

# Decisions of the XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross

## I

### **Modification of the Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief**

The XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross

*decides:*

1. to amend Article 14 as follows:

*Article 14 — Role of the League*

The League acts as the information centre for the Red Cross regarding situations caused by disaster and co-ordinates at the international level the assistance provided by National Societies and the League or channelled through them.

2. to add the following new Article 14 A:

*Article 14 A — Initial information*

To enable the League to act as the disaster information centre, National Societies shall immediately inform it of any major disaster occurring within their country, including data on the extent of the damage and on the relief measures taken on the national level for assisting victims. Even if the National Society does not envisage appealing for external assistance the League may, after having obtained clearance from the National Society, send a representative to the spot to gather the information it needs.

3. to revise Article 20 A of the Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief as follows:

*Accounting and auditing for joint or separate League and/or ICRC operations and programmes*

National Societies receiving gifts from sister Societies, the League, the ICRC or any other source in the context of a joint or separate League and/or ICRC operation or programme must conform to the following rules as regards accounting:

*Gifts in cash*

The operating Society shall be reminded of the provisions of the “Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief”, and that in the interests of sound financial administration donors oblige the League/ICRC to require that the National Society’s accounts relating to the operation/programme be audited at intervals as decided in the interest of the operation/programme by auditors designated or approved by the League/ICRC. A final audit will be required upon completion of all operations/programmes. The cost of the audit work will be met from the funds available for the operation/programme.

The operating Society shall open in its own name a special bank account whose sole purpose shall be to receive all the funds and cover all the expenditure of the operation/programme and which shall not be used for any other of the Society’s normal transactions.

The operating Society shall render a monthly account of the funds held by it for the operation/programme showing: opening balance brought forward from the previous month; income *from all sources* during the current month; actual disbursements during the month; and the closing balance for the month. The further information required for the following month comprises: anticipated income, an estimate of expenditure and cash requirements. The League/ICRC would in that way be prepared to give consideration to making an appropriate supplementary advance in cash.

The expenditure charged to the operation/programme shall be shown in a detailed monthly statement which, together with copies of vouchers for all amounts debited and a recapitulatory statement from the bank, shall be sent promptly to Geneva.

The delegate responsible for contact with the operating Society shall be given a copy of the Society’s financial reports and shall keep himself informed on the progress of the operation/programme. He shall examine the financial situation in the light of his knowledge of the conduct of the operation/programme.

*Gifts in kind*

Where gifts in kind are made a statement of the stocks showing the origin and use made of such contributions shall be submitted monthly and upon completion of the relief operation.

4. to amend the title of Article 24 as follows and add the following new paragraph:

New title:

*Article 24 — Unsolicited relief supplies*

New paragraph:

In the absence of such an agreement, the receiving National Society is free to use unsolicited relief supplies at its own discretion, without being bound by the provision of the third paragraph of Article 25.

5. to add the following new Article 29:

*Article 29 — Obligations*

A National Society which accepts spontaneous or special assistance is bound to conform to the obligations laid down in the present “Principles and Rules” even though it has not requested assistance within the terms of the first paragraph of Article 15.

## II

### Revision of the Regulations for the Henry Dunant Medal

The XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross,

*mindful* of Resolution III adopted by the Council of Delegates in 1963 approving in principle the creation of a Henry Dunant Medal as a reward for exceptional merit acquired in Red Cross service,

*mindful* also of Resolution XII adopted by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross (Vienna, 1965) which created the Henry Dunant Medal and laid down the relevant regulations,

*having noted* the report on the revision of the Regulations for the Henry Dunant Medal,

1. *reiterates* its thanks to the Australian Red Cross on whose initiative the Henry Dunant Medal was created and whose generosity permits of its continued production,
2. *approves* the revision of the Regulations for the Henry Dunant Medal, the new version of which reads as follows,

3. *decides* that the Council of Delegates shall be the body competent to deal with any matter relating to the Henry Dunant Medal, including any proposal to amend these Regulations.

