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THE ICRC AND THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is made up of the National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Although each of the Movement's components engages in different activities, they are all united by the same Fundamental Principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

As its founding institution, the ICRC has certain statutory responsibilities towards the Movement. In particular, it is responsible for ensuring respect for and promoting knowledge of the Fundamental Principles, recognizing new National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies which meet the current conditions for recognition, and discharging the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC takes an active part in the Movement's statutory meetings, which it often organizes jointly with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In accomplishing these tasks the ICRC maintains close relations with the National Societies, cooperating with them in areas of mutual interest such as preparedness for situations of armed conflict, respect for, development and ratification of the Geneva Conventions, and dissemination of the Fundamental Principles. The ICRC also assumes the general management and coordination of international relief operations conducted by the Red Cross and Red Crescent in situations of armed conflict.