



## The Fundamental Principles in action Commission A

### Objectives

This commission will address the overarching theme of the Conference – the Fundamental Principles in action. It provides us with an opportunity to reassert the Fundamental Principles' continued relevance on the 50th anniversary of their adoption by the 20th International Conference in 1965.

The commission will examine initiatives that have been taken to tailor the application of the Fundamental Principles to a range of contexts and demonstrate their value in making humanitarian action effective. It will also explore the critical role played by National Societies and States as they work together to strengthen the application of and respect for the Fundamental Principles.

The objectives are three-fold:

- 1. Demonstrate that the Fundamental Principles contribute to effective humanitarian action*  
The Fundamental Principles provide the Movement with a crucial ethical, operational and institutional framework for addressing the needs of the most vulnerable people in all circumstances. They also make a significant contribution to the safety and security of staff and volunteers and the effective delivery of aid.
- 2. Highlight the ongoing initiatives and good practices related to the application of the Fundamental Principles*  
Generating respect for the Fundamental Principles requires continuous effort and work. Their application must constantly be adapted to different contexts and evolving environments – a responsibility that the Movement takes seriously.
- 3. Explore States' perspectives and the critical role they play in ensuring greater respect for the Fundamental Principles*  
Dialogue and understanding between States and National Societies is critical for the Fundamental Principles to be upheld.

Members of the Conference are encouraged to make pledges committing themselves to concrete measures that strengthen respect for and adherence to the Fundamental Principles.

## Chair and panellists

**Chair:** Dr Werner Kerschbaum, Secretary-General, Austrian Red Cross

### **Panellists for session 1:**

#### **Part one**

*Demonstrate the effectiveness of the Fundamental Principles through good practice and initiatives*

- Yusuf Hassan Mohammed, President, Somali Red Crescent Society
- Nan Buzard, Executive Director, ICVA
- Sorcha O'Callaghan, Head of Humanitarian Policy, British Red Cross\*

#### **Part two**

*Explore States' perspectives and the critical role they play in strengthening respect for the Fundamental Principles*

- Salvadorean Red Cross Society\*
- Representative of the Salvadorean government\*

### **Panellists for session 2:**

#### **Part one**

*Demonstrate the effectiveness of the Fundamental Principles through good practice and initiatives*

- Egyptian Red Crescent Society\*
- Nan Buzard, Executive Director, ICVA
- Sorcha O'Callaghan, Head of Humanitarian Policy, British Red Cross\*

#### **Part two:**

*Explore States' perspectives and the critical role they play in strengthening respect for the Fundamental Principles*

- Jamaica Red Cross\*
- Representative of the Jamaican government\*

\* to be confirmed

## Guiding questions

- How does applying the Fundamental Principles lead to a stronger and more relevant response to the needs of vulnerable people?
- How do they contribute to the safety and security of volunteers and staff, including safe access to people in need?
- What concrete measures have Movement components and States taken to uphold the Fundamental Principles and generate respect for them? What has worked? What more can be done?
- How can States and National Societies strengthen dialogue and understanding in order to ensure respect for and application of the Fundamental Principles?

## Practical details

There will be two sessions of this plenary commission; both will use the same guiding questions and format. The only difference will be the panel members and the language groupings.

**Timing and rooms:** (to be confirmed)

- Session 1: Wednesday, 9 December, 3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m., room 2
- Session 2: Thursday, 10 December, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., room 1

**Language groupings:**

- Session 1: English, Spanish, Russian
- Session 2: English, French, Arabic

**Format of the panel:**

Each session will be divided into two parts (see Chair and panellists). In each part, speakers' contributions will be followed by comments from the floor and there will be a survey to find out the opinion of those present.

## Links to official working documents

**Official documents:**

Background report, [\*The Fundamental Principles in action: A unique ethical, operational and institutional framework\*](#), 2015, available at: <http://rcrcconference.org/international-conference/documents/>

**Additional background information:**

Pictet, Jean. [\*The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross: Commentary\*](#), 1979.

Council of Delegates, background paper and outline of the [workshop on the Fundamental Principles](#), Sydney, 2013.

[Reports of the regional workshops](#) held as part of the Movement-wide initiative on the Fundamental Principles, available at: <http://rcrcconference.org/fundamental-principles/>