### **Regulations for the Henry Dunant Medal**

*(as adopted by the XXth International Conference, Vienna, 1965,  
and revised by the XXIVth International Conference, Manila, 1981)*

1. The Henry Dunant Medal is intended to recognize and reward outstanding services and acts of great devotion, mainly of international significance, to the cause of the Red Cross by any of its members.
2. Criteria for the award of the Medal include risks run and arduous conditions endangering life, health and personal freedom. It may also be awarded for a long period of devoted service to the International Red Cross.
3. The Henry Dunant Medal is a red cross bearing the profile of Henry Dunant in relief, attached to a green ribbon. When worn with other Red Cross badges or decorations it takes precedence.
4. The Henry Dunant Medal shall be awarded every two years by decision of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross in plenary session. Exceptionally the Standing Commission may, provided all its members expressly agree, award the Medal at once without regard to the two-year interval and even without meeting in plenum.
5. No more than five Medals shall normally be awarded every two years. The Standing Commission shall be free to reduce that number or in exceptional cases to increase it.
6. The Henry Dunant Medal may be awarded posthumously to members who have died recently.
7. Nominations for the award of the Medal should be addressed to the Secretariat of the Standing Commission, giving full details and wherever possible enclosing supporting documents and testimonies. Individuals may be proposed for the award by National Societies, the ICRC, the League or a member of the Standing Commission.
8. Candidates need not be members of the Red Cross organization proposing them.
9. Before the Standing Commission meets, its Secretariat shall submit candidates' files to a joint meeting of the League and the ICRC empowered to recommend the rejection of any obviously ineligible candidates or to ask for further information to be added to a candidate's file before it is passed to the Standing Commission.

10. The Chairman of the Standing Commission shall present the Medals at a plenary meeting of the Council of Delegates. If the beneficiary or a member of his family is not present the Medal will be handed to the President or senior representative of the National Society or of the institution concerned for presentation to the beneficiary on behalf of the Chairman of the Standing Commission.

### III

#### **Revision of the Regulations for the Florence Nightingale Medal**

The XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross,

*mindful* of Recommendation 2 of the first session of the General Assembly of the League of Red Cross Societies (Geneva 1979),

*having studied* the report on the examination of the Regulations for the Florence Nightingale Medal,

*approves* the revised text of those Regulations, which reads as follows:

#### *Article 1*

In accordance with the recommendation of the VIIIth International Conference of the Red Cross held in London in 1907, and the decision of the IXth International Conference held in Washington in 1912, a Fund was established by contributions from National Societies of the Red Cross in memory of the great and distinguished services of Florence Nightingale for the improvement of the care of wounded and sick.

The income of the Fund shall be used for the distribution of a Medal, to be called the "Florence Nightingale Medal", to honour the spirit which marked the whole life and work of Florence Nightingale.

#### *Article 2*

The Florence Nightingale Medal may be awarded to qualified nurses and also to voluntary aids who are active members or regular helpers of a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society or of an affiliated medical or nursing institution, for having distinguished themselves in time of peace or war, by their exceptional courage and devotion to wounded, sick or disabled persons or those whose health is threatened.

The Medal may be awarded posthumously if the prospective recipient has fallen on active service.

#### *Article 3*

The Medal shall be awarded by the International Committee of the Red Cross on proposals made to it by National Societies.

#### *Article 4*

The Medal shall be in silver-gilt with a portrait on the obverse of Florence Nightingale with the words "Ad memoriam Florence Nightingale 1820-1910". On the reverse it shall bear the inscription on the circumference "Pro vera misericordia et cara humanitate perennis decor universalis". The name of the holder and the date of the award of the Medal shall be engraved in the centre.

The Medal shall be attached by a red and white ribbon to a laurel crown surrounding a red cross.

The Medal shall be accompanied by a diploma on parchment.

#### *Article 5*

The Medal shall be presented in each country either by the Head of the State, or by the President of the Central Committee of the National Society directly or by their substitutes.

The ceremony shall take place with a solemnity consistent with the distinction of the honour conferred.

#### *Article 6*

The distribution of the Florence Nightingale Medal shall take place every two years.

Not more than 50 Medals may be issued at any one distribution.

If by reason of exceptional circumstances due to a widespread state of war it has been impossible for one or more distributions to take place, the number of Medals awarded at subsequent distributions may exceed the figure of 50 but may not exceed the total number which would normally have been attained, if the preceding distributions had been able to take place.

#### *Article 7*

From the beginning of September of the year preceding the year in which the Medal is awarded, the International Committee of the Red Cross shall invite the Central Committees of the National Societies by means of a circular and application forms to submit the names of the candidates they consider qualified to be awarded a Medal, in accordance with the conditions mentioned in Article 2.

