

## **Health as a factor of peace and development**

At the invitation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR an international seminar on health as a factor of peace and development was held in Moscow from 14 to 18 September.

The seminar was attended by 48 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from around the world, the ICRC, the League, the Henry Dunant Institute and the World Health Organization as well as various observers. The delegates discussed the ways in which the Movement contributes to peace through its health and development activities.

The participants were divided into six working groups to deal with the following subjects:

- “Health, human rights and peace: a Red Cross and Red Crescent perspective” (presented by the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, commentary by the Soviet Red Cross);
- “From war to peace: Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies working with communities affected by war and civil unrest” (presented by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, commentary by the ICRC);
- “Community-based health programmes as a contribution to peace and development (including the Child Alive programme)” (presented by the Brazilian Red Cross, commentary by the League);
- “Other Red Cross and Red Crescent activities as a contribution to peace and development (e.g. first-aid, social welfare, nutrition, protection of the environment)” (presented by the Ethiopian Red Cross, commentary by the Henry Dunant Institute).

At the seminar’s final full meeting, a report containing a summary of the working group’s proposals was adopted by consensus. The participants invited Dr. Dmitry Venedictov, seminar chairman and President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, to present the final report and a draft resolution based on the seminar’s conclusions to the League General Assembly to take place in Rio de Janeiro in November 1987. They also called for an “International Red Cross and Red Crescent Strategy towards the year 2000” to be devised and to include development of the National Societies’ structure and programmes.

The ICRC was represented at the seminar by Dr. Rémi Russbach, head of the Medical Division, and Mr. Michel Martin, head of the National Societies and Principles Division. The League was represented by Dr. Andrei Kisselev, Under-Secretary General and head of the Health Division, Mr. Markku Niskala, head of the Europe Department and Mr. John Ash, editor-in-chief of the Red Cross Red Crescent Magazine. The Henry Dunant Institute was represented by Mr. Jan Egeland, head of Development Studies. \*

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\* The *Review* will come back to the seminar's conclusions in its next issue which will, among other things, deal with the Rio de Janeiro meetings.