

12th Mediterranean Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
12^{ème} Conférence Méditerranéenne des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
XII Conferencia Mediterránea de las Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
المؤتمر المتوسطي الثاني عشر للهلال والصليب الأحمر



Our Principles, our Move
Nos Principes, nos Actions
Nuestros Principios, nuestra Acción
مبادئنا، حراكنا



**CROCE
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San Marino Declaration

25-28 May 2015
Republic of San Marino

San Marino Declaration

From the 25th to the 28th May 2015 the Republic of San Marino was the host of the 12th Mediterranean Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Conference, whose motto was “Our Principles, Our Move”, was organised by the Red Cross of the Republic of San Marino, under the auspices of Their Excellences, Captain Regents Mr. Andrea Belluzzi and Mr. Roberto Venturini and with the presence in the Opening and Closing ceremonies of the Honourable Secretary of State for Health, Mr. Francesco Mussoni, the Honourable Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pasquale Valentini and the Honourable Secretary of State for Interior, Mr. Giancarlo Venturini. The Conference was attended by 150 delegates, from the 26 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from the Mediterranean region.

The President, Mr. Tadateru Konoe, the Vice President for Europe, Mr. Francesco Rocca and other officials from the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies, the Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Standing Commission, the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the IFRC Livelihood Resource Centre, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sousse University (Tunisia), the Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Institutes of Economic Sciences (FEMISE) and guests, from National Societies (NS) and other organisations have honoured the work of the Conference by their presence. The 12th Mediterranean Conference was chaired by the President of San Marino Red Cross, Mr. Raimondo Fattori.

During the inaugural ceremony the report and the conclusions from the 11th Mediterranean Conference were presented and it was realised that we are confronted with a complex and multifaceted reality. The Conference has taken place during a period in which the Mediterranean National Societies are increasingly faced with humanitarian challenges such as migration, conflicts, violence, environmental hazards and the social effects of the economic crisis.

2015 is the year in which the Movement celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of the Fundamental Principles, which are constantly challenged in areas of conflict and disaster and yet remain relevant in their application. It is also a year where the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent will take place.

Bearing in mind the resolutions of the 31st International Conference, as well as those of the Council of Delegates and the International Federation General Assembly 2011 and 2013, the Federation Strategy 2020 and recalling recommendations from previous Mediterranean Conferences, National Societies commit to increase their response to the growing humanitarian issues in the Mediterranean region.

NS discussed, reflected and came up with recommendations during five plenary sessions and four workshops, focusing on the following topics:

Plenary Sessions:

1. Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Diplomacy
2. Crisis response and preparedness
3. Youth and volunteering promotion
4. Protection and assistance to migrants
5. Social inclusion and the promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace

Workshops:

1. Climate change and environment
2. Social effects of the economic crisis
3. Migration and Youth
4. Human trafficking

Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Diplomacy

NS emphasised that:

- Our Fundamental Principles and Values remain relevant, they are the bonding material for the Movement and provide a unique framework for decision making, particularly for increasingly complex and multifaceted emergencies
- The strengths of the NS derive from credibility, the motivation and dedication of volunteers, the strong auxiliary role to the Public Authorities, partnerships and accumulated experience, along with the necessity to preserve its independence.

NS reaffirm that:

- Humanitarian diplomacy is embedded within our daily humanitarian operations and aims at increasing our access to deliver principled-based services for people in need of assistance and protection
- It is important to be well prepared for the 32nd International Conference, as it is a unique forum, where the Movement discuss together with all the Governments on humanitarian issues of concern and seek their engagement and support.

Crisis response and preparedness

NS asked to put a strong emphasis on consequences of conflict and violence. A special tribute was paid to the volunteers, who lost their lives, while carrying out their humanitarian services in Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, and Syria.

