



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

CONSTITUTION

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Breach of Integrity

- 1 Subject to Article 24, the Governing Board may apply any or a combination of the following sanctions towards a National Society if the National Society is considered by the Governing Board to have committed a Breach of Integrity:
 - a) recommend a particular action to one or more National Societies;
 - b) render the breach public or make an appeal to the conscience of the world;
 - c) terminate any International Federation support to the National Society;
 - d) issue a written warning;
 - e) restrict membership rights as set out in Article 11;
 - f) suspend or withdraw a capacity assessment certificate issued to a National Society by the Governing Board;
 - g) suspend the National Society as set out in Article 12;
 - h) take any other measure it deems appropriate;
 - i) as a last resort, recommend to the General Assembly that the National Society be expelled subject to Article 13.

With the exception of sub-paragraph (e), the Governing Board shall examine the recommendation of a Panel of the Compliance and Mediation Committee prior to its application of any of the above sanctions.

Failure to pay annual financial contributions and financial default

- 2 In addition to the sanctions listed in paragraph 1, the following sanctions (or a combination of the following sanctions) may also be applied towards a National Society if a National Society fails to pay its annual financial contribution in accordance with Article 36 –
 - a) the Finance Commission may issue a written warning;
 - b) the Governing Board may declare the National Society to be in financial default as per Article 36, upon which a National Society's membership rights shall be restricted as set out in Article 11;
 - c) in the event of a declaration of financial default under sub-paragraph (b), the Governing Board may decide that the National Society shall lose its right to vote.

Failure to submit annual

- 3 In addition to the sanctions listed in paragraph 1, the Governing Board may apply any or a combination of the following sanctions towards a

reports or financial statements

National Society if a National Society fails to provide to the International Federation without justified reason either National Society annual reports or audited financial statements –

- a) issue a written warning,
- b) upon three consecutive years of such a failure, restrict a National Society's membership rights as set out in Article 11.

Ongoing investigations

- 4 By virtue of a Governing Board agreed temporary suspension as recommended by the Compliance and Mediation Committee in cases of ongoing investigations, the Governing Board may restrict a National Society's membership rights as set out in Article 11.

Procedure

- 5 The procedures in relation to sanctions may be set out in the Rules of Procedure.

Article 11 Restriction of Membership Rights

A decision to restrict a National Society's membership rights under Article 10A entails the restriction or suspension of a National Society's right to run for any governance position or nominate an individual for any governance position in the Organs or Constitutional Commissions and Committees of the International Federation (the "Statutory Bodies").

Article 12 Suspension

Suspension

- 1 The Governing Board, after examining the recommendation of a Panel formed by the Compliance and Mediation Committee and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, may decide to suspend a National Society from membership status in the International Federation in the circumstances specified in Articles 10.2 and 10A.

Breach of Integrity

- 2 In accordance with Article 10A.1, a National Society may be suspended if it is considered by the Governing Board to have committed a Breach of Integrity, including, without limitation:
 - a) if it ceases to fulfil the Conditions for Admission provided for in this Constitution, in particular if, because of modification, its Statutes are no longer in conformity with the Fundamental Principles;
 - b) if the National Society on its own initiative or under pressure from the government of its country contravenes any of the Fundamental Principles;

- c) if the National Society uses its connection with the International Federation for a purpose which is not in conformity with any of the Fundamental Principles;
- d) if the National Society acts contrary to the general object of the International Federation and persistently refuses to comply with its duties under the Constitution.

- Consequences of suspension* 3 A suspended National Society shall immediately lose its rights as a member.
- 4 An individual holding any office on appointment by a suspended National Society shall step down for the duration of the suspension.
- 5 Any vacancy created by the suspension of a National Society shall be filled by the competent body, committee or commission according to the procedures for appointment or election to such office at its next session.
- Reinstatement* 6 The Governing Board may revoke the suspension of a suspended National Society when the reasons for suspension no longer apply and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.
- Appeal* 7 A National Society may appeal against the decision in favour of its suspension to the General Assembly. The suspension shall remain valid, however, unless and until overturned by the General Assembly.

Article 13
Expulsion

- Expulsion* 1 When the Governing Board determines that the continued membership of a National Society is a grave risk to the International Federation or its membership, the Governing Board may recommend to the General Assembly, as a last resort, expulsion of that Society by a decision of the General Assembly in accordance with Article 20 in the circumstances set out in Articles 10.2 and 10A.
- Consequences of expulsion* 2 An expelled National Society shall remain liable for all obligations to the International Federation or its membership incurred prior to expulsion.
- 3 An expelled National Society shall immediately lose its rights as a member.
- 4 An individual holding any office on appointment by an expelled National Society shall step down.
- Readmission* 5 A National Society which has been expelled can reapply to the General Assembly for admission once the reasons for expulsion no longer apply in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

SECTION III

ORGANS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

Article 14 Organs

- Organs* 1 The Organs of the International Federation, are –
- those bodies with governance functions, which are:
 - The General Assembly;
 - The Governing Board;
 - The President; and
 - the body with executive functions, which is:
 - The Secretary General
- (together the “Organs”).
- Standards of integrity and Breach of Integrity* 2 Organs shall comply with applicable integrity policies adopted by the General Assembly. Any failure to comply with such policies will be considered a Breach of Integrity and shall be referred to the Compliance and Mediation Committee.
- Procedures* 3 The procedures of the Organs shall be laid down in the Rules of Procedure.

General Assembly

Article 15 Definition

Subject to the Constitution, the General Assembly shall be the supreme governing body of the International Federation.

Article 16 Composition

The General Assembly shall be composed of the National Societies.

