

## **Side events at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

### **1. Action to combat impunity and improve accountability for victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence: practical tools and experiences**

Hosts: Canada, Japan, United Kingdom and United States of America  
Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic

Where: room 18

When: Thursday 10 December 2015, 12:00-13:00

Description:

Drawing on first-hand experience from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) experts who have directly investigated and prosecuted crimes and/or engaged in survivor-centred prevention strategies in the field, this event seeks to elicit practical tools and experiences across humanitarian settings, both conflict and non-conflict. With an interactive question and answer format that invites participation from the audience, different humanitarian and justice sector actors will have the opportunity to share lessons learned.

More specifically, we will be looking at different tools, including: the Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings; Standard Operating Procedures for Prevention of and Response to SGBV; the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict and initiatives such as Justice Rapid Response deployments; the *\_Safe from the Start\_* initiative and the Roadmap for the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies. In doing so, we will consider the wider framework and multi-sectoral model. What accountability and justice mean and how to effectively deliver them across humanitarian and crisis situations will be questioned and examined. We will also touch on the achievements and challenges of prosecuting SGBV crimes in the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Baroness Anelay, the UK Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict will moderate the event and facilitate discussion between 4 experts: Sara Ferro Ribeiro, expert on violence against women and girls, and co-author of the International Protocol; Andras Vamos-Goldman, Executive Director of Justice Rapid Response; Catherine Andela, UN Regional Emergency Gender-based Violence Adviser; and Michelle Jarvis, Principal Legal Counsel at the ICTY.

We invite you to pose your questions to the panellists in advance on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UKMissionUNGeneva>. We will try to incorporate as many as possible into the event.

### **2. Addressing psychological effects of armed conflicts and violence**

Hosts: Swedish Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Languages: English

Where: room 7/8

When: Thursday 10 December 2015, 12:00-13:00

Description:

Armed conflicts and violence give rise to great mental health and psychosocial challenges among millions of men, women, boys and girls around the world. The humanitarian impact is extensive; not only affecting the individuals directly but also whole communities, populations and societies. Torture and other forms of ill-treatment including sexual violence; harsh conditions in detention; participation in hostilities; witnessing acts of barbarism, losing or not knowing the fate of loved ones, displacement – all factors generating psychological distress.

While needs are currently increasing, mental health and psychosocial needs are still not a priority in the field of humanitarian intervention. To improve humanitarian responses to mental health and psychosocial needs in contexts of armed conflict and violence, better understanding of the challenges is necessary.

This side event will explore how the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the States party to the Geneva Conventions could better address psychological effects of armed conflicts and violence.

What are the current challenges relating to mental health and psychosocial wellbeing caused by armed conflict and violence?

How can the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and the States party to the Geneva Conventions work together?

### **3. Ambulance and pre-hospital services operating in risk situations**

Host: Norwegian Red Cross, and Colombian Red Cross Society

Languages: English, Spanish, Arabic

Where: room 15

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 12:15-13:15

Description:

The objective of this side event is to highlight operational challenges and dilemmas that National Societies face when operating in risk situations, as well as to promote the exchange of experience and best practice.

The work done by National Societies from the Americas and the Middle East and North Africa regions, in developing “Best Practice for Ambulance Services in Risk Situations” will be presented at the beginning of the event. National Societies will then make short presentations of some of the challenges that they are faced with in their emergency health operations and of the context-specific solutions they have found in order to respond more safely. There will be time for questions and discussion after the presentations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement actors have called for establishing a community of practice for actors responding with ambulance or pre-hospital services. This side event will also take the opportunity to formally introduce and promote this idea.

### **4. Award-winning innovations in DRR – the Australian Business Roundtable as a model for change**

Host: Australian Red Cross

Languages: English

Where: room 7/8

When: Tuesday 8 December 2015, 12:45-13:45

Description:

Specific objectives of this workshop are to:

- Highlight an award winning innovation in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) collaboration between Australian Red Cross and the corporate sector
- Demonstrate how such partnerships can contribute to DRR outcomes through directly influencing public policy
- Discuss the value of a broad advocacy campaign to promote disaster preparedness

The National Strategy for Disaster resilience was launched by the Australian Government in 2011. The following year the Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience (the Roundtable) was formed.

The Roundtable consists of CEOs from Australian Red Cross, Insurance Australia Group, Investa Property Group, Munich Re, Optus and Westpac Group. Its aim is to use evidence to influence public policy on the need for investment in effective DRR.

The Roundtable commissioned research which demonstrated that carefully targeted pre-disaster resilience investments of \$250 million per year could generate budget savings of \$12.2 billion for all levels of government in Australia and would reduce natural disaster costs by more than 50 percent by 2050. This report was one of the drivers for a Productivity Commission review of natural disaster funding arrangements, which subsequently found that there should be more significant investment in mitigation.

