

BOARD OF DELEGATES

Prague, October 3-5, 1961

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

RED CROSS PRINCIPLES

(The Japanese Red Cross Society has the honour to reproduce the table of principles as written by Dr. Pictet, for reference, with earnest wish that it should be approved.)

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

1. Humanity. - The Red Cross fights against suffering and death. It demands that man shall be treated humanely under all circumstances.
2. Equality. - The Red Cross is ready to come to the help of each individual, equally and without any form of discrimination.
3. Due Proportion. - The help available shall be apportioned according to the relative importance of individual needs and in their order of urgency.
4. Impartiality. - The Red Cross will act without favour or prejudice towards or against anyone.
5. Neutrality. - It must observe strict neutrality in the military, political and philosophical spheres.
6. Independence. - It must be independent of all authorities and free from every influence.
7. Universality. - The work of the Red Cross must extend to all men, and all countries.

ORGANIC PRINCIPLES

1. Selflessness. - The Red Cross must not reap any advantage from its activities; it is only concerned with the humanitarian interest of the persons who require help.

2. Free service . - It offers its services free of charge.
3. Voluntary service . - It is an expression of private charity and a spirit of service, an institution for the provision of voluntary relief.
4. Auxiliarity . - It cooperates with the public powers
5. Autonomy . - It must have a sufficient degree of autonomy in its relations with those powers.
6. Multitudinism. - The ranks of a National Red Cross Society must be open to all the citizens of the country concerned. The Society must be organized on a democratic basis.
7. Equality of the National Societies. - All National Societies have the same international rights.
8. Unity. - In each State there can only be one Red Cross Society, directed by one central body. The activities of the Society must embrace the whole country.
9. Solidarity. - Having the same aims, Red Cross Societies have established mutual relationships and recognize that it is their duty to help one another.
10. Foresight. - The Red Cross must always be ready for the tasks with which it may be faced.

SUMMARY

The fundamental principles of the Red Cross are: humanity, equality as between men, the principle that relief must be proportionate to the needs, impartiality, neutrality in the military, political, denominational and philosophical spheres, independence and universality.

The movement's organic principles are: selflessness, free service, voluntary service, auxiliarity, autonomy, multitudinism, equality as between the National Societies, unity, solidarity and foresight.

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