Article 17
Functions

1 The General Assembly shall, among others, exercise the following functions:

*Vision, Strategy,
Policy*

a) determine the vision and strategy of the International Federation, and the general policies that govern, the International Federation and the National Societies;

*Admission/
Sanctions*

b) take decisions on –

(i) the admission of National Societies and expulsion as set out in Articles 7 and 13 respectively; and

(ii) the application of any particular action or measure that it deems appropriate towards the Governing Board in case of a Breach of Integrity under Article 14 further to the examination of the recommendation of a Panel of the Compliance and Mediation Committee;

*Election
President*

c) elect the President of the International Federation;

*Election
Vice-Presidents*

d) elect those four National Societies, one from each Statutory Region, which shall be entitled to appoint a Vice-President of the International Federation (the “Vice-President”);

*Election
Societies
members of the
Governing
Board*

e) elect the National Societies members of the Governing Board;

*Appointment of
Constitutional
Commissions
and Committees*

f) appoint or elect, as the case may be, members of the Constitutional Commissions and Committees;

*Representatives
to Movement
bodies*

g) designate the representatives of the International Federation to the bodies of the Movement;

Other bodies

h) set up other bodies, including, among others, advisory bodies and bodies with legal status required for the activities of the International Federation, and to appoint their members;

*External
auditors*

i) designate as external auditors, on the recommendation of the Governing Board, a firm of internationally recognised independent auditors;

- Budget*
- j) on the recommendation of the Governing Board –
- (i) approve the biennial plans, budgets and financial reports of the International Federation, and
- (ii) adopt the audited financial statements of the International Federation;
- k) take note of the report of the external auditors;
- Statutory financial contributions*
- l) approve, on the recommendation of the Governing Board and the Finance Commission, the formula for fixing the financial participation of National Societies, and to take note of the annual scale of contributions of the National Societies approved by the Governing Board and calculated using the said formula;
- Constitution, Rules of Procedure and other regulations*
- m) amend the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure and adopt any other regulations necessary for the implementation of the Constitution;
- Reports*
- n) consider the reports of the Governing Board and Secretary General and of all bodies set up by the General Assembly and discharge the Secretary General and the Governing Board on its delegated activities;
- Proposals from National Societies and bodies*
- o) decide on the proposals presented by National Societies, the Governing Board and other bodies of the International Federation;
- p) ratify general agreements concluded with the ICRC or any other international organisation or institution that create obligations for National Societies; and
- Transfer of the Headquarters*
- q) decide on the transfer of the headquarters of the International Federation.
- Delegation of powers* 2 The General Assembly may not delegate to another body of the International Federation the powers defined in paragraph 1 of this Article, with the exception of the following, which are hereby delegated to the Governing Board between sessions of the General Assembly and until the General Assembly decides otherwise:
- a) set up bodies, including, among others, those with legal status, required for the activities of the International Federation, and to appoint their members;
- b) decide on the reports of bodies set up by the General Assembly;

- c) decide on proposals presented by National Societies or other bodies of the International Federation;
- d) designate the representatives of the International Federation to the bodies of the Movement; and
- e) determine, in urgent situations which require a fast policy decision, the general policies that govern the International Federation and the National Societies, which shall be decided upon at the next General Assembly.

Financial implications 3 Before the General Assembly takes decisions involving expenditure, the Secretary General, after having consulted the Finance Commission, shall submit a report to it on the administrative and financial implications of any such proposal. If the expenditure proposed cannot be covered by the budget, no commitment in this respect can be made before the General Assembly has taken the necessary measures to make available the additional funds required.

Article 18
Sessions of the General Assembly

Ordinary sessions 1 The General Assembly shall meet in ordinary session once every two years. Such sessions shall normally be held where the headquarters of the International Federation are located.

2 A session of the General Assembly shall be held in the same place as and before the International Conference when the latter has been convoked.

Change of place of the session 3 In exceptional circumstances, the President, in consultation with the Secretary General and with the agreement of the majority of the members of the Governing Board, may change the place and/or the dates of the session of the General Assembly.

Extraordinary sessions 4 An extraordinary session of the General Assembly shall be held in the same place as and before any extraordinary session of the International Conference when the latter has been convoked.

5 Extraordinary sessions of the General Assembly may also be held on the initiative of the President in agreement with the majority of the members of the Governing Board or on the initiative of at least thirty-five percent of the National Societies.

Article 19
Quorum

1 With the exception of the quorum required to amend the Constitution, to transfer the headquarters of the International Federation and to

dissolve the International Federation, decisions taken at an ordinary or extraordinary session of the General Assembly shall be valid only with a quorum of fifty percent of the National Societies.

- 2 The quorum required to amend the Constitution, to transfer the headquarters or to dissolve the International Federation, shall be sixty-five percent of the National Societies.
- 3 Should less than fifty percent of the National Societies be in attendance at any ordinary or extraordinary session, the General Assembly shall be re-convened after at least 24 hours have elapsed. At such session, decisions shall be validly taken with a quorum of twenty-five percent of the National Societies.
- 4 Should the provisional or adopted agenda include the admission of National Societies or the expulsion of National Societies, the adoption of the biennial budget, the transfer of the headquarters of the International Federation, the election to the positions referred to in Article 34, the dissolution of the International Federation or amendments to the Constitution, another session shall be convened not less than forty-five and not more than ninety days after the one preceding it. At such a session, decisions shall be validly taken with a quorum of twenty-five percent of the National Societies.

Article 20 Voting

- 1 Each National Society represented at the General Assembly shall have one vote.

By consensus

- 2 Decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by consensus with the exception of the elections of the President, Vice-Presidents, the National Society members of the Governing Board and the Chair and members of the Youth Commission.

Consensus shall be understood to mean the absence of any objection expressed by a delegation and submitted by it as constituting an obstacle to the taking of the decision in question.

*If no consensus
or elections*

- 2A If consensus cannot be reached or in the case of elections, decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority vote of the National Societies present and voting except -
 - in the circumstances set out in Articles 20.3 to 20.5 inclusive, where a decision shall be taken in the manner set out in those Articles; or
 - as otherwise provided in the Constitution.

