



## From the Chair

*The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference, which meets every four years, is just around the corner. When representatives of the RCRC Movement and States party to the Geneva conventions meet at the International Conference Centre in Geneva on 28 November, their focus will be on strengthening International Humanitarian Law (IHL), disaster laws and local humanitarian action and on addressing barriers to health care.*

*The Standing Commission approved in September all the working documents, including the draft resolutions, which by now have reached all members.*

*For the first time we have all the documents also on the website – [www.rcrcconference.org](http://www.rcrcconference.org). This should make it easier than before to prepare as the substance reports and background documents together with the draft final outcomes – the resolutions – can be accessed with minimal effort by those in charge in National Societies and in various Ministries within the States parties.*

*The RCRC Movement components will meet before the Conference. There is the IFRC General Assembly to deal with affairs internal to the Federation. The Council brings together all National Societies with the ICRC and the IFRC delegations to discuss issues of concern to the Movement as a whole. This year such issues are i.a. defining a Movement position on nuclear*

*weapons, cooperation with external humanitarian actors, guidance for National Societies working in situations of armed conflict and other situations of violence and issues relating to the Strategy for the Movement. The Council will also hear a report on the implementation of the MoU between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in Israel. All the working documents of the Council can be found on the Standing Commission's website, [www.standcom.ch](http://www.standcom.ch)*

*I look forward to welcoming you all to this year's statutory Movement gatherings, the working modes of which as well as main substance items are outlined in the following pages.*

Massimo Barra  
Chairman

### *Highlights in this issue:*

- 31st International Conference  
- November 2011
- SC Election
- Council of Delegates
- Henry Dunant medal

Website:  
[www.standcom.ch](http://www.standcom.ch)