#### *Article 8*

The Central Committees of the National Societies, having taken all requisite advice, shall submit to the International Committee of the Red Cross the names and qualifications of the candidates they propose.

To enable the International Committee to operate a fair selection, the candidates' names shall be accompanied by all relevant information justifying an award of the Medal.

All applications submitted must come from the Central Committee of a National Society.

The Central Committees may submit one or more applications, but are not bound to submit applications for each distribution.

#### *Article 9*

The applications with the reasons in support of them must reach the International Committee of the Red Cross before March 1 of the year in which the award of the Medal is to take place.

Applications reaching the International Committee after that date cannot be considered except in connection with a subsequent award.

#### *Article 10*

The International Committee of the Red Cross retains complete freedom of choice. It may refrain from awarding the total number of Medals contemplated, if the qualifications of the applicants submitted do not appear to merit this distinguished honour.

#### *Article 11*

The International Committee of the Red Cross shall issue on the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, namely on May 12, a circular informing the Central Committees of the National Societies of the names of those to whom the Medal has been awarded.

It shall forward to the Central Committees as soon as possible after that date the Medals and diplomas to be handed to their recipients.

#### *Article 12*

The present Regulations, adopted by the XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross held in Manila in 1981, supersede all previous rules relating to the Florence Nightingale Medal, in particular those of the International Conference in Washington, 1912, the Regulations of 24 December 1913, and the amendments to the latter by the Xth Conference in Geneva, 1921, the XIIIth Conference in The Hague, 1928, the XVth Conference in Tokyo, 1934, and the XVIIIth Conference in Toronto, 1952.

## IV

### **Code of ethics for blood donation and transfusion**

The XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross,

*recalling* the important role played by the Red Cross Societies in national blood programmes, in particular in the promotion of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation,

*referring* to Resolution 28.72 of the Assembly of the World Health Organization (Geneva, 1975) on the utilization and supply of human blood and blood products; to Resolution of the General Assembly of the International Society of Blood Transfusion (Montreal, 1980) requiring its members to improve the ethical, medical and technical standards of blood transfusion practice to the best of their ability in accordance with the Code of ethics of this Society as well as to previous recommendations adopted by the governing bodies of the International Red Cross,

*noting* the approval of the Code of ethics of the International Society of Blood Transfusion by the International Group of Red Cross Blood Transfusion Experts and by the Second Session of the General Assembly of the League of Red Cross Societies,

*recognizing* the necessity of ensuring the best possible protection of blood donors and recipients,

*approves* the following Code of ethics of the International Society of Blood Transfusion and urges all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to communicate it to their respective health authorities with a view to its application, and to disseminate it as widely as possible.

## CODE OF ETHICS FOR BLOOD DONATION AND TRANSFUSION — 1980

The object of this Code is to define the principles and rules to be observed in the field of blood transfusion; these should form the basis of national legislation or regulations.

### I. The Donor

1. Blood donation shall in all circumstances, be voluntary; no pressure of any kind must be brought to bear upon the donor.
2. The donor should be advised of the risks connected with the procedure; the donor's health and safety must be a constant concern.
3. Financial profit must never be a motive either for the donor or for those responsible for collecting the donation. Voluntary non-remunerated donors should always be encouraged.
4. Anonymity between donor and recipient must be respected except in special cases.

5. Blood donation must not entail discrimination of any kind, either of race, nationality or religion.
6. Blood must be collected under the responsibility of a physician.
7. The frequency of donations and the total volume of the blood collected according to the sex and weight of the individual, as well as the upper and lower age limits for blood donation, should be defined by regulations.
8. Suitable testing of each donor and blood donation must be performed in an attempt to detect any abnormalities:
  - (a) that would make the donation dangerous for the donor,
  - (b) that would be likely to be harmful to the recipient.
9. Donation by plasmapheresis should be the subject of special regulations that would specify:
  - (a) the nature of additional tests to be carried out on the donor,
  - (b) the maximum volume of plasma to be taken during one session,
  - (c) the minimum time interval between two consecutive sessions,
  - (d) the maximum volume of plasma to be taken in one year.
10. Donations of leukocytes or platelets by cytophoresis should be the subject of special regulations that specify:
  - (a) the information to be given to the donor about any drugs injected and about the risks connected with the procedure,
  - (b) the nature of any additional tests to be carried out on the donor,
  - (c) the number of sessions within a given time frame.
11. Deliberate immunisation of donors by any foreign antigen with the aim of obtaining products with a specific diagnostic or therapeutic activity should be the subject of special regulations that would specify:
  - (a) the information to be given to the donor about the substance injected and the risks involved,
  - (b) the nature of any additional tests which have to be carried out on the donor.
12. The donor must be protected by adequate insurance against the risks inherent in the donation of blood, plasma or cells, as well as the risks of immunisation.