The work of the Roundtable was awarded a UN Sasakawa Award commendation at the 2015 Global Disaster Risk Reduction Conference in Sendai, for its innovative approach to providing an effective mechanism for policy change in DRR.

Workshop presenters include Australian Red Cross and a corporate sector representative. There will be opportunity for discussion about the applicability of the Roundtable model and proposed mitigation measures in other countries. Participants will also be encouraged to share their approaches to DRR and preparedness campaigns.

##### **5. Bridging international humanitarian and development financing**

Hosts: International Committee of the Red Cross, and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Languages: English

Where: room 18

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 18:00-19:00

Description:

The need to reform funding for humanitarian action and better make the link with development funding has been the subject of much discussion. This session will share lessons learned from the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and others' experience of funding that bridges the humanitarian-development gap. It will bring in the perspective of recipient countries who are affected by crises and whose ability to overcome crises and develop is impeded by lack of coordination among aid funders and aid organizations. Finally, non-traditional humanitarian and development donors will share their experience and perspectives on the topic. Our experience shows that humanitarian financing needs to be provided on a longer-term and more predictable and flexible basis, and development actors

and development financing need to be more closely involved in preparing for and responding to crises. The event will provide participants with a mixture of case studies and new perspectives to offer food for thought when reflecting about their own work.

## **6. Bringing the Commentaries on the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols into the 21st century**

Host: International Committee of the Red Cross

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic

Where: room 18

When: Thursday 10 December 2015, 13:15-14:15

Description:

This side event will present the ICRC project to update the Commentaries on the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. It will highlight salient features of the first updated commentary to be launched online at the International Conference: the First Geneva Convention of 1949 for the protection of wounded and sick members of armed forces in the field. This first update also includes a new commentary on all the common Articles.

## **7. Casualty recording for recognition of victims and improved evaluation of harm in conflict**

Host: Every Casualty Worldwide

Languages: English

Where: room 18

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 12:15-13:15

Description:

Currently there is yet to be an authoritative account of casualties in protracted conflicts such as in Syria, Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and many others. This hinders the proper understanding by the conflict parties of the impact of their actions, both short and long term, and leaves victims of the conflict unrecognized. This side event has arisen from growing high-level support, including from States and the secretary-general of the United Nations and various of its agencies, for a civil-society call on States, in partnership with other actors, to recognize every casualty of armed violence by ensuring that all casualties are promptly recorded, correctly identified and publicly acknowledged

The main objective of the event is to discuss casualty recording as a universal practice essential to the recognition of victims of armed conflict as well as its role in supporting compliance with international humanitarian law, and how this may be further progressed. The event will present specific examples from the field from the perspective of victims of conflict, civil society and governments on how documenting casualties contributes to addressing the immediate and longer-term needs of victims as well as supporting conflict parties in fulfilling their obligations. It will underline how sound knowledge of casualties can provide a range of benefits to humanitarian actors, including as a means of evaluating harm and remedying it. The event will also be an opportunity for States and other relevant organizations and actors to pledge their commitment to casualty-recording principles and practices, and the global furtherance and promotion of casualty-recording initiatives.

For further background on casualty recording (in English):

[Every Casualty call to action](#)

[Every Casualty supporters](#)

[Recording Casualties of War, British Medical Journal Editorial \(2015\)](#)

[Stolen Futures: The hidden toll of child casualties in Syria \(2013\)](#)

[Casualty Recording: Assessing State and United Nations Practices \(2014\)](#)

[How the Counts Reduce the Casualties \(2014\)](#)

[Policy Paper: Towards the Recording of Every Casualty: Policy Recommendations and Analysis From a Study of 40 Casualty Recorders \(2012\)](#)

## **8. Children and detention in situations of armed conflict**

Hosts: Switzerland, Luxembourg, and the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

Languages: English, French

Where: room 18

When: Tuesday 8 December 2015, 12:45-13:45

Description:

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the deprivation of liberty of children must be a measure of last resort, and for the shortest period of time. In situations of armed conflict, basic legal safeguards are often lacking, especially when children are detained by military or security authorities for their association with armed groups, or when detained for their protection or rehabilitation. In addition, children deprived of their liberty are further at risk of being exposed to abuse and violations and are often denied their basic rights to education and health care.

This side event organized by Switzerland and Luxembourg, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, will offer the opportunity to raise awareness about basic standards and principles, as well as legal guidelines and frameworks that apply to the deprivation of liberty of children in situations of armed conflict. The event will also aim to promote and discuss best practices and challenges in elaborating alternative accountability mechanisms and efficient restorative justice processes that meet the best interests of the child. Confirmed speaker: Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

## **9. Community-based disaster risk reduction in view of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and IFRC Framework for Community Resilience: the case of the Nepal Red Cross**

Hosts: Swiss Red Cross, Nepal Red Cross Society, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Switzerland

Short title: Disaster risk reduction – from the Sendai Framework to the community-based approach in Nepal

Languages: English, French

Where: room 15

When: Thursday 10 December 2015, 12:00-13:00

Description:

In 2015 the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) was adopted. Also in 2015, two massive earthquakes hit Nepal. What does the SFDRR and its specific goals and

principles mean for Nepal? How is the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) working with communities for disaster risk reduction? How does the NRCS link its disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities with local governments? What are the lessons learnt from the 2015 earthquakes?

