Rights

Other contributors (experts, panellists):

- Amb. Paul Seger, Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs (presents the Swiss Initiative in cooperation with the ICRC and issues discussed at it)
- Dr. Chaloka Beyani (presentation on phenomenon and issues raised)
- Amb. Elchin Amirbayov, Azerbaijani Mission in Geneva (presentation of how challenges could be addressed, what the duties of international community are wrt to PMCs/PSCs...)
- list to be completed

Workshop rapporteur

- Martina Filli, DFA Switzerland
- Cordula Droege, ICRC

VI. Languages

English, French, Spanish and Arabic

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Workshop: Humanitarian and Public Health Consequences of Substance Abuse

Date and venue: Thursday 29 November 11.15 – 13.00, CICG, Rooms 5 and 6

I. Organizers

Italian Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

Background papers which display historical background on Movement's involvement with substance abuse issues (1922-2007) will be available for participants in the conference room. A dedicated web page will be advised later on with all the documentation:

- Decisions 1922-2004 ; EN, SP
- Bibliography of RC/RC documentation on substance abuse, EN, SP
- International Federation Scoping paper, EN, FR, SP,AR (RUS : to be confirmed)
- Rome consensus, EN, RUS, SP
- Spreading the light of science: EN, RUS (hard copies, plus other languages in PDF)
- analysis of Spreading the Lights of Science questionnaire (if available)
- Council of Europe Resolution 1576 and Recommendation 1813 "For a European drug convention on promoting public health policy in drug control"

Against this background, the workshop's objective is:

1. to identify clearly substance abuse as an humanitarian and public health issue
2. To encourage National Societies / governments / affected communities (drug users) to work together to overcome problems and obstacles for more effective responses to the humanitarian consequences of the drug problem.

III. Questions to guide the discussions

- 1) How can National Society activities in the fields of harm reduction, fight against stigma and discrimination, peer education etc contribute to the workshop's objectives?
- 2) What partnerships best support National Society actions? Describe the value of partnerships at country, regional and global levels and with institutions including the Senlis Council.
- 3) How could better value be obtained from external actions like Council of Europe Resolution 1576 and Recommendation 1813 (2007) "For a European drug convention on promoting public health policy in drug control"

IV. Model pledges

The workshop organizers plan to draft (a) model pledge(s) that will be circulated during the Conference.

V. Contributors/panelists:

- a. Chairman: Massimo Barra President, Italian Red Cross – Chairman, IFRC Development Commission
- b. Vice-chair: to be confirmed

Contributors/key-note speakers :

1. Mr Paul Flynn, Rapporteur, Council of Europe Resolution on Public Health and Substance abuse
2. National Society: Iran
3. Mr Raymond Kendall, Honorary Secretary General of Interpol
4. Mr Giancarlo Rodoquino, Civil Society representative, Italy (Villa Maraini/Italian Red Cross)

Contributors from the floor:

- National Societies
- The Senlis Council
- Governmental representative
- Youth commission

VI. Languages

English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Workshop: Promoting Respect for Diversity and Non-Discrimination

Date and venue: Thursday 29 November 11.15 – 13.00, CICG, Room 2

I. Organizers

The Netherlands Red Cross in cooperation with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Red Cross European Union Office (list to be completed)

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

The workshop is considered

- a) to follow-up on the pledges made by governments and components of the RC/RC Movement at the IC 2003 on the topic concerned;
- b) to ensure continuation of the theme within the framework of the IC 2007 theme on 'Together for Humanity';
- c) to put the challenges of promoting respect for diversity and combating discrimination in a global perspective;
- d) to provide conference participants with a platform to discuss how to promote respect for diversity in communities, thereby fighting discrimination, intolerance marginalization and social exclusion.

Respect for diversity and non-discrimination are permanent issues for the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. They lie at the heart of the RC/RC Movement and embody the basis of our work at local, national and international level. Respect for diversity and non-discrimination is of paramount importance to effectively deliver services to beneficiaries. The current socio-economic and political contexts pose many challenges to governments, the RC/RC Movement and other actors; mixed migration flows, occurrence of different forms of violence and increased stigmatisation linked to public health issues, are just a few interlinking the general debate of the IC 2007 and the workshop theme.