NS pointed out the challenges they face during conflict:

- The security and safety of the volunteers and staff
- The limited access to people in need of assistance and protection
- The lack of respect for the International Humanitarian Law (IHL), medical infrastructures and personnel
- The sustainability of the humanitarian services, due to the increase of the needs and lack of sufficient funding
- The capacity of the NS to face huge needs arising from protracted and new conflicts.

NS recommended:

- To take measures as building a strong legal base, providing trainings, risk assessments, internal communication, in order to enhance the security, safety and health insurance of its volunteers and staff
- All efforts should be put in place for the respect of the Fundamental Principles by the NS staff and volunteers, at all times and for IHL dissemination among armed forces, armed groups, victims, and the civil society
- Advocacy for more flexible funding from donors and back donors is needed in order to focus on emergency and development needs to maintain sustainability
- Particular efforts should be made in crisis preparedness, contingency planning and development, by involving all relevant stakeholders in times of conflict and in times of peace
- Partnerships within the Movement and outside the Movement should be reinforced, without jeopardizing the credibility of the NS and its capacity to act according to its Fundamental Principles
- Movement partners need to invest in the capacities of NS in times of peace in order to be prepared.

Social Effects of Economic Crisis

NS emphasised that:

- The most vulnerable people are single parents, women, elderly, youth and migrants
- It is challenging to ensure social cohesion and acceptance for migrants
- The NS are put under further pressure derived from the increasing needs that are not met
- It is difficult to achieve a long-term perspective leading to stabilization, as needs and unemployment rates, especially among youth, are growing.

NS recommended:

- To enhance a peer-to-peer approach as a way to learn from the others. Creating innovative approaches to address the social impact on the economic crisis should be strengthened
- The work of RCRC should not be limited to basic needs and immediate support but should also be combined with social empowerment and resilience building that should be included as a cross-cutting issue in our programmes.

Youth and Volunteering Promotion

Youth of our NS stressed that:

- Only 10 out of 26 Mediterranean NS have adopted the Youth Engagement Strategy (Y.E.S.). All NS committed to adopt the “Y.E.S.” in the Federation General Assembly in 2013 in Sydney

Youth, being deeply concerned with protracted crises in our region, committed to become role models by abiding to and promoting the Fundamental Principles, and requested all NS:

- To pay a greater attention to the needs of the volunteers
- To engage youth volunteers to be better prepared for the new humanitarian challenges we are facing in the Mediterranean region such as migration, health and promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace

- To consider their voice and endorse the Statement of the First RC/RC Mediterranean Youth Meeting (San Marino, 23-25 May 2015) annexed to this Declaration.

Climate Change and Environment

NS noted that:

- The Mediterranean region is severely impacted by human induced climate change, with temperatures in the Mediterranean increasing above the global mean, decreasing rainfall, extreme weather events, droughts and water scarcity.

NS recommended that:

- Support to community resilience should be provided by raising awareness, promoting change of habits, strengthening early warning systems and exchange data
- Attention is paid to the need to promote partnerships, hazard risk assessments, integrating programmes and activities, setting priorities, planning and follow-up
- The Movement should encourage that during the International Conference, pledges by States and NS will be signed, committing to support Movement programmes on preventing and reducing the impacts of climate change.

Assistance and protection to Migrants

NS emphasized that:

- When people are impelled to move, in unsafe conditions, this may lead to tragic loss of lives. Moving could be the last chance that people have, and our commitment is to make sure that they can move safely and that their right to live in dignity is respected
- We have a shared duty to assist and protect the vulnerable migrants, irrespective of their nationality, administrative or legal status
- It is imperative for us as a Movement to harmonize our approaches, coordinate our humanitarian actions, think trans-regionally, and reinforce our auxiliary role to Public Authorities and engage them on the plight of migrants along the migratory route.