This side event shall demonstrate what the SFDRR means to the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. The participants will receive an overview of the main goals and principles of the SFDRR, the International Federation guidelines for resilience and a very accurate example of the community based DRR activities in Nepal, particularly in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes.

The side event relates to the third objective of the conference, reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience, by illustrating a practicable example of risk governance under which also the key topic of the third objective falls.

#### **10. Counterterrorism measures and humanitarian action**

Hosts: Switzerland, and Harvard Law School Program on International Law and Armed Conflict

Languages: English, French, Arabic

Where: room 1

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 12:15-13:15

Description:

The side event provides a guided discussion on how principled humanitarian action and counterterrorism frameworks increasingly intersect. International humanitarian law carves out important protections for principled humanitarian actors, including offering services to all parties to armed conflict. Counterterrorism laws and policies may recast such humanitarian activities as unlawful support for terrorism or designated terrorist groups. This can lead to dilemmas for principled humanitarian action, especially if such groups control territory and the humanitarian access to the civilian population, and may stand at variance with existing obligations under international humanitarian law. The security and the capacity to act of humanitarian personnel could also be affected. A number of research initiatives on these questions have been conducted over the past years, however, more discussion is needed on how counterterrorism measures may affect humanitarian principles, in particular neutrality, impartiality and independence. The side event aims therefore also at highlighting immediate and concrete effects of counterterrorism measures on principled humanitarian action and to discuss ways to avoid unintended consequences of counterterrorism laws and policies.

The side event draws on the extensive legal and policy research of the Harvard Law School Project on Counterterrorism and Humanitarian Engagement (CHE). These publications can be accessed at: [HLS PILAC CHE](#) (in English).

The panel includes

- Naz K. Modirzadeh, Director of the Harvard Law School Program on International Law and Armed Conflict (moderator)
- Stephan Husy, Ambassador-at-Large for International Counter-Terrorism, Switzerland
- Dr Tristan Ferraro, Legal Advisor, Legal Division, ICRC
- Representative of a National Red Cross / Red Crescent Society (tbc)

## **11. Delivering humanitarian assistance in a dignified manner**

Host: Turkish Red Crescent

Languages: English, French, Arabic, Turkish

Where: room 5/6

When: Thursday 10 December 2015, 8:00-9:00

Description:

Since 15 March 2011 millions of Syrians have fled their country because of the conflict that started in Dera with insurrections and protest. As a result of the conflict, the Syrian Crisis Humanitarian Relief Operation was started by the Turkish Red Crescent, which has been providing assistance to the victims of the armed conflict since 2011. After the establishment of temporary protection camps, apart from providing fixed menu food service, the TRC developed e-voucher food support for the Syrians within the camps after having technical meetings with the World Food Programme. Moreover, the number of Syrians who are under temporary protection within the camps is much fewer than the ones outside of the camps. Therefore the TRC has started to focus more on off-camp Syrians in its humanitarian relief programmes, such as the Community Center Project.

The Turkish Red Crescent will demonstrate methodologies to deliver humanitarian assistance in a dignified manner for empowering beneficiaries of Cash Assistance / E-Voucher Program and Community Center Program via its presentation. Video, including interviews with the beneficiaries and the program partners, will also be shown. There will be supportive documents and materials such as programme brochures prepared in English, Arabic and French, information files and promotional materials.

## **12. How can the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation benefit from the experience of other regions in enhancing cooperation amongst the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in its member States?**

Host: Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

Languages: English, French, Arabic

Where: room 5/6

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 8:00-9:00

Description:

A large number of the 57 member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) are facing unprecedented levels of humanitarian crises that widely vary in their nature and many are quite complex. The National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in many OIC member States are working in numerous conflict and crisis areas and many are dealing with devastating natural disasters. Furthermore, while some suffer from a number of deficiencies, yet they have a wide range of capabilities and a number of them are providing substantial financial and in-kind humanitarian assistance. We believe that coordination and cooperation among these Societies can be advanced to a much higher level.

This side event will provide an opportunity for the National Societies to exchange views on two main issues: first, how to advance cooperation and coordination between National Societies in OIC member States, benefiting from the experience of other regions; second, the

challenges the National Societies are encountering on the ground to uphold the Fundamental Principles, particularly in conflict situations.

