



EN

CD/09/WS2
Original: English
For information

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT
MOVEMENT

Nairobi, Kenya
23-25 November 2009

Relations with actors outside of the Movement
(Workshop No 2)

Concept Paper

Document prepared jointly by

**The International Committee of the Red Cross and
the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

Geneva, October 2009

Workshop on relations with actors outside the Movement

Concept Paper

Workshop outline: Objective / Rationale / Expected outcome

The workshop supports the efforts of the Federation and the ICRC to improve the Movement's image and to improve the various components' visibility and relations with governments and external partners, as outlined in Strategic Objective 3 of the updated **Strategy for the Movement (2005)**:

Action 8 emphasizes the importance of advocacy strategies that assign priority to certain issues and result in those priorities being reflected in international humanitarian discussion.

Action 9 concerns the role of National Societies as auxiliaries to their public authorities. This Action has largely been overtaken by the adoption of Resolution 2 at the 30th International Conference in 2007, but its emphasis on the need for **common positions within the Movement on issues concerning relations with political and military entities** is highly relevant to the workshop.

The workshop also builds on the discussion generated by a paper produced by the British Red Cross in 2008 examining what distinguishes the Movement from other organizations in the humanitarian field, i.e. the UN system and NGOs.

A variety of **relevant resolutions** have been adopted by Movement bodies in recent years, some before the 2005 update of the Strategy. These include "*Movement action in favour of refugees and internally displaced persons*" (Resolution 4, CoD 2001), "*Minimum elements to be included in operational agreements between Movement components and their operational partners*" (CoD 2003), and "***relations between the components of the Movement and military bodies***" (CoD 2005).

United Nations reform

A great deal of work to improve coordination and partnership has taken place in and around the humanitarian reform process of the United Nations and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee since the Global Humanitarian Platform was developed. The workshop will take account of that progress and the part now played by various components and bodies of the Movement in different situations and processes, including the clusters process and other forms of coordination and partnership which have evolved in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response and other forums.

The workshop's objective is to promote thought and discussion on how the Movement should cooperate with other key humanitarian actors while preserving its unique identity. Though significant efforts have been made by the Movement in terms of how it should engage with entities such as military bodies, the private sector and governments, there has been little critique or discussion of its engagement with other humanitarian actors, in particular the UN and NGOs. **A second objective** is to identify the possible need for further elaboration of guidance or policy documents on this topic to prepare for the 2011 Council of Delegates and 31st International Conference.

For the background study prepared to inform the workshop, interviews were conducted with National Societies, the ICRC and the Federation Secretariat. Views and experiences were gathered from a broad range of situations, covering most regions.

Background documents

The British Red Cross has prepared a background paper/study on "the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's engagement with external humanitarian actors". A summary of the study will be shared with all workshop participants, and the full study will be available for those who wish to read the complete text (see below).

The Federation's recently adopted humanitarian diplomacy policy and its accompanying explanatory memorandum will also be shared with workshop participants.

In addition, all relevant references listed in the summary above will be available for workshop participants as background information.

Organizers and co-sponsors

The workshop is being prepared as part of a joint project by the Federation, ICRC, and British Red Cross. The list of co-sponsors will expand over the coming weeks to include other National Societies. The British Red Cross prepared a background paper/study on "the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's engagement with external humanitarian actors. A summary of the study will be shared with all workshop participants, and the full study will be available for those who wish to read the complete paper.

A consultative group of a small number of National Societies representing different regions and experiences will be set up. The group will be formed after the first Federation working meeting on humanitarian diplomacy, to be held on 22-23 September, a gathering that will bring together representative components of the Movement to discuss the Federation's recently adopted humanitarian diplomacy policy. The group will liaise with the main organizers of the CoD workshop in the months leading up to Nairobi, thereby ensuring that the Movement's broadest experiences in the area of relations with external actors are reflected and used effectively in the workshop. This group will support the final preparations for the workshop itself, e.g. by commenting on the British Red Cross background paper and on the draft list of guiding questions included below. Some group members are likely to become workshop co-sponsors.

Chairs, rapporteurs and speakers*Proposed list of workshop chairs, rapporteurs and keynote speakers*

To be confirmed in October. A senior representative from an international organization will be invited to deliver a keynote speech (organization and person to be confirmed).

List of guiding questions

- § How do the Movement's components coordinate and cooperate with external actors in operational contexts?
- § Do existing Movement policies and guidelines provide a sufficient basis for cooperation and coordination with partners and external actors in the humanitarian field?
- § What are the opportunities and risks for the Movement in engaging in partnership with external humanitarian actors?
- § How are the components of the Movement perceived by other humanitarian actors?