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

Geneva, Switzerland
7 December 2015

**Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund:
Revision of the Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund**

Resolution

Document prepared by the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund

RESOLUTION

Revision of the Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund

The Council of Delegates,

noting with appreciation and *congratulating* the ICRC and International Federation Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund on its report and the accomplishments achieved during 2013-2015,

acknowledging the need to improve the situation following the losses incurred to the Funds capital in 2008,

recognizing that following the above-mentioned losses, the revenues provided by interest and capital gains had to be used to replenish the reserves,

thanking the Joint Commission for proposing and the Japanese Red Cross for agreeing to replenish the reserve for the loss on investments by reallocating 1,700,000 Swiss francs from their exceptional contribution in 2013,

noting that this decision allows to increase the amount available for future distributions of the Empress Shôken Fund to the National Societies humanitarian activities,

welcoming the Joint Commission proposal to adjust the regulations in order to maintain the reserve for loss on investments at an adequate level with the Fund's capital,

appreciating the Joint Commission constant efforts to improve the management and the performance of the Empress Shôken Fund to support the National Societies in their humanitarian work,

1. *Accepts* the amendment in article 3 and *approves* the revised Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund, the text of which is as annex:

Annex**REGULATIONS FOR THE EMPRESS SHŌKEN FUND**

(Approved by the Sixteenth International Conference of the Red Cross, London 1938, and revised by the Nineteenth International Conference, New Delhi 1957, the Twenty-fifth International Conference, Geneva 1986, the Council of Delegates, Budapest 1991, the Twenty-seventh International Conference, Geneva 1999, the Twenty-eighth International Conference, Geneva 2003, and the Council of Delegates, Seoul 2005)

Article 1 - The sum of 100,000 yen in Japanese gold presented by H.M. The Empress of Japan to the International Red Cross on the occasion of the Ninth International Conference (Washington, 1912) to promote "relief work in time of peace", was increased to 200,000 yen by a further gift of 100,000 yen from their Majesties The Empress and The Dowager Empress of Japan, on the occasion of the Fifteenth International Conference, (Tokyo, 1934). The Fund was further increased by a gift of 3,600,000 yen from H.M. The Empress of Japan, on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary in 1963, and by successive contributions from the Government of Japan since 1966, and from the Japanese Red Cross Society. This fund shall be entitled: "The Empress Shōken Fund".

Article 2 - The Fund shall be administered and its revenues distributed by a Joint Commission of six members chosen in their personal capacity. The Joint Commission shall be composed equally of three members appointed by the International Committee of the Red Cross and three by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; the quorum shall be four. The Chairman of the Joint Commission shall be on a permanent basis one of the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross whereas the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies shall provide the Joint Commission's Secretariat. The Joint Commission shall meet at Geneva, in principle at the headquarters of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Article 3 - The capital of the Fund as well as subsequent donations and contributions shall remain intact. The reserve for loss on investment has to be kept at adequate level (up to 20% of total assets) through donations, interest and capital gains. Only revenues provided by interest and capital gains may be used for allocations awarded by the Joint Commission to meet all or part of the cost of the activities enumerated below:

- (a) Disaster preparedness
- (b) Activities in the field of health
- (c) Blood transfusion services
- (d) Youth activities
- (e) First aid and rescue programmes
- (f) Activities in the field of social welfare
- (g) Dissemination of the humanitarian ideals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
- (h) Such other programmes of general interest for the development of the activities of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Article 4 - National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies wishing to receive an allocation shall make the necessary application through their Central Committees to the Secretariat of the Joint Commission before 31 December of the year preceding that in which the allocations are to be made. Applications shall be supported by full details concerning the particular activity selected from among those specified in Article 3 above.

Article 5 - The Joint Commission shall examine the applications mentioned in the previous Article and shall make such allocations as it considers just and suitable. It shall each year communicate the decisions it has taken to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Article 6 - National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies which feel obliged by circumstances to put the allocations received to uses other than those specified in their applications for grants under Article 4 must ask for the Joint Commission's approval before doing so.

Article 7 - National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies shall send to the Joint Commission, not later than twelve months after receipt of the allocations, a report on the use of the allocations received.

Article 8 - The announcement of distribution shall take place each year on 11 April, the anniversary of the death of H.M. The Empress Shôken.

Article 9 - A sum which shall not exceed CHF 50,000 shall be set aside to cover the cost of administering the Fund and of assisting the National Societies concerned in the realization of their projects.

Article 10 - The Joint Commission shall present to each Council of Delegates of the Red Cross and Red Crescent a report on the current financial situation of the Fund, the allocations which have been made since the preceding Council and the use made of those allocations by National Societies. The Council of Delegates shall transmit this report to the Japanese Imperial Family through the intermediary of the Japanese Red Cross Society.