### **13. Humanitarian action in situations other than armed conflict: lessons from the ICRC's pilot project in Rio de Janeiro**

Hosts: Brazil and International Committee of the Red Cross

Short title: Humanitarian action in peacetime: the ICRC's "Rio Project"

Languages: English, Portuguese

Where: room 15

When: Tuesday 8 December 2015, 12:45-13:45

Description:

The event will aim at presenting an account of the pilot project developed by the ICRC in seven *favelas* in Rio de Janeiro from 2009 to 2013, as well as at assessing its results. Presentations will cover the specificities of humanitarian action in situations which do not constitute an armed conflict and where a fully-functioning government structure is in place. In such circumstances, the ICRC acts in support of local authorities, rather than attempting to substitute them in the provision of basic services.

The challenges posed by urban violence to public security, health assistance and access to education services will also be examined, and the measures taken to address them in the context of the "Rio Project" will be scrutinized. The outcome of the project will be assessed by both the Brazilian Government and the ICRC, and lessons will be drawn for other countries which face similar challenges and are interested in making use of the project's toolkit to address them.

Panelists:

- Paulo Roberto Maldos, National Secretary for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights of Brazil (tbc);
- Stephan Sakalian, former Head of the Rio Project (tbc);
- Local authorities directly involved with the Rio Project (tbc).

### **14. Improving the domestic prosecution of crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes through interstate cooperation**

Hosts: Argentina, Belgium, Netherlands and Slovenia

Short title: Towards a new mutual legal assistance and extradition treaty on atrocity crimes

Languages: English, French

Where: room 1

When: Thursday 10 December 2015, 8:00-9:00

Description:

It is the solemn responsibility of all States to comply with their international obligations to end impunity for crimes of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. This responsibility notably includes thorough investigation and prosecution at the domestic level of persons responsible for such atrocity crimes. Suspects, witnesses, evidence or assets relating to these crimes are quite often not located on the territory of a single State. This means that



States will have to cooperate practically and judicially with one another in order to be truly effective in the fight against impunity for atrocity crimes, in full compliance with their international obligations. Effective cooperation among States is the only way to avoid the creation of safe havens for perpetrators of mass atrocities. However, the appropriate international legal framework for mutual legal assistance and extradition for these atrocity crimes is currently lacking.

The aim of the side event would be to provide information about the latest developments with regard to the initiative for a Multilateral Treaty for Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition in the Domestic Prosecution of Atrocity Crimes, and to seek further support for this initiative.

### **15. International humanitarian law and Islam**

Host: Morocco

Languages: English, French, Arabic

Where: room 15

When: Thursday 10 December 2015, 8:00-9:00

Description:

- Share our understanding of humanitarian rules in the context of Islam and of how to apply those rules within the limits dictated by Islamic tradition, which advocates respect for the dignity of vulnerable groups of people (children, women and the elderly) and prohibits mutilation, damage to the environment and destruction of civilian homes during fighting.
- Initiate and step up dialogue with Islamic intellectuals, academics and scholars with a view to laying the foundations for a mutual understanding of international humanitarian law as found in Islam which will dispel misconceptions and establish common ground, in turn fostering respect for human dignity in armed conflict.
- Enable humanitarian organizations and workers to take into consideration the laws of war as laid down in Islam to guide them as they carry out their activities. This will have the effect of strengthening the scope of their action and guaranteeing the effectiveness of their humanitarian mission.
- Promote ownership of international humanitarian law as part of our religious and moral heritage, and foster respect for this body of law, in particular as regards the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian relief and assistance for victims.

### **16. Voluntary reporting on national compliance with international humanitarian law**

Hosts: Poland and Romania

Languages: English

Where: room 15

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 18:00-19:00

Description:

The side event is co-organized by Poland and Romania in cooperation with the ICRC. The main objective is to present and discuss added value, best practices and examples of national reports on implementation of IHL. Some countries on a voluntary basis prepare such reports, other are willing to start. The side event will serve as a platform for an exchange of

experiences in this field. Discussion will cover such issues as: aims, advantages and challenges of reporting, collecting data, scope of reports and coordination among national stakeholders, including the role of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the drafting. Presentation of lessons learned from different perspectives by representatives of Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America regions would substantially contribute to discussions on the proposals for strengthening compliance with IHL.

### **17. Localizing humanitarianism**

Host: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian

Where: room 2

When: Thursday 10 December 2015, 8:00-9:00

Description:

### **18. Migration: an emergency approach or a commonplace phenomenon?**

Host: Italian Red Cross

Languages: English

Where: room 2

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 12:15-13:15

Description:

### **19. MIKTA efforts on strengthening international disaster response laws**

Hosts: Mexico, Mexican Red Cross, Indonesia, Indonesian Red Cross Society, Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Turkey, Turkish Red Crescent Society, Australia, Australian Red Cross

Languages: English

Where: room 7/8

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 8:00-9:00

Description:

The five countries of MIKTA (Mexico, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Turkey and Australia) come from diverse cultures and regions. Yet, they share core values and similarities. They are strategically located and strongly linked to their surrounding regions in all aspects.

