



the power of humanity
Red Cross Red Crescent Statutory Meetings
Sydney, Australia, November 2013



Media Advisory

Monday 4th November 2013

International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement holds statutory meetings in Sydney to discuss the future of humanitarian action

4 November 2013, Geneva — Members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement will gather from **8 to 18 November 2013** at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre in Australia for its bi-annual statutory meetings.

The meetings bring together the leaders of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement from all 187 National Societies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to discuss today's humanitarian challenges and determine the future path of the Movement.

Members of the international media based in Sydney and within the region are invited to attend the following special events and sessions at these meetings:

9 & 10 November, Saturday & Sunday:

- **Global youth forum (9:00am – 5:00pm)** – 200 young leaders from across the world will convene to solidify the role of youth in directing positive change in their local and global communities and in shaping the development agenda post-2015.

*Venue: **The Parkside Auditorium**, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour*

11 November, Monday:

- **Photo opportunity: Giant cross and crescent formation at the Sydney Opera House (12:30pm – 12:50pm)** – Hundreds of volunteers dressed in red will form a *giant* Red Cross and Red Crescent in front of the Sydney Opera House, highlighting the significance of these emblems. Senior representatives from the Australian Red Cross, IFRC and ICRC will be present at the photo opportunity.

*Venue: **Steps of Sydney Opera House***

- **Joint press briefing on the Syria crisis and humanitarian response (1:45pm – 2:45pm)** – The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are at the forefront of humanitarian efforts in response to the crisis in Syria. For the first time, the senior leadership of the IFRC, ICRC and National Red Crescent Societies in the region will give a joint briefing to the media highlighting the grave humanitarian situation and critical needs in the country, the challenges

of humanitarian access in Syria, their concerns over the safety of Red Crescent volunteers and health workers working on the frontlines and the plight of more than two million Syrians who have fled to neighbouring countries.

Panellists will be available for one-on-one interviews following the press briefing.

*Venue: **Parkside Room G03**, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour*

- **Humanitarian forum: Conflict, Disruption and Displacement – The changing face of humanitarian action (9:00am – 6:00pm)** – A special panel side-event featuring leading humanitarian speakers including leadership of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, distinguished guests from international organizations and NGOs, award winning journalists, and government representatives in a day of thought-provoking dialogue and debate. For a more comprehensive overview, please refer to the attached programme.

Panellists will be available for interviews.

*Venue: **The Parkside Auditorium**, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour*

12 November, Tuesday:

- **Opening ceremony (9:00am – 1.00pm)** – The official opening ceremony of the 2013 statutory meetings will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Based on their unique experiences and insights from different contexts, a panel of notable keynote speakers will discuss and debate the past, present and future direction of humanitarian action.

The panel discussion will close with a question and answer session which will include questions generated from within the room, through social media channels (**#rcrc2013**) and from National Society members in advance.

The opening ceremony will be followed by an **opportunity for one-on-one interviews (1:00pm – 2:00pm)** with the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's leadership as well the following keynote speakers:

- Robert Muggah, Research Director, Igrapé Institute, Brazil
- Juliana Rotich, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Ushahidi Inc., Kenya
- Samah Hadid, Director of the Global Poverty Project, Australia

Venue:

*Opening ceremony – **Hall 5, Plenary Room**, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour*

*Interviews - **Parkside Room G03**, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour*

13 November, Wednesday:

- **Press briefing with the newly elected IFRC President (12:30pm – 13:30)** – The 19th session of the IFRC's General Assembly will take place from 12 to 15 November. Elections will be held for the positions of the IFRC's President, four Vice Presidents and twenty National Society Governing Board members.

The election result for the position of the IFRC President will be announced on 13 November. Members of the media are invited to a press briefing with the elected President.

Venue: **Parkside Room G03**, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour

14 November, Thursday:

- **ARC and ICRC special event on the challenges of delivering medical care in times of conflict (5:30pm – 6:30pm)** – During this public event, an international panel of experts will share their strong field experience and explain why this issue is critical. This problem will be illustrated by a destroyed ambulance located at the entrance of the conference hall. A new publication on "Ambulances and Pre-Hospital Services in Risk Situation" published by the Mexican Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and the ICRC will be officially launched on that day.

