

KIEV DECLARATION

CONFERENCE ON INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES OF ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, GEORGIA, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, MOLDOVA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN, UKRAINE, UZBEKISTAN AND ESTONIA.

5–8 June 2001, Kiev, Ukraine

We, the national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Estonia, as well as the Secretariat of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, convened the Conference in Kiev (Ukraine) to review progress in the implementation of the Almaty Declaration (December 1996) and to define priorities for our contribution to the implementation of the Federation's *Strategy 2010*.

Representatives from the National Societies in Albania, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Denmark, Iran, Spain, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, USA, Germany, Finland, France, Switzerland, Sweden as well as the ICRC and the World Health Organization participated in the Conference as guests.

We acknowledge a number of positive results achieved in the implementation of the Almaty Declaration, confirm full adherence to its spirit and reiterate our firm intention to continue co-operation to achieve the goals outlined in *Strategy 2010*.

We came to the common conclusion that our assistance programmes since December 1996 have been ***responsive to local vulnerability and focused on the areas where they can add greatest value***, in particular:

- National Societies proved in practice to be effective and equal partners with the Federation's Secretariat, ICRC as well as other humanitarian organisations in planning and implementing emergency relief and rehabilitation programmes in case of natural and other disasters;
- a number of National Societies have increased medico-social assistance to the lone elderly and handicapped through finding and mobilising additional and new sources of funding as well as through strengthened Visiting Nurses services;
- substantial knowledge has been gained through the successful implementation of new programmes aimed at combating TB, HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases;
- several National Societies have been involved during the last four years in the successful implementation of the Population Movement programme, which has laid ground for establishing and strengthening closer partnership with relevant governmental structures;

- substantial progress has been achieved in defining the role and priorities of National Societies in disaster preparedness, building closer links with relevant governmental services and strengthening their material capacity to respond in crises situations.

Timely response to essential humanitarian requirements has been mobilised due to increased professional and technical capacity of National Societies striving to meet the criteria of **well-functioning National Societies**. The following positive organisational development activities were noted:

- all National Societies continued to exercise their statutory functions and preserved staffing levels required to ensure implementation of these functions
- quality and qualification of technical management and administration has improved
- the period of crisis has been managed.

Integration of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies into the realities of the market economy was facilitated through **working together effectively with their supporters, through programme co-operation, long-term partnerships and funding**. Since the Almaty conference, there has been a dynamic development of co-operation with UN organisations and in particular with WHO and UNHCR.

We acknowledge that not all of the provisions of the Almaty Declaration were fully implemented. Emphasis continued to be placed on implementation of short and medium term relief and rehabilitation programmes and less than adequate attention was given to the longer-term programmes aimed at organisational development and building of National Society capacity. The legal basis for the efficient functioning of National Societies continues to be relatively weak in a number of National Societies. The majority have continued to lose volunteers. A lack of sufficient experience and know-how in raising financial resources was noted as one of the general and common weakness of all National Societies.

Whilst the situation in the countries remains critical, with a high level of vulnerability, poor social and economic factors, armed conflicts, natural and technological disasters, TB/HIV/AIDS epidemics, low access to medical services for the major part of the population, we

- **reaffirm** our intention to further widen and deepen activities aimed at resolving the most acute social and other problems in our respective countries. These activities should be implemented in the spirit of the Almaty Declaration (December 1996), the results of the discussions at the current Conference and in full respect of the provisions of *Strategy 2010*.
- **will actively advocate** to governments and other relevant authorities to increase their response to the plight of the most vulnerable groups, in particular lone elderly and handicapped, and to increase efficient use of the capacities of national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in providing assistance to these groups.

- **will work for the maintaining and strengthening** of the Visiting Nurses services through introducing contemporary nursing practices and at the same time strengthen the status of the medico-social centres which should become a platform for improving the work with volunteers
- **will develop a special forum** to enhance the Population Movement Service, including legal support, psychological and social rehabilitation, public awareness, identification and evaluation of the most vulnerable groups of people
- **will focus on** our organisational development, including
 - looking at sustainability and diversification and searching for new sources of funding** to ensure both stable functioning of organisational structures and implementation of statutory functions
 - improving** financial management
 - ensuring** our constitutions and other legal documents conform with general and specific recommendations of the statutory bodies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as well as the respective country's legislation
 - adopting** contemporary methods of governance and management of public organisations
 - reflecting the true value** of volunteers and young people by showing more respect and trust; adopting policies to promote the training, meaningful involvement and recognition of young people and volunteers and introduce required amendments to the statutes of National Societies.
- **will continue** intra-regional and sub-regional co-operation in all aspects of mutual interest with an aim of creating and sharing knowledge. Such co-operation should not be limited to the National Societies in the region. As an example we will investigate the possibility of creating regional training centres from existing local resources.

We express our satisfaction with the work of the Federation's Secretariat, as a co-ordinator of multinational co-operation, in the implementation of the international humanitarian assistance programmes, organisational development and capacity building support. Taking into account the statement by the Secretary General of the International Federation, we call on the Secretariat of the International Federation to, within the framework of regional and country assistance strategies:

continue mobilisation of resources and co-ordination of international humanitarian aid in times of emergencies and technological catastrophes

intensify co-ordination and mobilisation of external resources for the support of longer term reform and organisational development, including the branch level.

ensure implementation of these activities on the basis of longer-term agreements which should clearly define the obligations of the parties

assist National Societies to develop disaster preparedness programmes for natural disasters and other emergency situations and also to develop methods of vulnerability assessment

assist in the establishment of and participate in a working group for the design and implementation of strategic development plans for the transition period

assist National Societies in communicating more powerfully their activities

increase the involvement of staff from the region as Federation Secretariat representatives in assistance programmes within the region.

At the same time we draw to the attention of the Federation's Secretariat and the ICRC that efficiency of co-operation can be improved if it is implemented with due respect to the local conditions and cultural factors.

We express our gratitude to all members of the Federation, Governments, international and national organisations which have assisted us in the past. We invite Sister National Societies to engage in long term partnerships that reflect the deep and long-term socio-economic problems prevalent in this region.

We call on the 6th European Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference to consider the Kyiv Declaration at a special session and to adopt an appropriate resolution in support of this Declaration.

8 July 2001