COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Geneva, Switzerland
23-34 November 2007

RESOLUTION 4

THE RESTORING FAMILY LINKS STRATEGY
(AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN)
FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT
(2008-2018)
RESOLUTION 4

Restoring Family Links Strategy (and implementation plan)
for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
(2008-2018)

The Council of Delegates,

recalling with deep concern the suffering endured by those who have lost contact with, or have no news of, their loved ones as a consequence of armed conflict or other situations of violence, natural or man-made disasters or other circumstances requiring a humanitarian response,

recognizing that families provide the basis for all individuals to cope with the consequences of these tragic events, and reiterating the responsibilities of each component of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) to help in the restoration or maintenance of contact between members of families separated in such circumstances,

recalling the role which the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) plays as a coordinator and technical adviser to National Societies and governments and the specific responsibility of the National Societies in restoring family links and also recalling the importance for the Movement of relying on a sound international Red Cross and Red Crescent network in order to take effective action in Restoring Family Links (RFL) as recognized in Resolution 16 of the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognizing and reaffirming the lead role of the ICRC in RFL within the Movement,

noting the need to strengthen the capacity of the Family Links Network to assist people who are without news of their families,

recalling further the Agenda for Humanitarian Action adopted by Resolution 1 of the 28th International Conference, in particular its “General Objective 1” on respecting and restoring the dignity of missing persons and of their families and “General Objective 3” on reducing the risk and impact of disasters,

expressing appreciation for the efforts and the commitment of the ICRC to develop the Restoring Family Links Strategy (and implementation plan) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2008-2018 (the RFL Strategy) as part of the implementation of the Agenda for Humanitarian Action,

noting with satisfaction the consultative process within the Movement that led to the successful development of the RFL Strategy, in particular the role played by the advisory group composed of 20 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the International Federation) and the ICRC and by the four Regional RFL Conferences attended by the leaders of National Societies in 2006,
1. reaffirms the commitment of the Movement to RFL and reinforces its commitment to stay the leader in this field;

2. adopts the Restoring Family Links Strategy (and implementation plan) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2008-2018;

3. commends the commitment expressed so far by all components of the Movement to contribute to the implementation of the RFL Strategy;

4. calls upon all National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation to:
   a) promote knowledge and understanding of this Strategy at all levels of their respective organizations,
   b) implement the actions outlined in this Strategy as part of their organizational strategies and plans at national, regional and international levels,
   c) allocate the necessary resources to carry them out;

5. recommends that the ICRC and the International Federation further enhance their cooperation to support National Societies in their efforts to implement the Strategy, taking into consideration the challenges that National Societies have identified and highlighted during the consultation process;

6. encourages partnerships amongst National Societies to support each other in building their capacity in RFL;

7. requests the ICRC to bring the RFL Strategy to the attention of the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent with a view in particular to encourage member States better to understand and support the RFL activities carried out by the Movement;

8. welcomes the ICRC’s initiative to establish and chair an implementation group composed of National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC, to provide guidance and support in the implementation process as well as to develop the criteria for its success and indicators to measure that success;

9. further requests all components of the Movement to carry out the required self-assessments on the implementation of the Strategy and provide this information to the ICRC for monitoring and reporting purposes;

10. invites the ICRC to report to the 2011 and 2015 Council of Delegates on the results achieved by the implementation of the Strategy.