<i>Absolute majority</i>	3	An absolute majority of the National Societies present and voting is required to elect the President.
<i>Qualified majority of sixty percent</i>	4	A qualified majority of sixty percent of the National Societies present and voting is required to admit National Societies (Article 7) and expel National Societies (Article 13), to reconsider a decision previously taken at the same session of the General Assembly, to classify a matter as an important matter, and to decide on any matter classified by the General Assembly as an important matter.
<i>Qualified majority of seventy-five percent</i>	5	A qualified majority of seventy-five percent of the National Societies present and voting shall be required to amend the Constitution (Article 47) to transfer the headquarters of the International Federation (Article 17.1(q)) and to dissolve the International Federation (Article 45).
<i>National Societies present and voting</i>	6	Within the context of the Constitution, the term “National Societies present and voting” shall mean National Societies present and voting for or against. National Societies abstaining from voting are considered as not having voted. In the event that the Rules of Procedure provide that a National Society may exercise the vote remotely by the means of a secure electronic mechanism, a National Society shall be deemed “present and voting” if it exercises its vote in such a manner.

Governing Board

Article 21 Definition

The Governing Board is the body which governs the International Federation between sessions of the General Assembly.

Article 22 Composition

<i>Composition</i>	1	The Governing Board shall be composed of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the President; b) the four Vice-Presidents; c) the ex officio Vice-President; d) twenty National Societies; e) the Chair of the Finance Commission; f) the Chair of the Audit and Risk Commission;
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g) the Chair of the Youth Commission.

*Status of
Members of the
Governing
Board*

- 2 Members of the Governing Board shall act as members of a collective body of the International Federation, and shall be influenced in their decisions only by the interests of the International Federation when the Governing Board carries out the responsibilities assigned to it by the Constitution and by the General Assembly.

Article 23
Functions

- 1 The Governing Board shall exercise the following functions :
- a) decide on any matter assigned or delegated to it by the Constitution or by the General Assembly;
 - b) appoint and dismiss the Secretary General of the International Federation;
 - c) define and approve those policies that are internal only to the International Federation and which are presented to it by the Secretary General, and in urgent situations, determine the general policies of the International Federation and the National Societies in accordance with Article 17.2(e);
 - d) interpret the decisions of the General Assembly, advise the President and give guidance and support to the Secretary General in implementing the decisions of the General Assembly;
 - e) monitor on behalf of the General Assembly the implementation of the mandates entrusted to the International Federation by the International Conference;
 - f) draw up the provisional agenda of the General Assembly;
 - g) submit advice and proposals to the General Assembly when so requested by the latter or on its own initiative;
 - h) submit to the General Assembly the proposed members of the Election Committee and approve electoral standards for campaigning submitted to it by the Election Committee;
 - i) study any questions relating to the implementation of the functions of the International Federation, and submit advice and proposals in this respect to the General Assembly;
 - j) recommend to the General Assembly as external auditor a firm of internationally recognised independent auditors;
 - k) examine the reports on activities as well as the financial and budgetary reports and reports on financial risk matters presented by

the Secretary General, the Finance Commission or the Audit and Risk Commission, and

- (i) recommend, for final approval by the General Assembly, the biennial budget, plans and financial reports of the International Federation, including on the recommendation of the Finance Commission, the formula for fixing the financial participation of National Societies,
 - (ii) approve, on the recommendation of the Finance Commission, the annual scale of contributions of National Societies (calculated using the formula approved by the General Assembly under Article 17.1); and
 - (iii) endorse and recommend for adoption by the General Assembly, the audited financial statements of the International Federation;
- l) ratify general agreements concluded with the ICRC and any other international organisation or institution not requiring General Assembly ratification as set out in Article 17.1(p);
- m) provisionally admit the National Societies;
- n) decide on the application of any particular action or measure that it deems appropriate towards any of the Statutory Bodies (except the Governing Board and the General Assembly) in case of a Breach of Integrity under Articles 14 or 28 further to the examination of the recommendation of a Panel of the Compliance and Mediation Committee (except where the Compliance and Mediation Committee is implicated in the Breach of Integrity);
- o) decide on the application of, and apply, sanctions towards National Societies as set out in Article 10A and in the circumstances set out in Articles 10.2 and 10A;
- p) approve the selection of candidates for appointment to the posts of (or equivalent to) Deputy and Under Secretaries General or Directors;
- q) approve the outline structure of the Secretariat of the International Federation proposed by the Secretary General; and
- r) approve the certification of National Societies proposed by the Compliance and Mediation Committee in accordance with the capacity assessment process adopted by the Governing Board.
- 2 The Governing Board shall report to the General Assembly on the accomplishment of its functions.
- 3 The Governing Board must not take decisions involving expenditure not included in the budget before the Secretary General and the

Financial implications

Finance Commission have submitted a report to it justifying the administrative and financial implication of any such proposal. If the expenditure proposed cannot be covered, no commitment in this respect can be made before the General Assembly has taken the measures to make available the additional funds required.

*Emergency
authorisation*

- 4 If in the opinion of the Governing Board an emergency exists and it is impossible or impracticable to convoke a session of the General Assembly, the Governing Board is authorised, subject to Article 44, to take such measures as it deems necessary to deal with the emergency. Decisions so reached by the Governing Board shall be reported to and discharged by the General Assembly at its next session.
- 5 If the Governing Board decides that there is an emergency affecting the International Federation, the Secretary General shall as soon as is practicable thereafter inform all National Societies that the Governing Board has decided that an emergency exists, stating the nature of the emergency and all decisions and actions taken by the Governing Board to deal with it.

Article 24
Procedure

- 1 The Governing Board shall meet in ordinary session twice a year, when convened by the President. In addition the President shall convene the Governing Board on his/her own initiative or whenever requested by a majority of its members, and may also do so at the request of the Secretary General.
- 2 The decisions of the Governing Board shall be valid with a quorum of sixty percent of its members.

The Governing Board takes its decisions by consensus.