NS recommended to:

- Focus on reducing risk factors that put migrants in condition of vulnerability along the migration route
- Address root causes of migration such as supporting development processes in countries of origin that may contribute to reduce vulnerabilities and build more resilient and self-reliant communities
- Continue to focus on emergency health facilities, restoring family links (RFL), psychosocial support (PSS) as well as on National Societies' institutional preparedness and capacity development particularly in the field of social inclusion
- Strengthen Humanitarian Diplomacy and advocate, as a Movement with one voice, towards governments, corporate sector, partners and other organizations to engage with us and invest in the protection of people on the move and to give everyone the opportunity to achieve their aspirations
- Reaffirm the importance of the Migration-related issues discussed at the Mediterranean Conference and bring them to the attention of the forthcoming 32nd International Conference

Migration and Youth

NS recommended to:

- Include youth (volunteers and young migrants) and migration in NS strategic plan.
- Develop partnerships with universities, NGOs, other institutions, and the private sector.
- Promote non-formal education including sport as an important vector (Youth as Agents of behavioural Change -YABC).
- Include migrants and their organizations as active partners in our programmes.

Human trafficking

NS recommended that:

- Awareness and education be raised among the general public, including front-line responders, as a key aspect of humanitarian response to human trafficking with special attention for children and youth at risk
- NSs further explore strategies to improve our response to the humanitarian consequences of human trafficking, in accordance with the RC/RC mandate, auxiliary role and to our Fundamental Principles.
- NSs strengthen efforts in ensuring that victims are recognised and have access to information and support, irrespective of their legal status, to make informed decisions
- While prevention of human trafficking is a need, the NS must carefully consider the potential risk for the security of RC/RC staff and volunteers in countries of origin, transit and arrival in responding to situations of violence and exploitation.

Culture of non-violence and peace

NS underlined that:

- The main concerns in the region -migration, crises and violence- are interrelated and it is time to address the underlying causes of violence, such as discrimination and exclusion. The promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace through Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteer network is crucial to change to positive behaviours.
- Through YABC with development of behavioural skills, youth are empowered to work towards change, within themselves and as leaders in their communities.
- Violence can increase exponentially in emergencies, especially amongst the most vulnerable. For this reason violence prevention through community engagement programmes is imperative to enhance community resilience.

NS recommended:

- That not only Youth become Agents of Behavioural Change (ABC) in our communities and social environment, but all volunteers and staff
- That the Red Cross and Red Crescent in the Mediterranean work to create safe environments, particularly in times of emergencies and educate and support disaster responders at all levels
- To foster community preparedness to minimize the risk of violence, xenophobia and prompt response.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our esteemed, respected leaders,

Today,

It is today where we are facing the humanitarian crisis with thousands of human beings who loose their lives in the Mediterranean basin;

It is today, in the occasion of the 35th year of intensified Red Cross Red Crescent cooperation in the Mediterranean; and it is today, in the year of celebrating the 50th anniversary of our Fundamental Principles, that we are together here, in San Marino, where independence and neutrality have had a long tradition in safeguarding people and actions of this beautiful Republic.

We are 30 young people from 17 National Societies united in front of you in solidarity, but we represent the power of 232,000 Red Cross/Red Crescent youth volunteers saving lives and changing minds in our beautiful but starkly tested Mediterranean region. We embody hundreds and thousands of volunteers and staff who live by “If we don't do it, who will?”. We all are part of a Movement that is the home to millions of dedicated volunteers and staff and it is for these people with noble hearts and high morals that we are all here, mandated to serve.

Some of us here knew Hussein. He was a Syrian Arab Red Crescent First Aider cold-heartedly shot in a Red Crescent ambulance and passed away. As your equal partners in shaping the humanitarian landscape, young people have been, are, and will be engaging with the Red Cross/Red Crescent because only through the inter-generational cooperation, learning, and most importantly supporting each other, we do more, do better, and reach further. Would you not agree?

