



Our world. Your move.
31st International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent
Geneva, 28 November–1 December – For humanity



Special note on Pledges at the 31st International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference

Introduction

The formal outcomes of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Conference) are Resolutions. Conference members also have the opportunity to make Pledges to carry out actions in support of the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Conference.

Any member or observer of the Conference can make individual Pledges. Collective pledges can be made with other members or observers of the Conference.

Pledges – the benefits

Pledges, which were introduced during the 2003 International Conference, have become increasingly popular and are widely perceived as positive outcomes of the Conference. During the 30th International Conference in 2007, Movement components, governments and observers turned goodwill into specific and measurable humanitarian commitments through pledges. In total, 71 governments, 121 National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC as well as three observers submitted 340 individual and collective pledges for the period 2008-2011.

The development and follow up of collective pledges can provide a useful platform for Movement components (National Societies, the IFRC and ICRC) to have local discussions with Governments on the successes and challenges of implementing particular pledges and resolutions. The development of pledges speaks to the world-wide power of the Movement.

Pledges can also provide a way for governments to show active recognition of and particular engagement with their own National Society on a number of Conference issues. Where a National Society wishes to develop a collective pledge with its government, it is recommended that the National Society sits with relevant government departments before, during and after a Conference to work on humanitarian themes and topics of mutual interest and concern.

Engaging in such a dialogue before the Conference can serve to highlight to both parties the practical benefits of co-operation. This dialogue continues during the Conference to ensure that the National Society and the government are both comfortable with and supportive of the substance of the planned pledge(s) and any direct or indirect obligations that will follow.

After the Conference, the National Society and the government will need to work together to monitor and review progress in the implementation of the pledge(s). The entire process can increase cooperation and direct activities between a National Society and its public authorities.

31st International Conference – pledges on Strengthening IHL and humanitarian action

For the 31st International Conference, pledges are expected to support the main themes of the Conference: Strengthening legal protection for victims of armed conflicts; strengthening disaster law; strengthening local humanitarian action and addressing barriers to health care.

'Model' or example pledges covering specific activities in these areas can be developed by Conference members (including ICRC and the IFRC) and will be circulated to other members with the opportunity to join (see guidelines below).

Model pledges offer opportunities for components of the Movement to work together and with their own authorities in a streamlined and focused approach to resolving humanitarian problems. Model pledges can support Movement components and Governments to approach issues on a national level or as part of wider approach, which may involve a number of countries or a region. Carefully crafted model pledges allow the substance to be concise enough to be genuinely useful and broad enough to take into account the diversity of the components of the Movement and Governments.

GUIDELINES FOR PLEDGING

(Adopted by the Standing Commission 22 March 2011)

31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (28 November – 1 December 2011)

1. Introduction

In addition to considering the resolutions submitted to the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for adoption, the participants will be invited to undertake voluntarily, acting independently or jointly, specific humanitarian commitments for the period 2012-2015 in the form of **pledges**. This is a well established tradition. Joint pledges, undertaken as a means of building partnerships will be particularly relevant to the slogan of the Conference, "Our world – Your move, for humanity."

2. Sponsors

Participants (i.e. National Societies, governments, the ICRC, the IFRC and observers) may make individual or collective pledges with a group of participants who commit to achieve shared goals, individually or in partnership.

In addition to the pledges initiated by participants, a number of model pledges (individual or collective) will be submitted for consideration prior to and during the Conference.

3. Content

All pledges should:

- Relate to the objectives and issues addressed by the Conference;
- Preferably promote partnerships between participants that involve joint action and shared goals;
- Be *action-oriented, measurable and time-bound* (objectives to be reached in the period 2012-2015);
- Be reasonably short (maximum 10 lines).

4. Registration

Participants may submit their pledges as of 1 June 2011 in English, French, Spanish or Arabic on the enclosed "Pledge registration form" (Annex 1).

➤ **Prior to the Conference:**

- ✂ From 1 June 2011 until the opening of the Conference, participants may register their pledges to the organizers of the Conference (see contact list below). These pledges will be posted on the websites

ÿ At the request of the sponsor(s), pledges that are open to shared sponsorship will be mailed to the other participants, together with the official documents of the Conference, provided that the request reaches the co-hosts before 25 August 2011.

➤ **During the Conference:**

ÿ *A pledge stand will be open at the Conference venue Monday 28 November - Wednesday 30 November* throughout the working hours of the Conference. For National Societies, the stand will be open also during the Council of Delegates, 26 November.

ÿ All pledges received (including those sent before the Conference) may be amended and finalized by the sponsor(s) at the pledge stand until 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday 30 November.

5. Results

Once registered, all pledges will be posted on the ICRC and IFRC websites (www.icrc.org; www.ifrc.org).

Pledges made will be announced at the *closing plenary meeting* of the Conference on 1 December.

6. Follow-up

In order to ensure appropriate follow-up of the pledges before the next International Conference (2015), the organizers suggest the following:

ÿ As the pledges are considered an integral part of the International Conference, a *resolution* will welcome them and request their sponsors to report on their implementation at the next Conference.

ÿ Summary information on the pledges will be provided in the *Conference Report*.

ÿ The sponsors of each pledge will be invited to clearly designate the person(s) or authority in charge of follow-up and reporting on its implementation.

ÿ The sponsors of collective pledges may set up a joint reporting mechanism.

ÿ The organizers will ensure that all pledges are posted on the above listed websites until the next Conference. The sponsors will have the opportunity to report on the implementation of their pledges (i.e.: individual or collective progress or final reports) and to share that information with the other participants on the website.

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CONTACTS

Should you have any comments, suggestions or questions on the preparation of pledges, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent 19, Avenue de la Paix 1202 Genève Switzerland Website: http://www.standcom.ch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ms Helena Korhonen Head of Secretariat of the Standing Commission Tel.: +41 22 730 2032 Fax: +41 22 730 2027 e-mail: h.korhonen@standcom.ch contact@standcom.ch</p>	

Pledge registration form

For the years 2012-2015, we hereby pledge (max. 10 lines):

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Proposed evaluation criteria (in 2015):

- ➔
- ➔
- ➔

Sponsor(s) of the pledge:

Full name: _____	Date: _____
Title or organization: _____	Place: _____
Signature: _____	
Person / service / institution in charge of follow-up:	