Global experience has shown that managing international assistance operations is becoming increasingly complex. The absence of a specific domestic regulatory framework can make it very difficult for an affected state to properly oversee, regulate and facilitate the entry of life-saving relief. Ad hoc approaches, hastily devised in the wake of a catastrophic disaster, have often led to the lack of coordination and the arrival of inappropriate or poor quality relief. They also frequently result in unnecessary restrictions, delays and expenses hampering the right aid, just when it is most urgently needed.

MIKTA countries have comprehensive rules or procedures in place related to international disaster assistance and they would like to share their good practices and experience in legal preparedness to manage potential future international disaster response.

Against this backdrop, the Side Event aims to:

- Introduce the IDRL guidelines,
- Share best models/frameworks,
- Discuss,
  - How technical assistance can be best provided,
  - How regional platforms can be used to make progress on IDRL,
  - Whether a global framework for IDRL should be targeted.

It is believed that the side event will also be a useful opportunity to discuss the progress made so far and to share the views on the Resolution of the 32nd Conference on Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Disaster Response, Risk Reduction and First Aid.

## **20. Monitoring, reporting and fact-finding: methodology and confidence-building potential**

Hosts: Switzerland, Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, and International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission

Languages: English

Where: room 7/8

When: Thursday 10 December 2015, 13:15-14:15

Description:

The International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC; [www.ihffc.org](http://www.ihffc.org)) will introduce itself as a co-operative confidence-building mechanism between parties to an armed conflict, whether international or non-international, aiming at strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law. The side event will highlight that the IHFFC operates in a different mode than accountability mechanisms, building upon neutrality, independence and confidentiality. Discussants will highlight the IHFFC's confidence-building potential as a contribution to strengthening international humanitarian law. Contributors: Colonel Charles Garraway (Member of the IHFFC, Fellow at the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex) and Prof. Ove Bring (Professor emeritus in international law, Former Legal Adviser to the Swedish Foreign Ministry, Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration).

A panel discussion will then focus on the methodological dilemmas faced by practitioners engaged in monitoring, reporting, and fact-finding (MRF) on violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. The ad hoc nature of MRF missions has hindered the process of learning lessons from past practice, leading practitioners to have a sense that they are 're-inventing the wheel' on each mission. This panel will examine key issues of MRF methodology, focusing specifically on the results of a multi-annual research project on the topic undertaken by the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research (HPCR) with the support of the Government of Switzerland. Contributors: Judge Philippe Kirsch (Former Chairman, United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Libya), Prof. Claude Bruderlein (Senior Researcher, HPCR), Ms Cynthia Petrich (Founder, Beyond [peace]), Dr Théo Boutruche (Independent Consultant in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law).

## **21. New challenges for the protection of cultural property: from incidental damage to deliberate destruction**

Hosts: International Committee of the Blue Shield and International Committee of the Red Cross

Languages: English, French, Spanish

Where: room 15

When: Tuesday 8 December 2015, 18:00-19:00

Description:

Cultural property is the manifestation of the identity of a people. Its destruction is often irreversible. Safeguarding it therefore helps preserve the dignity of victims of armed conflict in the long term, as well as strengthening resilience and reconciliation mechanisms between former belligerents.

In times of war, cultural property is protected both by the general provisions of international humanitarian law protecting civilian objects, and by the provisions of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Adopted in 1954, this instrument enshrines special protection for the cultural heritage of peoples. It was supplemented by an additional protocol adopted in 1999.

Despite the existence of detailed provisions under international law concerning its protection, cultural property continues to be subject to pillaging and destruction. Some recent conflicts have even seen a particularly worrying development: deliberate and irreversible destruction of cultural property of great importance for all humanity.

This side event will be an opportunity to review the existing regimes for the protection of cultural property, the synergies between the different conventions, and the roles of the various parties concerned, and to recall the measures that States must take to prevent, suppress, prosecute and repair any destruction.

The side event will also identify practices and initiatives that could improve protection of cultural property.

## **22. Preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence in disasters**

Hosts: Australia and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic

Where: room 2

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 18:00-19:00

Description:

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is increasingly recognised as an inevitable by-product of many conflicts today. Evidence from the field suggests that SGBV also often increases during and following natural disasters, adding to the physical, psychological and emotional suffering of those affected. However, experiences of SGBV during natural disasters remain largely unseen, unheard and, due to a lack of knowledge on specific contexts, greatly misunderstood.

This side-event will seek to localise the discussion on SGBV in natural disasters, provide a space for local actors to put forward their own perspectives and experiences, and discuss

new ideas and ways we can better prevent and respond to SGBV in natural disasters, particularly in the context of the Pacific.