Partnership Building

If you do agree, we, as youth, ask you to commit to:

- ➔ initiate dialogue and cooperation on all levels amongst and within National Societies,
- ➔ give additional support to already existing and new youth networks among and within National Societies,
- ➔ empower Youth departments,
- ➔ for those who have not done so yet, we ask to adopt a Youth policy,
- ➔ for those who have not done so yet, we ask to adopt a Youth Engagement Strategy.

Youth engagement and volunteering promotion

Only 10 out of 26 Mediterranean National Societies already have a Youth Engagement Strategy. Taking into consideration that all National Societies have committed to adopt a Y.E.S. in Sydney's General Assembly, confirmed again by the interest shown by the youth Mediterranean members at the first Mediterranean Youth Meeting, we expressed a need for common and concrete guidelines to help our NSs developing and implementing a Y.E.S.

The world is changing, and so does volunteering. During these three days together, we have identified that we need to pay closer attention to the way we are managing our volunteers, including youth. This aspect acquires a special meaning we want to highlight.

In the effort to create a better world and build resilience of our communities, we as youth invite you to:

- ➔ Pay greater attention to our volunteers' needs;
- ➔ Engage young volunteers to be better prepared for the new humanitarian challenges we are facing in the Mediterranean region such as migration, health and promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace.

Peace building and Non-Violence promotion

Listening to the life experiences of many of our friends these days, we wonder "If children and their future cannot make our country leaders foster peace building and non-violence, what will?"

Being deeply concerned by the protracted crises in our region, as youth leaders we commit ourselves and our peers to become the role models for living the Fundamental Principles and the resource for addressing the root causes of violence. We pledge to foster peace-building while encouraging individual and personal transformations. Furthermore, we commit ourselves to and ask:

- ➔ To include Peace & Non-Violence in the agenda of National Societies' mandate in time of peace and conflict;
- ➔ To invest in Youth trainings and actions in order to count on more young agents of Peace & Non-Violence;
- ➔ To support the development of new tools and facilitate the fact that we can share between National Societies;
- ➔ To support in spreading our messages & actions through mass media.

Humanitarian consequences of Migration

No human being is illegal. Every National Society is experiencing the humanitarian consequences of migration. Our activities should not only be linked with providing basic support for migrants, but have also to be comprehensive, in all fields, by involving them actively in their own process of adaptation and inclusion in the new community, and by creating the healthy, facilitating and supportive environment this

process needs. We are very committed that our work must involve not only migrant people but also communities, public authorities, institutions and others stakeholders.

Therefore, as youth delegates of the National Societies presented here in 12th Mediterranean Conference, we commit ourselves to consider migrant people as part of the community, not just as a category, by promoting the added value of diversity. We engage ourselves in a work against communities, prejudices and fears, using our Principles and Values as tools.

Considering National Societies as the mirror of our communities, we have to be representative of the population, making migrant people not just beneficiaries, but also actors of our action and themselves agents of behavioral change.

Substance abuse

Substance abuse is both a taboo and the reality for many. How can the Red Cross/Red Crescent contribute to tackling this “Solferino of today”?

It is evidence-based that substance abuse is not a choice. For this reason, we are convinced that a humanitarian approach is needed, so that drug users can be treated and not punished. We commit to start with ourselves and be the role models in making the right choices for a healthy and meaningful life. We also commit to be the ever-present source of peer support to those of our fellows who need to be brought to a safe place. Substance abuse destroys the present and future of millions and we will advocate for evidence-based approaches to address root causes and social consequences of substance abuse while elevating the role of the Red Cross/Red Crescent in protecting human dignity.

We ask for:

- ➔ Expertise of health departments to be built in this area
- ➔ Training for volunteers through the peer education methodology
- ➔ Guidelines on drug policy based on what already exists in the IFRC
- ➔ Red Cross/Red Crescent cooperation with other NGOs

Conclusions

We are here, standing in front of you, ready to move and together we will. We need you, your personal leadership and commitment in which we are also deeply engaged.

Let us all be the change that we want to see in the world.