If consensus cannot be reached, decisions of the Governing Board shall be taken by –

- a) a simple majority vote of the members present and voting (where in the event of a tie the President shall have the casting vote) unless sub-paragraph (b) applies; or
 - b) a qualified majority of sixty percent of the members of the Governing Board, in the event of a decision to suspend or to recommend expulsion of a National Society.
- 3 The President may invite any person to attend the meetings of the Governing Board as an observer.

President

Article 25

President of the International Federation

- 1 The President is the highest personality of the International Federation. The President shall be responsible to the General Assembly for ensuring that the International Federation pursues its general object and exercises its functions as defined in the Constitution. The President acts under the authority of the General Assembly and of the Governing Board to guide the affairs of the International Federation, including the activities of the Secretary General, in conformity with the decisions of the General Assembly and the Governing Board.

Functions

- 2 The President shall :
- a) convene and preside over the sessions of the General Assembly and the Governing Board;
 - b) present to the General Assembly a review of the state of the International Federation;
 - c) present to the Governing Board and General Assembly the report of a firm of internationally recognised independent auditors;
 - d) co-ordinate the work of the governance bodies, commissions and committees of the International Federation;
 - e) represent the International Federation in its relations with the other components of the Movement and with other international organisations and institutions;
 - f) have the ability to call upon the Vice-Presidents and the Chair of the Finance Commission, to assist him/her individually or collectively, in his/her functions;
 - g) carry out any other function entrusted by the General Assembly or by the Governing Board.

Delegation

- 3 The President may delegate a part of the functions under this Article to any of the Vice-Presidents.

Replacement during a meeting

- 4 The President may charge one of the Vice-Presidents with replacing him/her during a meeting or part of a meeting.

Vacancy in the office of the President 5 In the event of a vacancy arising in the office of the President or the President being unable to carry out his/her functions, the Governing Board, at its next ordinary session, shall designate a Vice-President who shall serve as Acting President until the next session of the General Assembly. At this session the General Assembly shall elect the President to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the current term of office. Until the designation of a Vice-President as Acting President by the Governing Board the ex-officio Vice-President shall fulfil this function.

Vice-Presidents

Article 26

Vice-Presidents of the International Federation

Role of the Vice-Presidents 1 The Vice-Presidents of the International Federation shall support the President and may be called upon individually or collectively by the President to assist in the execution of his/her functions. They participate in the sessions of the General Assembly in their personal capacity.

Ex-officio Vice-President 2 The President of the National Society of the country in which the International Federation has its headquarters or his/her designated representative appointed from and by the governing body of that Society shall be ex officio Vice-President.

Functions 3 The elected Vice-Presidents shall:

- a) ensure communication on governance matters between the General Assembly, the Governing Board and the National Societies in their Statutory Regions;
- b) promote the decisions of the General Assembly and Governing Board, particularly in their Statutory Regions; and
- c) in close coordination with the Secretary General, support National Societies in their Statutory Regions and globally with integrity challenges as requested by the National Society itself or the Compliance and Mediation Committee.

4 In regards to the regional conferences in their Statutory Regions the elected Vice-Presidents shall serve as chairs of the relevant preparatory bodies.

Secretary General

Article 27

Secretary General of the International Federation

Appointment 1 The Secretary General shall be appointed by the Governing Board, for a period of up to four years, renewable. The contract between the International

Federation and the Secretary General shall be drawn up by the Governing Board in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure, any applicable conditions set by the General Assembly and the labour law governing the International Federation.

Functions

- 2 The Secretary General, as defined in Article 14 is the Chief Executive Officer of the International Federation and carries out the following functions:
 - a) implement the decisions of the General Assembly and the Governing Board;
 - b) be responsible for the administration of the approved budget and the preparation of a report of the accounts, in accordance with Articles 37.6 and 38;
 - c) direct the Secretariat and be responsible for the execution of the work entrusted to it;
 - d) establish the structure of the Secretariat, the general outline of which shall be subject to the approval of the Governing Board;
 - e) organise the different services of the Secretariat in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Governing Board; appoint the staff of the Secretariat, keeping in mind the principles of gender equality and geographical distribution; and when necessary terminate the engagements of such staff;
 - f) make appointments to the posts of (or equivalent to) Deputy and Under Secretaries General, such as Directors, after obtaining the Governing Board's approval of the candidates selected by him/her;
 - g) in the absence of the President or as otherwise agreed appropriate, represent the International Federation in its relations with other components of the Movement and with other international organisations and institutions;
 - h) be the authorised representative of the International Federation in relation to third parties and courts of law for all transactions whatsoever, including transactions executed in notarial form relating to the acquisition, administration and expenditure of the resources of the International Federation;
 - i) assure the execution of the functions set out in Article 5, including direct relief actions or other actions decided upon by the General Assembly or the Governing Board. In exceptional or urgent circumstances, the Secretary General shall take all appropriate measures after consultation with the National Society concerned to the extent possible;
 - j) carry out any other function assigned to him/her by the Constitution or entrusted to him/her by the General Assembly or the Governing Board;

- k) report on the activities of the Federation to the General Assembly and to the Governing Board;
- l) keep the President and Vice-Presidents, as appropriate, closely informed in carrying out his/her functions; and
- m) establish relations with those National Societies or organisations recognised as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field who accept and respect in their action the Fundamental Principles, even though they may not be components of the Movement or members of the International Federation.

3 The Secretary General shall ex officio be secretary of the General Assembly and of the Governing Board and, unless the Constitution provides otherwise, of all bodies set up by the General Assembly and the Governing Board. The Secretary General may delegate these functions to other officials of the Secretariat.

Participation in the General Assembly and the Governing Board

- 4 The Secretary General participates in the sessions of the General Assembly and the Governing Board.
- 5 The Secretary General shall be assisted in the implementation of his/her executive task by a Secretariat.

SECTION IV
CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES OF THE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

Article 28
Constitutional Commissions and Committees

Constitutional Commissions and Committees

- 1 The Constitutional Commissions and Committees of the International Federation are:
 - The Finance Commission;
 - The Audit and Risk Commission;
 - The Youth Commission;
 - The Compliance and Mediation Committee; and
 - The Election Committee;

(together the “Commissions and Committees”).