Findings and recommendations from the IFRC report entitled “Unseen, Unheard: Gender-based Violence in Disasters” will frame the discussion, including the similarities and distinctions between the nature, extent and response to sexual violence in conflict as opposed to gender-based violence in disasters.

This side-event proposes to delve deeper into the “sexual and gender-based violence” sub-theme of this year’s Conference.

Panelists:

Dr. Elizabeth Ferris, Lead Researcher Unseen, Unheard report, Research Professor at Georgetown University and Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution - moderator

Ms. Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Coordinator, Femlink Pacific

Ms. Tautala Mauala, Secretary General, Samoa Red Cross Society

Ms. Elisabeth Rehn, former United Nations Under-Secretary General and Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Jamie Isbister, First Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian, NGO and Partnerships Division, Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Australia

### **23. Reaching the unreachable: maternal, newborn and child health in complex humanitarian contexts**

Hosts: Canadian Red Cross Society and Canada

Languages: English, French

Where: room 18

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 8:00-9:00

Description:

More than six million children and 287,000 mothers die from mostly preventable causes each year. More than half of these deaths occur in countries affected by disaster, conflict or other crises. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has tremendous potential to address this global tragedy, and to contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. With vast experience in States affected by humanitarian crises, we bring to this challenge programming characterized by equity in service delivery, unparalleled access to those most in need, and a capacity to take innovations to scale.

The National Societies of Pakistan, Haiti and Mali will share their experiences delivering life-saving services to mothers and children in challenging contexts. Audience members will also share their perspectives and ideas about how the Movement, governments and other actors can contribute to maternal and child survival in complex humanitarian settings. The lives of mothers and children in emergency contexts are most at risk. They too, must be reached, if we are to achieve health and well-being for all at all ages.

The session will be moderated by Ambassador Rosemary McCarney, an expert in maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), and Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva.

**24. Reconnecting families: building resilient communities through reconnecting and supporting separated families following conflict, disaster or migration**

Hosts: Members of the Restoring Family Links (RFL) Strategy Implementation Group from American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Honduran Red Cross, Mexican Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Senegalese Red Cross Society, and the International Committee of the Red Cross

Short Title: Reconnecting families: crisis, displacement and resilience

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic

Where: room 5/6

When: Tuesday 8 December 2015, 12:45-13:45

Description:

"Somehow, after three months, my father and my family were reunited because of the Red Cross." Hear the powerful testimonials from a Restoring Family Links beneficiary reconnected with her family and an RFL practitioner in crisis response as we discuss the reconnecting families work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Globally, families separated by conflict, disaster or migration have to live with the anguish of not knowing the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones. Through effective Restoring Family Links (RFL) services, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement seeks to alleviate the impact of this uncertainty on separated families and consequently reinforce communities' resilience.

The Movement's efforts to support separated families and reconnect and maintain contact within families are essential for a community's recovery and depend on the effective functioning of the global RFL network. This requires strong coordination within the Movement, close cooperation with government authorities and other concerned actors, innovative use of technology, careful protection of beneficiary information, and adherence to the Fundamental Principles.

Witness the global impact of the Movement and consider the opportunities and challenges faced in supporting resilience through this humanitarian service. For more information please visit [familylinks.icrc.org](http://familylinks.icrc.org).

**25. Reintegration for peace-building and reconciliation**

Host: Colombia and Guatemala

Languages: English

Where: room 15

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 8:00-9:00

Description:

Panelist: Joshua Mitrotti, Director General of the Colombian Agency for Reintegration.

Analysing reintegration processes as a key part of peace-building and reconciliation, based on the following points:

- A reintegration focus to enable citizens undergoing reintegration to overcome their vulnerability and autonomously exercise their civic responsibilities.
- Principle of co-responsibility: peace-building is not just the responsibility of the State; society as a whole has to commit to it.
- Intersecting key dimensions for successful reintegration: individual, family, health, education, civic responsibilities, security, productivity, habitability.
- Reintegration as a process that starts with the individual but should encompass family and community environments.
- All the vulnerable members of the community (those who are being reintegrated, victims, the poor) live side by side and share the same environments. The State should offer a service that links up the relevant public entities and policies.
- The role of international cooperation in reintegration processes.
- Lessons learned and the challenges of Colombia: after 12 years of implementation, 48,358 people are undergoing reintegration and 9,252 people have completed the process.
- Lessons learned and the challenges of other processes.

