

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

XXIInd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

In our January issue, we published the provisional agenda of the Conference to be held in Teheran from 8 to 15 November 1973, and which will be preceded by various other Red Cross meetings starting on 29 October.

The Red Lion and Sun Society, which is going all out to organize the Conference, looks forward to welcoming to Iran the delegates who will be coming from all over the world. League and ICRC representatives have gone to Teheran to examine with the National Society the practical problems and the assistance which the two international institutions may provide. The ICRC is preparing to participate actively in the conference and will send all taking part reports on various agenda items.

Below we give the conference programme, followed by a reminder of the essential provisions of the Conference Rules of Procedure.

PROGRAMME

Meetings of the Red Cross

Monday 29 October

- 9.30 a.m. *Permanent Scale of Contributions Commission of the League
Regional Groups of the Development Programme
Working party on racism and racial discrimination*
- 3 p.m. *Permanent Scale of Contributions Commission of the League
Regional Groups of the Development Programme
Working party on racism and racial discrimination*

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Tuesday 30 October

9.30 a.m. *Committee of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the League
Regional Groups of the Development Programme
Ad hoc Committee on Social Development*

3 p.m. *Committee of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the League
Regional Groups of the Development Programme
Ad hoc Committee on Social Development*

Wednesday 31 October

9.30 a.m. *Permanent Scale of Contributions Commission of the League
Relief Advisory Committee
Development Programme Advisory Committee*

3 p.m. *Standing Finance Commission of the League
Relief Advisory Committee
Development Programme Advisory Committee*

Thursday 1 November

9.30 a.m. *Standing Finance Commission of the League Relief Advisory
Committee
Development Programme Advisory Committee*

3 p.m. *Standing Finance Commission of the League Relief Advisory
Committee
Development Programme Advisory Committee*

Friday 2 November

9.30 a.m. *Opening and first meeting of the XXXIInd Session of the
League Board of Governors*

3 p.m. *Second meeting of the League Board of Governors*

Saturday 3 November

9.30 a.m. *Third meeting of the League Board of Governors*

3 p.m. *Fourth meeting of the League Board of Governors*

Monday 5 November

9.30 a.m. *Fifth meeting of the League Board of Governors*

3 p.m. *Sixth meeting of the League Board of Governors*

Tuesday 6 November

- 9.30 a.m. *Seventh meeting of the League Board of Governors*
3 p.m. *Standing Commission of the International Red Cross
Commission for the Financing of the ICRC*

Wednesday 7 November

- 9.30 a.m. *Council of Delegates*
3 p.m. *Council of Delegates*

XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross

Thursday 8 November

- morning *Opening ceremony of the XXIIInd International Conference
of the Red Cross*
3 p.m. *Plenary meeting*
4 p.m. *General Commission
Commission on International Humanitarian Law
Commission on Community Services*

Saturday 10 November

- 9.30 a.m. *General Commission
Commission on International Humanitarian Law
Commission on Community Services*
3 p.m. *General Commission
Commission on International Humanitarian Law
Commission on Community Services*

Sunday 11 November

- 9.30 a.m. *General Commission
Commission on International Humanitarian Law
Commission on Community Services*
3 p.m. *General Commission
Commission on International Humanitarian Law
Commission on Community Services*

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Monday 12 November

- 9.30 a.m. *General Commission*
Commission on International Humanitarian Law
Commission on Community Services
- 3 p.m. *General Commission*
Commission on International Humanitarian Law
Commission on Community Services

Wednesday 14 November

- 9.30 a.m. *Plenary meeting*
- 3 p.m. *Plenary meeting*

Thursday 15 November

- 9.30 a.m. *Plenary meeting*
- 3 p.m. *Plenary meeting*
- 6 p.m. *Standing Commission of the International Red Cross*

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The International Conference of the Red Cross, its structure and duties are defined by the Statutes of the International Red Cross and the Conference Rules of Procedure.

It is the highest deliberating authority of the Red Cross. In principle it is convened every four years and is attended by:

- (a) The delegates of the International Red Cross, i.e. the delegates of all the National Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Lion and Sun Societies recognized by the ICRC; the delegates of the ICRC and of the League of Red Cross Societies;
- (b) The representatives of the States Parties to the First Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (1864, 1906, 1929 or 1949).

There can therefore be, and normally are, two delegations for each country: one representing the National Society, the other the Government. A State need not have a National Red Cross Society on its territory to be a member of the Conference; it only requires to be a Party to the Geneva Conventions.

The *Council of Delegates* necessarily meets at the time of the International Conference. It is composed of the delegates of recognized National Societies, the ICRC and the League. Government representatives are not members of this body.

The functions of the Council of Delegates are:

- (a) to meet prior to the opening of the Conference in order to propose the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General of the International Conference;
- (b) to lay down the order in which the various questions and proposals submitted to the Conference are to be discussed; this rule has always been interpreted to mean that the Council of Delegates has authority to lay down and adopt the Conference Agenda;
- (c) to give its opinion and, if necessary, a ruling on the questions and proposals referred to it by the Conference or by the Standing Commission.

The League of Red Cross Societies has its own deliberating authority, namely, the Board of Governors. This is attended by the representatives of all the member Societies of the Federation. In accordance with the League Constitution, the Board of Governors meets at the same time and in the same town as each International Conference, without actually being one of its bodies.

The powers of the International Conference of the Red Cross are defined as follows in Article II of the Statutes of the International Red Cross:

1. The International Conference shall have power to take decisions within the limits of the present Statutes, make recommendations and express wishes.

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2. The Conference shall be responsible for ensuring unity in the work of the National Societies, the International Committee and the League.
3. It may assign mandates to the International Committee and to the League and make proposals concerning the humanitarian Conventions and other international Conventions relating to the Red Cross.
4. It alone shall be competent to revise and interpret the present Statutes and Rules of Procedure and to take the final decision on the differences of opinion referred to in Article X.
5. It may not deal with political matters or serve as a forum for political debate.
6. It may not modify either the Statutes of the International Committee or those of the League. Similarly, the International Committee and the League shall take no decision contrary to the Statutes of the International Red Cross or to the resolutions of the Conference, or any decision contrary to the agreements concluded between them and confirmed by the Conference.
7. The Conference shall elect its Chairman.

The Agenda and the provisional programme of the International Conference are drawn up by the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.