They have advisory or such other functions as set out in this Constitution.

- Standards of integrity and Breach of Integrity* 2 Commissions and Committees shall comply with applicable integrity policies adopted by the General Assembly. Any failure to comply with such policies will be considered a Breach of Integrity and shall be referred to the Compliance and Mediation Committee (except where the Compliance and Mediation Committee is implicated in the Breach of Integrity, where the failure shall be directly referred to the Governing Board).
- Procedures* 3 Procedures of the Commissions and Committees shall be laid down in the Rules of Procedures.

Article 29
Finance Commission

- Composition* 1 The Finance Commission shall be composed of :
- a Chair; and
 - five members,
- appointed in a personal capacity by the General Assembly on presentation of candidates by the Election Committee.
- Functions* 2 The Finance Commission shall have the following functions:
- a) give advice on all financial matters affecting the International Federation;
 - b) comment on the periodic financial reports of and on the budget drawn up by the Secretary General;
 - c) receive from the Audit and Risk Commission the report of the external auditors, and to comment on the same to the Audit and Risk Commission;
 - d) comment on the handling and investment of available funds and to make recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governing Board on any financial measures which it deems appropriate;
 - e) review periodically the formula for fixing the financial participation of National Societies for submission, through the Governing Board, to the General Assembly for approval, and every two years to establish the annual scale of contributions of National Societies (calculated using the formula approved by the General Assembly under Article 17.1) for submission to, and approval by, the Governing Board;
 - f) establish the annual financial contributions of National Societies applying for membership (calculated using the formula approved by the General Assembly under Article 17.1) prior to the application being considered by the General Assembly;
 - g) hear appeals from National Societies in accordance with Articles 36.3 and 36.4, to acquaint itself with arrears in payment of annual financial

contributions by National Societies and to express its views to the Governing Board on whether a Society should be declared in default in accordance with Article 36.5;

- h) assist the Governing Board in applying and implementing the decisions of the General Assembly on the financial management of the International Federation; and
- i) bring allegations of Breaches of Integrity to the Compliance and Mediation Committee, in consultation with the President.

Reporting 3 The Finance Commission shall report on its work to the Governing Board and the General Assembly.

Authority of the Chair 4 The Chair of the Finance Commission shall have the right to obtain from the Secretary General all information and documents related to financial matters.

5 The Chair of the Finance Commission shall advise the President and the Secretary General on all financial matters affecting the International Federation.

Article 30

Audit and Risk Commission

Composition 1 The Audit and Risk Commission shall be composed of :

- a Chair; and
- five members,

appointed in a personal capacity by the General Assembly on presentation of candidates by the Election Committee.

Functions 2 The Audit and Risk Commission shall have the following functions:

- a) give advice on all audit and risk matters affecting the International Federation;
- b) assess the scope and effectiveness of the systems established by the Secretary General to identify, assess, manage and monitor risks;
- c) review areas of risk, major cases of fraud and corruption, irregularities, and legal claims that could have a significant financial, reputational or other impact impeding the International Federation and advise the Secretary General accordingly;
- d) receive and review the reports of the internal and external auditors, comment on the same to the President, Secretary General and Governing Board;
- e) oversee the implementation of the audit recommendations by the Secretary General;

- f) bring allegations of Breaches of Integrity to the Compliance and Mediation Committee, in consultation with the President;
- g) recommend, in consultation with the Chair of the Finance Commission, the appointment of the external auditors to the Governing Board; and
- h) approve, in consultation with the Chair of the Finance Commission, the audited financial statements and recommend their endorsement by the Governing Board for adoption by the General Assembly.

Reporting 3 The Commission shall report on its work to the Governing Board and the General Assembly.

Authority of the Chair 4 The Chair of the Audit and Risk Commission shall have the right to obtain from the Secretary General all information and documents related to audit or risk matters.

5 The Chair of the Audit and Risk Commission shall advise the President and the Secretary General on all risk matters affecting the International Federation.

Article 31 Youth Commission

Composition 1 The Youth Commission shall be composed of:

- a Chair; and
- eight members, two from each of the four Statutory Regions,

elected in a personal capacity by the General Assembly on presentation of candidates by the Election Committee.

Functions 2 The Youth Commission shall have the following functions:

- a) advise on all matters concerning youth and youth-related activities throughout the International Federation;
- b) promote and assess the implementation of the youth strategy or policy decided by the Governing Board or the General Assembly, as well as to consider and study as requested by the Board matters of policy development in the area of youth;
- c) review and suggest revisions of the youth strategy or policy to the Governing Board or the General Assembly (as the case may be) for adoption;
- d) seek youth opinions on the implementation of relevant International Federation policies and to ensure that those opinions are communicated to the Statutory Bodies of the Movement;

- e) advise the Secretary General in the implementation of the youth policy and all other policies and strategies as they relate to youth within the Movement; and
- f) bring allegations of Breaches of Integrity to the Compliance and Mediation Committee in consultation with the President.

Reporting 3 The Youth Commission shall report on its work to the Governing Board and General Assembly.

Authority of the Chair 4 The Chair of the Youth Commission shall have the right to obtain from the Secretary General all relevant information and documents necessary to enable the Youth Commission to fulfil its functions.

5 The Chair of the Youth Commission shall advise the President and the Secretary General on all issues affecting youth in the Movement.

Article 32
Compliance and Mediation Committee

Composition 1 The Compliance and Mediation Committee shall be composed of:

- a Chair; and
- twelve members (three from each of the four Statutory Regions),

appointed in a personal capacity by the General Assembly on presentation of candidates by the Election Committee.