N. B. The purpose of the special regulations in items 9, 10 and 11 above is to safeguard the donor. After being told about the nature of the operation and the risks involved, a statement of informed consent must be signed by the donor. For donors immunised against red cell antigens, a special card should indicate the antibodies and specific details as to the appropriate blood to be used in case the donors need to be transfused.

## **II. The Recipient**

13. The object of transfusion is to ensure for the recipient the most efficient therapy compatible with maximum safety.
14. Before any transfusion of blood or blood products, a written request, signed by a physician or issued under his responsibility must be made, which specifies the identity of the recipient and the nature and quantity of the substances to be administered.
15. Except for the emergency use of type 0 blood or red blood cells, every red cell transfusion necessitates preliminary blood grouping tests on the recipient, and compatibility tests between the donor and the recipient.
16. Before administration, one must verify that blood and blood products are correctly identified and that the expiry date has not been passed. The recipient's identity must be verified.
17. The actual transfusion must be given under the responsibility of a physician.
18. In case of a reaction during or after the injection of blood or blood products, appropriate investigations may be required to ascertain the origin of the reaction and to prevent its recurrence. A reaction may require the interruption of the transfusion.
19. Blood and blood products must not be given unless there is a genuine therapeutic need. There must be no financial motivation on the part of either the prescriber or of the establishment where the patient is treated.
20. Whatever their financial resources, all patients must be able to benefit from the administration of human blood or blood products, subject only to their availability.
21. As far as possible the patient should receive only that particular component (cells, plasma, or plasma derivatives) that is needed. To transfuse whole blood into a patient who requires only part of it may deprive other patients of necessary components, and may carry some additional risks to the recipient.
22. Owing to the human origin of blood and to the limited quantities available, it is important to safeguard the interests of both recipient and donor by avoiding abuse or waste.
23. The optimal use of blood and blood products requires regular contact between the physicians who prescribe and those who work in blood transfusion centres.

## **III. Controls**

24. Appropriate controls should be required by the Health Authorities to verify that blood transfusion practices meet internationally accepted

standards and that the guidelines or regulations issued in accordance with this code are effectively respected.

25. The following should be regularly checked:

- (a) the proficiency of the staff,
- (b) the adequacy of the equipment and premises,
- (c) the quality of methods and reagents, source material and finished products.

## V

### **Appointment of the Members to the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross**

The XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross

elects the following persons to membership of the Standing Commission until the next International Conference: Mr. Ahmad Abu-Gura (Jordan), Mr. János Hantos (Hungary), Mr. Soehanda Ijas (Indonesia), Mr. R. James Kane (Canada) and Mr. Kai J. Warras (Finland).

## VI

### **Place and date of the XXVth International Conference of the Red Cross**

The XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross

accepts with gratitude the Swiss Red Cross Society's invitation to hold the XXVth International Conference of the Red Cross in Geneva in 1986.

## VII

### **Thanks**

The XXIVth International Conference of the Red Cross

*presents* its respectful thanks to His Excellency, President Ferdinand E. Marcos, President of the Republic of the Philippines, for having

granted his high patronage, for having honoured the opening meeting with his presence and for having made an eloquent speech,

*expresses* its gratitude to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for its assistance to the Philippine National Red Cross with the preparation for and the running of the Conference,

*thanks* the City of Metro Manila and the Philippine people for the friendly welcome extended to all the delegates and observers,

*conveys* its most sincere gratitude to General Romeo C. Espino, the Chairman of the host Society, for having presided over its debates with kindly authority, as well as to the Philippine National Red Cross and all its staff and volunteers, not forgetting the League and ICRC personnel, who so untiringly contributed to the smooth conduct of the deliberations,

*expresses* to all the representatives of the press, radio and television of the Philippines, and to the foreign news agencies who covered the Conference its sincere appreciation of their efforts in making its deliberations and results known to the world.

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