## **26. Responding to protection challenges in urban areas: lessons from conflict and displacement in towns and cities**

Hosts: United States of America and United Kingdom

Languages: English

Where: room 7/8

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 18:00-19:00

Description:

As the world's population becomes ever more urbanized, so humanitarians will be increasingly called upon to respond to crises in towns and cities. This issue is steadily gaining recognition, as the focus on urban risk in the 32nd International Conference demonstrates. Displacement within or to urban areas can magnify the vulnerability of particular groups, especially in urban areas with preexisting elevated levels of violence. Cities are also often the focus of hostilities in conflict. They are also places where people fleeing conflict choose to settle, but where humanitarian actors struggle to understand their needs and vulnerabilities. The session will take a broad introductory approach. It will cover a range of different urban crisis contexts and examine the challenges and opportunities presented by the environment for the protection and support of vulnerable populations. The aim of the session is to encourage participants to apply an urban lens to their own work, and consider what steps need to be taken for their own institution to be ready to respond to the inevitable rise in urban crises.

## **27. Strengthening legal preparedness for disasters and disaster risk reduction**

Hosts: Fiji Red Cross Society, Vanuatu Red Cross Society, Samoa Red Cross Society

Languages: English

Where: room 7/8

When: Tuesday 8 December 2015, 18:00-19:00

Description:

**28. Taking Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values to action: reinforcing and uniting the Principles' perception by humanitarian education**

Hosts: Switzerland, Austrian Red Cross, Indonesian Red Cross Society, Mexican Red Cross, the Red Cross of Serbia, Swiss Red Cross, American Red Cross, and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic

Where: room 2

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 8:00-9:00

Description:

The side event aims to:

- present and share the humanitarian education vision (draft) and how the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Fundamental Principles apply through humanitarian education initiatives;
- demonstrate the competency and the relevance of humanitarian education for the RCRC Movement, for States and for external partners within the area of education;
- present, share and discuss new, innovative humanitarian education initiatives, focusing on innovative ways to take the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values to action through education; and to initiate further collaboration on peer-to-peer level;
- encourage National Societies and States (governments) to sign the joint open humanitarian education pledge and the "Humanitarian Principles project pledge initiative" by the Swiss Government to be submitted at the 32nd International Conference.

High-level speakers from the RCRC Movement (tbc), from States (tbc) and from the Education World Forum (tbc) will share their views of the present and future relevance of humanitarian education within and beyond the RCRC Movement and possibilities for reinforcing and uniting the Fundamental Principles' perception by humanitarian education.

Subject matter experts will showcase innovative ways to take the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values to action through their respective humanitarian education initiatives. All participants are invited to share their humanitarian education initiatives; floor interventions are welcomed. All key messages and outcomes will be posted during the side event on flip charts, on the HELP community, on Twitter and on Facebook.

**29. Tech4Resilience: How does technology impact community resilience?**

Hosts: American Red Cross, Global Disaster Preparedness Center, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Kenya Red Cross Society, the Republic of Korea National Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic

Where: room 5/6

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 12:15-13:15



Description:

In line with the Conference's aim to reduce disaster risk and improve the ability of communities to better prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters and complex emergencies, this side event will explore the role of technology in strengthening resilience characteristics and actions.

Technology, no longer seen as a luxury, is an essential tool for many individuals and communities during crisis situations. A panel of experts representing various industries will share stories on resilience-strengthening tools, ranging from infrastructure (e.g. basic access and connectivity), information communication and other proven technology (e.g. mobile phones, e-payments, etc.) and emerging solutions (e.g. unmanned aerial vehicles, 3D printers, etc.). Panelists will highlight emerging trends in technology use by vulnerable communities, with a particular focus on tools being utilized during the ongoing refugee crisis.

The event will promote a principled approach when leveraging technology and call for innovative partnership models to support community-level access, management and ownership of technology. By better understanding existing tools, as well as new approaches and networks, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, governments and partners can enhance efforts to support community-led initiatives and help individuals meet their needs and aspirations.

**30. The Arms Trade Treaty: implementation and universalization**

Hosts: Australia and New Zealand

Languages: English

Where: room 18

When: Thursday 10 December 2015, 8:00-9:00

Description:

This side event will feature a panel discussion aimed at promoting the universalization and strengthening implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, to build on the momentum and outcomes of the first Conference of States Parties (24-27 August 2015, Mexico).

The Treaty sets global standards for the international trade of conventional arms and is a worthy response to the widespread human suffering caused by the poorly regulated trade in weapons. Effective national implementation of the Treaty by States Parties, including the enactment of any necessary implementing legislation, is key to achieving its objectives.

The panel will discuss the objectives of the Arms Trade Treaty; progress towards universalization; and mechanisms to support and overcome challenges to implementation, such as model implementing legislation developed by New Zealand.

This side event will support the International Conference theme "Prevent and Respond to Violence" and its focus on strengthening legal and normative frameworks.