Functions 2 The Compliance and Mediation Committee shall have the following functions:

- a) give advice on compliance and integrity issues affecting the International Federation;
- b) resolve any potential Breaches of Integrity on the part of a National Society or any Statutory Body (except the Compliance and Mediation Committee), as expeditiously as possible and with full respect for due process;
- c) help settle any disputes submitted to it as expeditiously as possible and with full respect for due process;
- d) review, investigate, and determine the nature and extent of, any Breach of Integrity, or of any dispute submitted to it;
- e) make recommendations to help resolve any Breach of Integrity, or any dispute submitted to it, including, where appropriate –

- (i) recommending action to be taken by the relevant National Society or Statutory Body (except the Compliance and Mediation Committee), or
 - (ii) in cases of a Breach of Integrity, reporting to the Governing Board or to the General Assembly (in the case of a Breach of Integrity by the Governing Board) with any further action or sanctions to be taken by the Governing Board and/or General Assembly;
- f) serve as a pool for the formation of individual panels;
- g) recommend National Societies to the Governing Board for certification as a National Society in accordance with the capacity assessment process adopted by the Governing Board.

Submission of Allegations 3 Allegations of a Breach of Integrity or any dispute may be brought to the attention of the Chair of the Compliance and Mediation Committee by any National Society, the General Assembly, the Governing Board, the President, or the Secretary General. Commissions and Committees may also bring allegations to the Compliance and Mediation Committee in consultation with the President. The Compliance and Mediation Committee may initiate its own review of a potential Breach of Integrity based on criteria adopted by the Governing Board and with notification to the President.

Compliance and Mediation Panel 4 The Chair shall review any potential Breach of Integrity or dispute referred to in paragraph 3 in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and if an inquiry is merited shall ensure that a panel of three to five members is formed to consider the potential breach or dispute with due regard to geographical representation and to carry out the functions set out in paragraphs 2(d) and 2(e).

Reporting 5 The Compliance and Mediation Committee shall report on its work to the General Assembly and Governing Board.

Authority of Chair 6 In addition to paragraph 3, the Chair of the Compliance and Mediation Committee –

- a) shall advise the Secretary General and the President on the handling of compliance and integrity issues as requested;
- b) shall notify the relevant National Society or Statutory Body of allegations received against it; and
- c) may consult informally with the relevant National Society or Statutory Body in order to endeavour to resolve the matter.

7 The Secretary General shall support the Committee in its work, in particular by making relevant information available.

Article 33
Election Committee

- Composition* 1 The Election Committee shall be composed of:
- a Chair; and
 - four members, one from each of the four Statutory Regions,
- all five to be appointed in a personal capacity by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Governing Board.
- Functions* 2 The Election Committee shall have the following functions:
- a) develop electoral standards for campaigning for approval by the Governing Board;
 - b) draw up objective criteria for the positions of President and Vice-President or for any of the other positions (such as education and professional Red Cross and Red Crescent experience), to be approved by the Governing Board at least one year before the relevant election;
 - c) review against the relevant criteria the applications of all candidates for governance positions (ad personam and National Societies);
 - d) notify the Governing Board of any candidates which the Election Committee considers are ineligible against approved criteria;
 - e) establish, after consultation with the Governing Board, a list of proposals of candidates for the Finance Commission, the Audit and Risk Commission and the Compliance and Mediation Committee, for appointment by the General Assembly, and establish a list of candidates for the Youth Commission for election by the General Assembly;
 - f) monitor and oversee all elections to these positions;
 - g) announce the results of elections to these positions; and
 - h) bring allegations of Breaches of Integrity to the Compliance and Mediation Committee in consultation with the President.
- 3 When carrying out the Election Committee's functions, the Committee shall:

- (a) ensure that, by means of the development of campaigning standards, equal opportunities for consideration of all candidates are guaranteed;
- (b) receive all applications for the posts of President, Vice-Presidents and members of the Governing Board (individuals and National Societies), and inform the National Societies about the process;
- (c) establish an election timetable and receive all the applications of candidates for the Finance Commission, Audit and Risk Commission, Youth Commission and Compliance and Mediation Committee, and submit a list of candidates for appointment (or election in the case of the Youth Commission) by the General Assembly;
- (d) ensure that members proposed for Statutory Bodies reflect the agreed criteria as set out in the Rules of Procedure and that the principles regarding a fair geographical distribution and gender are followed;
- (e) arrange secret ballots, where possible by means of a secure electronic voting mechanism, for the election of the President, of the National Societies entitled to appoint a Vice-President of the National Societies seeking to be members of the Governing Board and of the Chair and members of the Youth Commission.

<i>Reporting</i>	4	The Election Committee shall report on its work to the General Assembly and Governing Board.
<i>Authority of the Chair</i>	5	The Chair of the Election Committee shall advise the President and the Secretary General on all electoral matters affecting the International Federation.

SECTION V

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Article 34

Election of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the National Societies Members of the Governing Board, and the Election or Appointment of the Chairs and the Members of the Commissions and Committees

- Periodicity* 1 Elections shall be held in ordinary sessions every four years. The appointments of the members of the Finance Commission, Audit and Risk Commission, Compliance and Mediation Committee and Election Committee and the election of the members of the Youth Commission shall be made in ordinary sessions every four years, not coinciding with elections of the President, Vice-Presidents and National Societies members of the Governing Board.
- Term of office* 2 The term of office of all elected and appointed positions is four years. It begins at the close of the session of the General Assembly at which the incumbents have been elected/appointed and expires at the close of the session of the General Assembly which elects/appoints their successors.
- President* 3 The General Assembly elects the President in a personal capacity. A person who has served two four-year terms as President is not eligible to stand again for election.
- Vice-Presidents* 4 The General Assembly elects four National Societies, one from each of the four Statutory Regions established in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, for the purpose of each of them appointing a member of their National Society to the post of Vice-President for a period of four years. Once appointed, the Vice-Presidents shall serve in a personal capacity.
- Societies members of the Board* 5 The General Assembly elects twenty National Societies as members of the Governing Board, respecting geographical distribution as set out in the Rules of Procedure. A National Society elected member of the Governing Board shall appoint one individual to serve as its representative on the Governing Board. The appointed individual should normally not be changed during the elected Society's term of office. The National Societies of which the President or the Vice-Presidents are members must not be proposed for candidature to, and shall not be eligible as members of, the Governing Board.
- Rotation* 6 Any National Society elected for the purpose of appointing a Vice-President or a National Society member of the Governing Board and having served two consecutive four-year terms in either capacity or combinations thereof is not eligible to stand again for election until a further four-year term has elapsed.
- Chair and members of the Finance Commission, Audit and Risk Commission, Youth Commission, and Compliance and Mediation Committee* 7 The General Assembly shall appoint the Chair and members of the Finance Commission, Audit and Risk Commission and Compliance and Mediation Committee, and shall elect the Chair and members of the Youth Commission. Any person who has served two consecutive four-year terms as Chair or as member of any of these bodies shall not be eligible to stand again for appointment or election (as the case may be) as Chair or as member of such body until a further four-year term has elapsed.

