

## SMCC: are we on track?

### Editorial by

**Garry Conille, IFRC Under Secretary General and  
Balthasar Staehelin, ICRC Deputy Director General**

Half way into the implementation of Resolution 1 of the Council of Delegates 2015, we want to take a step back and ask ourselves critically whether the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) process is on track.

If you read the various articles in this newsletter you will feel rather convinced of the fruitful results the SMCC is bearing. It is true however that this might reflect a subjective reading of events as articles exclusively describe contexts where positive examples of SMCC have happened in the past six months. This being acknowledged, one can however not dismiss the substance of these examples and of the many more that do happen on a regular basis even in contexts outside the five SMCC country labs (i.e. Haiti, South Sudan, Ukraine, Syria and Philippines). Take the example of Armenia, where the solid joint work on a contingency plan, far from being imposed by top down injunctions, derives from the operational imperative and the acknowledgement, at the field level, that joint preparedness matters. This was then facilitated by the growing spirit of “get-together” that prevails across the board in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. At this stage we want to express our gratitude for all our colleagues from National Societies, ICRC and IFRC who have jointly worked on the articles for this newsletter – for us this joint work is yet another example of improved relations between Movement components.

This reinforced open-mindedness and inclusiveness within the Movement allows us to be more credible humanitarian actors and a network that is more than just the sum of its parts. This is particularly true with regard to donors who follow closely the evolution of the efforts to revitalize Movement coordination and who also see the potential of a more united Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In this sense, continuing to systematize the approach around the “only one international appeal” will be key and we are committed to deliver.

Coordination and preparedness are essential elements to evaluate, and we are seeing positive improvements that tend to show that we are on the path to success, though obstacles remain. In the meantime, in order to continue documenting practice on the existing normative framework, we invite you to share any information, positive or negative but supported by evidence, to the following email address [movement.cooperation@ifrc.org](mailto:movement.cooperation@ifrc.org)

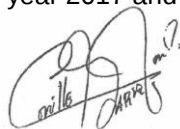
We are aware that we will be evaluated by the concrete operational outcomes and the perception from the 192 components of our Movement on how this process has been beneficial for each of us. While we are appreciative of all the National Societies that have committed to support the implementation of the SMCC Plan of Action, we would welcome even greater engagement of National Societies. Relations between partners are not always rosy and the transactional costs to make SMCC work are at times deemed high. However, we believe that these challenges are well outweighed by the operational impact a more coherent and well-coordinated Movement has had in Haiti, in Gabon, in the Philippines or in the many other contexts not showcased here, like Myanmar or Indonesia.

We feel we are on the right track, but that the coming months will be crucial to make further headway. We count on your active engagement with this process to make the Movement an even stronger and more relevant humanitarian network.

We wish you all the best for the year 2017 and send you our kind regards,



Balthasar Staehelin



Garry Conille