**31. The humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons: key findings on the consequences and risks of, and the response capabilities regarding, nuclear weapon explosions**

Hosts: Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Holy See, Indonesia, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Australian Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Chilean Red Cross, Colombian Red Cross Society, Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japanese Red Cross Society,

The Netherlands Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, The Red Cross of Serbia, Suriname Red Cross, The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, and International Committee of the Red Cross

Short title: The humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons

Languages: English

Where: room 2

When: Tuesday 8 December 2015, 18:00-19:00

Description:

The ICRC concluded as early as September 1945 that the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons were unacceptable, as President Maurer recalled in his speech of 18 February this year, referring to their unique destructive power and the scale of human suffering they cause, the fact that the consequences would be trans-boundary and the risk of their intentional or accidental use. Since 2010, the international community has refocused its attention on the humanitarian consequences and the risks associated with nuclear weapons. This evolution was reflected through cross-regional humanitarian statements in UN fora and in the context of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons informed the resolution of the 2011 Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Three Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons were organized in Oslo (March 2013), Nayarit (February 2014) and Vienna (December 2014).

This side event seeks to transmit the key conclusions and evidence that have emerged from the focus on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear weapons during recent years to the participants of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

### **32. The Movement and the corporate sector: partnering for impact**

Hosts: International Committee of the Red Cross and Kenya Red Cross Society

Languages: English

Where: room 18

When: Tuesday 8 December 2015, 18:00-19:00

Description:

The side event is aimed at supporting the Movement's reflection around the issue of corporate engagement. It will gather representatives from the corporate sector and National Societies to address the following key questions:

- *How can the Movement play a more active role in integrating the corporate sector into broader response efforts?*
- *What types of partnerships can be established with businesses to enhance the Movement's humanitarian impact?*
- *What support do National Societies need in order to engage in a broader and more sustained fashion with relevant corporate actors in their countries?*
- *From the corporate sector's perspective, what are the opportunities and challenges faced when exploring partnerships with the Movement and its different components?*

To initiate the discussion, The Philips Foundation, the Kenya Red Cross Society and the ICRC will be sharing their experience and insights on partnerships between humanitarian and corporate actors.

For more background and the latest thinking on corporate partnerships and innovation please visit: <http://blogs.icrc.org/gphi2/>

### **33. The use of explosive weapons in populated areas and the need to better protect civilians**

Hosts: Austria, Costa Rica, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Austrian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and International Committee of the Red Cross

Short title: Civilian harm caused by explosive weapons in populated areas

Languages: English

Where: room 1

When: Wednesday 9 December 2015, 18:00-19:00

Description:

The use of explosive weapons in populated areas creates a grave humanitarian problem causing death and injuries to tens of thousands of civilians. The destruction of housing and vital infrastructure is a major driver for displacement. The UN Secretary-General has called on all parties to conflicts to avoid using explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas. International efforts to address this issue are growing.

In 2013, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement called upon States "to avoid using explosive weapons with a wide impact area in densely populated areas" (Resolution 7 of the Council of Delegates). This echoed a similar call made by the ICRC in its 2011 report to the 31st International Conference (International Humanitarian Law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts), renewed in its 2015 report of the same title.

The side event seeks to build on this momentum to raise awareness of the immediate and longer-term impacts of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and to enhance the dialogue among humanitarian actors, States and other relevant actors on this topic. The side event will illustrate and analyse the severe consequences caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. In addition, it will address legal aspects of their use and aim to explore possible avenues to contain and reduce the devastating civilian harm caused by those weapons and invite participants to share views and ideas in this regard.

### **34. Towards hunger resilience**

Hosts: Kenya Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Languages: English, French

Where: room 15

When: Thursday 10 December 2015, 13:15-14:15

Description:

The Kenya Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent's side event will feature presentations and a panel discussion, "Towards Hunger Resilience" – a call to enhance collaboration and define ways of joining forces to achieve hunger

resilience. The event will be moderated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the panel will be composed of representatives from the Kenya Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Nestlé.

This event will bring together the diplomatic and development communities, National Societies along with the private sector, academia and research, and civil society to discuss and share experiences on achieving hunger resilience. Food security, sustainable agriculture and nutrition play a key role for hunger resilience as part of building sustainable production. Critical components needed to enhance hunger resilience are: a multi-sectorial and stakeholder approach to mainstreaming management in food security; agriculture and nutrition programmes with functional institutions; risk governance mechanisms; effective early warning systems on weather /climate extremes; and links with research and private sector partners. It has been recognized that malnutrition is not to be solved as a standalone problem but rather by a combination of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions, including improving climate-smart agriculture and sustainable livelihoods. The recurrence of food crises and competition for resources is pushing the international community to increase its focus on reducing the risks and increasing community resilience to hunger.

### **35. Youth engagement for a better world**

Host: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian

Where: room 1

When: Tuesday 8 December 2015, 18:00-19:00

Description:

This side event will elevate the strategic and fundamental importance of youth engagement to the resilience of local communities. During this festive event we will lay the foundations of the world's collective ambition to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals from the Movement's perspective. In addition, Conference delegates will have an opportunity to celebrate the role of youth in creating a better world and harness the momentum for the Movement and its partners to commit to working toward a shared vision for strengthening community resilience.