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| <i>Election Committee</i> | 8 | The General Assembly shall, on the proposal of the Governing Board, appoint the Chair of the Election Committee and four members. |
| <i>Procedures</i> | 9 | The procedures relating to elections may be set out in the Rules of Procedure. |

SECTION VI

FINANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

Article 35 Finances and Property

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| <i>Civil liability</i> | 1 | The International Federation shall be solely responsible, to the exclusion of the National Societies, for all its transactions and commitments. |
| <i>Resources</i> | 2 | The regular resources of the International Federation shall consist of contributions from National Societies and income derived from investments. |
| <i>Properties and unrestricted resources</i> | 3 | Within the limits laid down by its general object and functions the International Federation shall acquire, own, dispose of and administer any property. It may accept unrestricted contributions and assistance in any form from National Societies, individuals, governments and other public or private bodies. |
| <i>Earmarked resources and real estate</i> | 4 | The International Federation may accept as an agent or trustee funds or property earmarked for particular use provided that such use is within the general scope of its activities, general object and functions. It may accept any conveyance of real estate for its use or benefit. |
| <i>Reserves</i> | 5 | The International Federation may constitute and manage any reserves or other funds for its staff or for any of its activities. |
| <i>Procedures</i> | 6 | The procedures relating to the finances of the International Federation (including, without limitation, financial contributions, budget and audit procedures) may be set out in the Rules of Procedure. |

Article 36 Financial Contributions

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| <i>Financial year</i> | 1 | The financial year shall run from 1 January to 31 December. |
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<i>Statutory financial contributions</i>	2	Each National Society shall pay an annual financial contribution to the International Federation in accordance with the scale of contributions established by the Finance Commission, approved by the Governing Board and calculated using the formula approved by the General Assembly under Article 17.1, and within such time-limit as may be prescribed by the General Assembly.
<i>Appeals</i>	3	Any National Society which contests the annual financial contribution approved by the Governing Board shall have the right to appeal immediately to the Finance Commission. However, such an appeal shall not invalidate the obligation of paying the uncontested part of the annual financial contribution within the time-limit fixed by the General Assembly.
<i>Arrangements for payment of the contribution</i>	4	Any National Society unable, for any reason whatsoever, to pay its annual financial contribution may refer this matter to the Finance Commission in order to obtain appropriate arrangements enabling the National Society to pay it in conformity with the conditions fixed by the Finance Commission. However, such an appeal shall not invalidate the obligation of paying the annual financial contribution.
<i>Declaration in default</i>	5	If a National Society does not pay the amount in accordance with paragraphs 2, 3 or 4 of the present Article, the Finance Commission shall report the matter to the Governing Board. The Governing Board shall receive the recommendation of the Finance Commission and shall decide whether to declare the Society in default or not.
<i>Consequences of the declaration in default</i>	6	The consequences of a declaration in default are set out in Article 10A.
<i>Financial obligations</i>	7	Any National Society which has withdrawn, which has been suspended or expelled or which has been declared in default shall remain liable for payment of its annual financial contribution for the financial year during which any of the foregoing steps were taken, of any arrears of previous years and of any other debt to the International Federation.

Article 37
Budget

<i>Preparation of budget and financial statements</i>	1	The Secretary General shall draw up the budget of the International Federation in consultation with the Chair of the Finance Commission. The Secretary General shall also prepare a report on the accounts relating to the preceding financial year and submit these documents to the Governing Board for study and to the General Assembly for approval.
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- Approval of budget and financial statements*
- 2 The General Assembly shall examine and every two years:
- a) adopt the audited financial statements and approve the financial reports and plans covering the previous two financial years recommended by the Governing Board;
 - b) approve the budget for the next two financial years presented by the Secretary General and recommended by the Governing Board.
- 3 The Governing Board shall examine every year the annual report of the previous financial year, presented by the Secretary General.
- 4 In those years in which the General Assembly does not meet the Governing Board shall review the budget for the following year, and, if exceptional circumstances exist, adjust that budget in the light of those circumstances.
- Financial measures*
- 5 Subject to the provisions of Articles 17.3, and 23.3, the General Assembly, or failing it the Governing Board, may decide on any financial measures which may appear advisable, and shall take into consideration such recommendations as may be made by the Secretary General or the Chair of the Finance Commission.
- Administration and execution of the budget*
- 6 The Secretary General who is responsible for the administration of the approved budget shall:
- a) implement the budget as adopted, ensuring the payment of contributions and, depending on the needs, defraying the expenses authorised;
 - b) receive and hold all funds paid to the International Federation for whatever purpose, be accountable for these funds to the General Assembly and the Governing Board, and dispose of them in accordance with the budget adopted; and
 - c) decide on the handling and investment of the available funds after consultation with the Chair of the Finance Commission.

Article 38
Audit

- 1 At the close of each financial year, the accounts of that year :
- a) shall be made the subject of a report prepared by the Secretary General; and
 - b) shall be audited and reported upon by a firm of internationally recognised independent auditors to be designated by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Governing Board.