The workshop aims to complement the discussions at the IC 2007 and calls for concrete action to promote respect for diversity and non-discrimination. A meaningful contribution to change attitudes can only be made if the components of the RC/RC Movement work together among themselves but also with governments and other stakeholders. The workshop will provide a platform for developing partnerships, aimed at combating discrimination, intolerance, marginalisation and social exclusion, thereby attaching concrete value to the Conference slogan "Together for Humanity".

Recognising the added value the IC provides in bringing together important stakeholders from within and outside the Movement, this diversity will be demonstrated in the set-up and programme of the workshop. Contributions from governments, National Societies and other representatives will demonstrate the importance of the topic and the relevance in today's changing world. Acknowledging the key role of Red Cross/Red Crescent volunteers and especially youth, they will be an integral part of the preparatory work of the workshop.

Expected outcomes of the workshop are

- a) a joint pledge of workshop and other participants to implement concrete action in the next four years to promote respect for diversity, human dignity and non-discrimination;
- b) newly formed partnerships which enable the implementation of the commitments made in the pledge and effectively contribute to the issue at hand;
- c) a workshop report and key messages, reflecting the orientations in the discussion that are relevant to the proposed resolutions of the Conference.

III. Questions to guide the discussions

1. What are the biggest challenges and what are enabling factors which allow to create mutual respect and understanding between peoples? What is the role that workshop participants can play in contributing to the realisation of these enabling factors?
2. What are concrete activities workshop participants are planning to undertake to contribute to 'Promoting Respect for Diversity and Non-Discrimination'? What are likely partnerships which can be envisaged in this regard?

IV. Model pledges

The workshop organizers have drafted (a) model pledge(s) (attached) that may be circulated to Conference participants before the Conference.

V. Contributors/panellists

Workshop chairman and / or moderator: to be completed

Co-Chairs: One representative from a RC/RC National Society and one government representative, representing two different continents.

Other contributor(s) (experts, panellists): to be completed

VI. Languages

English, French, Spanish, Arabic

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Workshop: Addressing the humanitarian consequences of climate change

Date and venue: Thursday 29 November 11.15 – 13.00, CICG, Room 18

I. Organizers

Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate centre on climate change and disaster preparedness, in partnership with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

Climate change is happening, reported the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change early in 2007. It will get worse in the coming decades before it may get better. And the poor, the elderly and the sick are disproportionately vulnerable.

In particular an increase in extreme weather events and changes in weather patterns leading to more disasters, spread of diseases and harvest failures can be expected. Humanitarian organisations are at the frontline to deal with these impacts of climate change.

Already more weather related disasters are observed, low income countries are already most affected; and the humanitarian system is more and more stretched.

Yet the national and global policy context and the mobilisation of human and financial resources to address the needs related to climate change are in their infancy.

III. Questions to guide the discussions

1. What are in the near future (next 5-10 years) the key concerns of the humanitarian sector regarding climate change risks
2. What role has the humanitarian sector to play to address these concerns, in particular in the dialogue and cooperation with government
3. How do governments see their role and the role of humanitarian organisations to address these climate change related risks

IV. Model pledges

The workshop organizers have drafted (a) model pledge(s) (attached) that may be circulated to Conference participants before the Conference.

V. Contributors/panellists

Workshop chairman and / or moderator: Madeleen Helmer (head of the RC/RC climate centre)

Other contributor(s) (experts, panellists):

- Prof. Martin Parry, co-chairman IPCC working group 2
- Mrs. Olga Pilifosova, UNFCCC
- Dr. Meinrad Studer, Director of the Global Humanitarian Forum
- Mr. Abbas Gullet, secretary general, Kenya Red Cross
- Mr. Salvano Briceno, Executive Director ISDR

Workshop rapporteur: Marteen van Aalst

VI. Languages

English, Spanish