

Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Plan of Action 2008-09

The Plan of Action (PoA) of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (SC) is based on carrying out the tasks as per its mandate specified in the Statutes of the Movement and those stemming from various resolutions of the Council of Delegates (CoD) and of the International Conference (IC). Further, the PoA builds on SC work-in-progress initiated during the previous session (SC XIV) as well as on previous tasks and functions as called for in connection with specific issues/processes such as the Strategy for the Movement.

The SC decided in September 2006 that after the 2007 Council of Delegates (CoD), a PoA for the Commission should cover the two (2) years between Council meetings. It is to be accompanied by a consolidated 2-year budget, no longer divided into core and ad hoc costs due to the new sharing key for financing. Consequently the 2007 CoD adopted in its Resolution 1

... the revised principle for financing the work of the Standing Commission ... based on

- *a two-year Plan of Action and*
- *budget to be the joint financial responsibility of the International Federation, the ICRC and the National Societies, on the basis of 1/3 each with the National Society contributions continuing on a voluntary basis.*

Core activities

The SC has scheduled three (3) meetings of one day each for 2008 and four (4) meetings in 2009 one being a 'final check' -meeting on the eve of the CoD after the General Assembly of the Federation and before the Council in 2009. A proposed preliminary meeting schedule is attached, which – for 2009 – anticipates the deadlines in the process of preparing for the CoD.

The main tasks in 2008 relate to the preparation of the 2009 CoD, where it will be advised by a small ad hoc WG. Other major areas of work are the follow-up of the

implementation of the outcomes of the 2007 statutory meetings and specific issues outlined below under Project Activities.

The SC will receive progress reports and regular updates on the implementation of the resolutions adopted in 2007 to be able to take any action that may prove necessary in the interest of ensuring full implementation. Particular attention will be awarded to the implementation of the MoU between the Israeli MDA and the Palestine RCS, where the internal SC lead responsibility is with Massimo Barra.

Members will participate at regional conferences and other regional/sub regional meetings and events as agreed with the Chairman with the purpose to consult and seek the views of National Societies (NS) on current issues it is working on and to be informed on developments relevant to the SC and its tasks. The SC has so far (April 2008) received invitations to participate in 2008 at the Pan-African regional conference in October, at the meeting of the Arab NS in Tunis in March, at the Balkan Conference in Sofia in June and – traditionally – the Donor Forum in Reykjavik in August.

The Secretariat will issue Newsletters after SC meetings and if/when need arises. They are sent primarily using electronic mail to all NS, to the Permanent Missions in Geneva, to governments not represented in Geneva and to the ICRC and the International Federation to share with their field representation. It is translated into all working languages of the Movement, including Arabic, the cost of which is included in the core translation budget.

The website (rcstandcom.info) will be kept updated to include key information on the outcomes of the last statutory meetings, as a documentation base, and on the work undertaken by the SC, including preparations for the 2009 CoD. No additional budget funding is sought as there is still remaining ear-marked funding for the purpose.

The staff and administrative tasks of the SC secretariat are not foreseen to change during this 2-year period. For financial services the SC relies on the Federation secretariat and the ICRC services in addition to those of its own treasurer.

The budget further assumes that there will be no changes in the office facilities, rents charged and services provided by the Federation.

Project activities

1. Council of Delegates 2009

A WG on the CoD 2009, established in April and chaired by Adama Diarra with a representative of the Host Society, Kenya Red Cross, as vice chair, is tasked with advising the SC on substance when deciding on the agenda and the programme of the Council. It comprises members from the ICRC Assembly and the International Federation Governing Board along with three (3) *ad personam* members, including a youth representative. The WG has scheduled one meeting in 2008 – in the third quarter – and tentatively two meetings in 2009.

2. Strategy for the Movement

Work on the Strategy and its Action 4 on the complexities of Movement fora, led by Steve Carr, will continue guided by the report to and the resolution (7) of the 2007 CoD.

To further and encourage the implementation of all 10 actions in the Strategy, the SC requested appointment of focal points within ICRC and the International Federation to cooperate and coordinate promotion/monitoring activities.

Continuing work on Action 4 will include initial consultations for continuity with the 'small group' from the previous SC, which initiated the work under the leadership of professor Freddy Pedersen.

As outlined in the SC report to the CoD 2007, an analysis will be carried out of existing meetings within the Movement re content, frequency and mandates as well as an evaluation of them in terms of outcomes regarding current strategies and priorities and in terms of cost effectiveness. The desirability and feasibility of closer articulation of the Federation's General Assembly and the CoD and of the decision making processes within the Movement will also be looked into taking into account the special *mandates* of the various components.

Such analysis may involve limited use of consultant(s), which has been taken into account in the budget. Possibilities to use NS resources – human and material – to carry out such studies will be explored.

It is foreseen that the SC establish a working group (WG) on the Strategy to carry out the plan comprising a small number of selected members, drawn from the ICRC, the Federation secretariat, NS experienced personalities and from amongst present/past governance personalities. Groundwork in exploring directions for a post-2011 Movement Strategy is expected to be done by the same group.

Work on the Movement Strategy will continue the entire present planning period and beyond as it aims primarily for the statutory meetings in 2011. The exception is the stipulated reports to be prepared for the 2009 CoD. They are to be compiled by the SC secretariat in cooperation with the ICRC and the Federation focal points including information from NS on their implementation activities.

3. Matters of concern to the Movement as a whole

Issues around the Declaration of the 30th IC, the Seville Agreement and Movement Statutes surfaced in SC exploratory discussions as 'matters that concern the Movement as a whole' within the context of a 'future-agenda' for the Movement and for the SC. While there presently are no imminent pressures to revise the Seville Agreement, nor the Statutes of the Movement, a thorough analysis of any underlying issues that have evolved or are dormant is foreseen to ensure a controlled course of action.

The SC as a whole will be involved with Eamon Courtenay having the preparatory lead responsibility. The details of such an analysis remain to be determined in the 2nd half of 2008 for which a 'seminar' of SC members, possibly involving other invitees, is planned in early September for an in-depth initial analysis and for development of guidelines to facilitate future work. Eventual outcomes will aim at the statutory meetings in 2011.

Based on directions to be set, feedback/views from NS could be collected at regional or other meetings of NS. Other actions may include document (questionnaire) for electronic feedback for a representative sample of NS and a working group for analysis of the Movement Statutes and for the Seville complexities to be established at an appropriate later time. Alignment will be ensured with work on the Movement Strategy, in particular when it comes to a post-2011 Strategy taking into account i.a. the Declaration and other outcomes of the IC.