- 2 These reports shall refer to the budget and accounts of the International Federation and shall also cover the use of funds entrusted to the International Federation in the capacity of agent or trustee.

SECTION VII

CO-OPERATION

Article 39

Regional Conferences

- Definition* 1 A Regional Conference is a meeting of the National Societies of a Statutory Region with the purpose of:
- promoting co-operation, networking and partnerships amongst the National Societies of the regions;
 - identifying common humanitarian concerns and issues;
 - striving to achieve common strategies of implementation with regard to decisions of the General Assembly, the Council of Delegates and the International Conference;
 - making proposals to the Governing Board on matters related to the General Assembly and the Statutory Bodies of the Movement.
- Timing* 2 In principle a Regional Conference shall be held in each Statutory Region once every four years.
- Reports from the Secretary General* 3 The Secretary General shall provide a report for the approval of the Governing Board on the agenda and the administrative, technical, financial and other implications of forthcoming Regional Conferences. He/she shall also present a report on the results of any Regional Conference held.
- Secretariat assistance* 4 The Secretary General shall assist the host National Society in organising and holding a Regional Conference.
- Applicable rules* 5 A Regional Conference shall be held in conformity with the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure.

Article 40

Co-operation with the ICRC

The International Federation shall maintain close contact with the ICRC. It shall co-operate with the latter in matters of common concern in accordance with the Statutes of the Movement and the agreements concluded between the International Federation and the ICRC.

Article 41

Co-operation with other international organisations

The International Federation shall co-operate within the terms of the Constitution with international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, as it deems appropriate.

Article 42

Observers

The Governing Board and, if it is not in session, the President may, after consultation with the members of the Governing Board and in conformity with the Rules of Procedure, invite observers to participate in sessions of the General Assembly.

SECTION VIII

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 43

Regulations

- 1 The General Assembly shall enact by a simple majority all regulations or rules relating to procedure and other matters as may be necessary for the implementation of the Constitution as well as for the accomplishment of the tasks of the International Federation.
- 2 Within the framework of the Constitution and of the Rules of Procedure in force, and subject to the approval of the General Assembly, the Governing Board and other bodies of the International Federation may also draw up such regulations as are necessary for the accomplishment of their respective tasks.
- 3 The General Assembly may, in a manner consistent with the Constitution, at any time amend such regulations by a simple majority.

Article 44

Special Provisions

- 1 When, for any reason beyond its control, the General Assembly is prevented from meeting and thereby from electing the President, the National Societies to appoint the Vice-Presidents or, the National Societies members of the Governing Board, or from appointing or electing (as the case may be) the Chairs and members of the Commissions and Committees, those serving at that time shall be authorised to continue to perform their function until the end of the next session of the General Assembly.
- 2 When, for any reason beyond its control, the Governing Board is prevented from meeting, and decisions are indispensable or desirable, and if the Secretary General is prevented from consulting the President or Vice-Presidents at the time when the session should have been held, the Secretary General shall take such steps as may be necessary to secure a decision by consulting the other members of the Governing Board by the most rapid means available. In this event, the Secretary General shall put each question in one and the same form to all the members of the Governing Board, and in such a manner that each question can be answered by a simple “yes” or “no”. Decisions shall then be taken by a simple majority of the replies received and shall be valid if the number of such replies attains the quorum provided for in Article 24.2. Such decisions shall come into force at the expiry of a period of twenty-one days from the date of dispatch of the last communication.

The same procedure may be applied at any time for any important and urgent question for which a decision of the Governing Board is required and which cannot be postponed until the forthcoming regular meeting of the Governing Board.

- 3 When circumstances no longer make it possible to obtain the decisions mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present Article, the Secretary General shall, in exceptional cases, and in order that the work of the International Federation may be carried on, take decisions on all matters that are normally within the competence of the Governing Board. Before taking such decisions, the Secretary General shall consult, insofar as it is possible, the President, the Vice-Presidents and any members of the Governing Board who remain accessible and shall keep them informed of the action taken.
- 4 As soon as circumstances permit, the Secretary General shall take steps to enable the President to convene the Governing Board. When the Governing Board meets, the Secretary General shall submit to it a report on all measures he/she has taken since the last ordinary session of the Governing Board. At the same session, the Governing Board shall consider, if the question arises, the convocation of the General Assembly, in particular for the purpose of holding elections.

Article 45
Dissolution

Further to a decision on the dissolution of the International Federation taken by the General Assembly in accordance with Articles 19.2 and 20.5, the net assets of the International Federation, after settlement of the debts, will be transferred to a body with legal capacity set up by the Governing Board with the purpose of endowing the capital of the International Federation if reconstituted within a year from the effective date of its dissolution, or of distributing the assets to any body or organisation the objects of which are as close as possible to those of the International Federation.

Article 46
Interpretation of Texts

Any question or disagreement concerning the interpretation or application of the Constitution which for any reason is not settled by the General Assembly shall be referred to the Governing Board and then submitted again to the General Assembly for its final decision.

Article 47
Amendments to the Constitution

Proposals to amend the Constitution may be put to the vote in accordance with Articles 19.2 and 20.5 only when submitted by a National Society supported by at least five National Societies, or by the Governing Board.

Article 48
Entry into force

Subject to Article 49 this Constitution shall come into force at the end of the 21st session of the General Assembly, 8 November 2017, at which time the former Constitution shall stand repealed.

Article 49
Transitional Provisions

*Finance
Commission*

Notwithstanding Article 29, the Chair and nine members of the Finance Commission appointed in 2015 by the General Assembly shall remain in appointment until their term expires at the General Assembly

session in 2019, whereupon a Chair and five members of the Finance Commission will be appointed in accordance with Article 29.



The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

voluntary service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

unity

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society many one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

The Fundamental Principles were proclaimed by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, Vienna, 1965. This is the revised text contained in the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, adopted by the XXVth International Conference of the Red Cross, Geneva, 1986.