



From the Chair: The Movement's "1st" in Africa

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement came together at the Council of Delegates in November in Nairobi, Kenya – for the first time ever in Africa. After the Federation's General Assembly, the Council, our Movement's highest deliberative body in non-Conference years, discussed and debated for three days at the UN Centre in Nairobi. Delegations from 160 National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation participated.

The important issues, which we want to shortly introduce to you in this Newsletter, will help us move forward and contribute to the soon-to-begin preparations for the next International Conference in two years time.

The 'novelty' this time was a full day of workshops. They proved very popular with the National Societies and we had lively debates and exchanges of experiences on topical concerns and issues in an informal setting. The debates were encouraging and showed that we indeed are a Movement alive. I believe that the workshop debates must influence our on-going work and they contributed much already to the preparations for the 2011-meetings.

It was a big meeting with more than 400 participants. The exchanges on the sidelines, the corridor discussions where people from all corners of the world met, shared views and compared notes, were surely as important as the formal parts of the Council.

I felt encouraged by the energy and the positive atmosphere in spite of

New SC Chairman

Dr Massimo Barra of Italy took up the position of Chairman of the Standing Commission on November 26, 2009. His mandate continues until the 31st International Conference in 2011.

The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent elected Dr Barra into the Commission in 2007. He was Vice Chair until the close of the 2009 Council of Delegates.

He has a life-long experience with the Italian Red Cross, of which he was President 2005 – November 2008. He has also held different positions within the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, including that of Vice President.

H.E. Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, Chairman of the Standing Commission since the 28th International Conference (2003) until November 25, 2009 will continue as Vice Chairman.

Highlights in this issue:

- Council of Delegates in Nairobi
- Council Chair calls for action to tackle 'today's Solferinos'
- SC has new Chairman
- Henry Dunant medals 2009
- Movement Strategy – reviews call for change

Website:
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the many challenges our National Societies struggle with. They are living proof of humanity in action.



Massimo Barra
Chairman

The full reports and resolutions from the Council can all be downloaded from the Standing Commission's website, www.rcstandcom.info

Council Chair calls for action to tackle today's Solferinos

Meeting 150 years after the battle of Solferino, the Council expressed its solidarity with all those struggling to cope with 'today's Solferinos' – whether caused by armed conflicts, natural disasters, poverty, climate change or the current global economic crisis.

In his statement, the Chair of the Council, Dr Jakob Kellenberger, committed to push decision-makers to prioritise the welfare of those worst affected by today's humanitarian crises. He reiterated the RCRC commitment to Africa, underlining that humanitarian challenges on the Continent need to be tackled from a global perspective.

Climate change as a major driver of weather disasters, affecting millions of people worldwide, calls for a greater investment in risk reduction, community resilience and disaster preparedness as key strategies for adaptation. Along with war, violence and poverty, climate change forces tens of millions of people to leave their homes and join the ranks of the internally displaced.

The Chair further underlined the determination of the RCRC to help and

speak up for tens of millions of migrants seeking a better life outside their home countries, including those living outside or at the margins of conventional health, social and legal systems.

Alarmed by the massive human cost of armed conflict worldwide, the Council Chair stressed his conviction that international humanitarian law offers the best available legal protection for those suffering because of war. 60 years after the adoption of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, he called for better respect for existing rules to ensure that international humanitarian law fits the ever-changing reality of war.

The Red Cross Red Crescent was born out of Henry Dunant's drive and inspiration amid the bloodshed of Solferino. Today's Solferinos require a collective response from the international community based on renewed local and global partnerships.

The theme for the Nairobi Council was 'Our world. Your move'. Volunteers and staff of the Red Cross Red Crescent worldwide make their moves every day, showing that everyone can make a difference.

Policy on Migration

A considerable number of National Societies are deeply involved in work with migrants, providing protection and assistance irrespective of their legal status. This role was acknowledged by the 30th International Conference in 2007, in its resolution (1) 'Together for humanity'. Work with migrants is an example of National Societies working as auxiliaries to the public authorities.

The policy on migration was adopted by the Federation's Governing Board in May 2009. In ten specific principles, it outlines the approach on migration.

The Council 'commends the policy for