The following speakers will be available for one-on-one interviews after the event:

- Pierre Gentile, Head of the ICRC's Health Care in Danger project
- Georges Kettaneh, Secretary-General, Lebanese Red Cross Society
- Paul McPhun, Executive Director, Médecins Sans Frontières, Australia
- Susan Neuhaus CSC, Associate Professor in conflict medicine, University of Adelaide

Venue: **Speakers' Corner Stage, The Parkside Foyer, Level 1**, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour

15 November, Friday:

- **Press briefing on the outcome of the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals plenary session (1:00pm – 2:00pm)** – The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) will expire at the end of 2015. The ongoing process among states to define what is currently called the 'post-2015 development agenda' will shape the future for people, communities, countries and humanitarian work over the next 20 to 30 years. As an Observer at the United Nations General Assembly, the IFRC has participated in the key and relevant intergovernmental discussions on the post-2015 agenda. The IFRC believes that this agenda must take into account the needs, rights and views of individuals, including the most vulnerable, with direct input from the people themselves.

Given the substantial involvement of National Societies in day-to-day developmental work, the IFRC has a responsibility to influence the shaping of the framework that will follow the MDGs so that it reflects the needs of the vulnerable people that the network serves.

At this press briefing a panel of spokespeople representing the IFRC leadership, Red Cross Red Crescent youth and National Societies will present the aspirations and priorities of our youth, volunteers and beneficiaries globally, which will form the basis of the Red Cross and Red Crescent's dialogue and engagement with the international community on how the post-2015 development agenda should be shaped.

*Venue: **Parkside Room G03**, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour*

18 November:

- **Red Cross Red Crescent statutory meetings closing media conference: The future of humanitarian action (1:00pm – 2:00pm)** – the Presidents of Australian Red Cross, the IFRC and ICRC will assemble for a joint media briefing on the final day of the meetings. Each will give a statement on the evolving trends in the humanitarian and development sectors and offer perspectives on how the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement can meet current and future challenges in order to remain relevant in addressing the humanitarian needs of vulnerable communities.

*Venue: **Parkside Room G03**, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour*

Media Accreditation:

Members of the media who wish to attend one or all of the sessions listed above are asked to register for accreditation for the conference by contacting **Reeni Amin Chua** at reeni.aminchua@ifrc.org or **Suzanne Gemmell** at sgemmell@redcross.org.au. Please provide the name of the person attending, email address, telephone number and the media organization.

Once your registration is confirmed and upon arrival at the conference centre, please check-in at the registration desk to receive your accreditation. Media representatives are encouraged to register in advance as there are limited seats available at some events and attendance will be on a first come first served basis.

In addition to the briefings that will be organized for the media, multilingual press releases will be issued. Please search for the hashtag **#rcrc2013** on social media platforms to follow the discussions during the meetings.

For further information please contact the following media focal points:

Australian Red Cross:

- Suzanne Gemmell, senior media and communications adviser – external engagement, Australian Red Cross, Mobile: +61 (0) 401 372 442, Email: sgemmell@redcross.org.au

IFRC

- Patrick Fuller, communications manager, IFRC Asia Pacific, Mobile: +6012 230 8451, Email: patrick.fuller@ifrc.org
- Reeni Amin Chua, communications officer, IFRC, Mobile: +41 797 086 273, Email: reeni.aminchua@ifrc.org

ICRC

- Sébastien Carliez, spokesperson and head of public communications (ai), ICRC Geneva, Mobile: +41 79 536 92 37, Email: scarliez@icrc.org
- Ewan Watson, public relations officer, ICRC Asia Pacific, Mobile: +41 79 244 64 70, Email: ewatson@icrc.org

For further information about the meetings and details on the press access policy please visit www.rcrcmeetings.org.