



Croce Rossa Italiana
Organizzazione di Volontariato

BY-LAWS

ITALIAN RED CROSS ASSOCIATION - VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION



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che aiuta**

Italian Red Cross Association - ODV
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Registered office: Via Bernardino Ramazzini, 31 - 00151 Rome, Italy
TAX CODE/VAT 13669721006



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CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

- 1.1. The Italian Red Cross, founded on 15 June 1864 and originally established as a moral body by Royal Decree No. 1243 of 7 February 1884, is a non-profit association based on the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the subsequent Additional Protocols to which the Italian Republic is a signatory.
- 1.2. The principles of international humanitarian law are always respected by the Italian Red Cross and guide its work.
- 1.3. The Italian Red Cross respects and acts in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (hereinafter referred to as "the Movement"), adopted by the 20th International Red Cross Conference and reaffirmed by the 25th International Red Cross Conference, as set out below:
 - a. Humanity: The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of the desire to help the wounded on the battlefield without discrimination, strives to prevent and alleviate human suffering everywhere, both internationally and nationally. Its aim is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for human beings. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace among peoples;
 - b. Impartiality: the Movement makes no distinction of nationality, race, religious belief, class or political opinion. It devotes itself exclusively to alleviating the suffering of individuals, guided only by their needs and giving priority to the most urgent cases;
 - c. Neutrality: in order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement does not take sides in any conflict, nor does it take part in political, racial, religious or ideological disputes;
 - d. Independence: the Movement is independent. The National Societies, as auxiliaries in the humanitarian activities of their government and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must nevertheless maintain an autonomy that allows them to act at all times in accordance with the principles of the Movement;
 - e. Voluntarism: The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is a voluntary relief movement, not motivated by profit;
 - f. Unity: there can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any country. It must be open to all and extend its humanitarian activities throughout the country;
 - g. Universality: The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all National Societies have equal status and share the same responsibilities and mutual obligations, is universal.

2. LEGAL STATUS

- 2.1. The Italian Red Cross is officially recognised by the Italian Republic, through Legislative Decree No. 178 of 28 September 2012, as a voluntary relief and assistance society, assisting the public authorities in the humanitarian field, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and subsequent Additional Protocols, and as the only National Red Cross Society authorised to carry out its activities on Italian territory.

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- 2.2. The Italian Red Cross shall enjoy such autonomy in relation to the public authorities as will enable it to fulfil its mission and to act in all circumstances in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement (hereinafter referred to as "Fundamental Principles").
- 2.3. The public authorities shall respect the Italian Red Cross' compliance with the Fundamental Principles in all circumstances.
- 2.4. The Italian Red Cross is a legal entity under private law pursuant to Book One, Title II, Chapter II of the Civil Code and is automatically registered in the voluntary organisations section of the Single National Register of the Third Sector. It is subject to the Third Sector Code as set out in Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017, unless otherwise provided for in the Legislative Decree of 28 September 2012. This is without prejudice to the provisions of legislative decree No. 66 of 15 March 2010 and Presidential Decree No. 90 of 15 March 2010 governing the performance of the tasks of the ItRC' Auxiliary Corps of the Italian Armed Forces (in short: "Auxiliary Corps").
- 2.5. The Italian Red Cross is an association of public interest, established for an indefinite period of time, headquartered in Rome.
- 2.6. The Italian Red Cross operates under the high Patronage of the President of the Republic.
- 2.7. The Italian Red Cross Association also meets the organisational and structural requirements of Article 41 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017, and is therefore also a National Association Network.
- 2.8. Pursuant to article 32, paragraph 3, of Legislative Decree 117/2017, the Italian Red Cross adopts the official name "Italian Red Cross Association - Volunteer Organisation", abbreviated as "Italian Red Cross - ODV".

3. RELATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MOVEMENT

- 3.1. The Italian Red Cross is part of the Movement. The International Committee of the Red Cross recognised its foundation in 1864.
- 3.2. The Italian Red Cross is a founding member of the League of Red Cross Societies, established in 1919 and later renamed League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and then the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (in short: "International Federation"), of which the Association is currently a member.
- 3.3. The Italian Red Cross fulfils the conditions set out in article 4 of the Movement's By-laws and regulates its relations with the other members of the Movement in accordance with article 3 of the same By-laws.
- 3.4. The Italian Red Cross is bound by the obligations set forth in article 5 of the Constitution of the International Federation.

4. EMBLEM

- 4.1. Among the emblems provided for in the Geneva Conventions and subsequent Additional Protocols, the Italian Red Cross adopts the red cross on a white background.
- 4.2. This emblem is placed within two concentric red circles, between which the words "Geneva Convention of 22 August 1864" are placed, and is always combined with the full words "Italian Red Cross", which constitutes its identifying logo.
- 4.3. The Italian Red Cross is the only association authorised to use the emblem provided for and recognised by the Geneva Conventions, the subsequent Additional Protocols, the

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By-laws, and the resolutions and decisions of the Movement's bodies, within the national territory and irrespective of the uses envisaged for the protection of health services.

- 4.4. The National Governing Council of the Italian Red Cross approves the regulations for the use of the emblem, drawn up in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, the Additional Protocols, the laws in force and the Regulations on the Use of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Emblem by National Societies, approved by the 20th International Red Cross Conference (Vienna, 1965) and amended by the Council of Delegates (Budapest, November 1991), the provisions of which are binding on the entire National Society.
- 4.5. The Italian Red Cross undertakes to protect the emblem and identifying logo and to communicate their meaning. Any illegal use of the Red Cross name and emblem shall be subject to the penalties provided for by law, to internal resolutions and to regulations applicable to the entire Movement.

5. CELEBRATIONS

- 5.1. The Italian Red Cross celebrates every year:
 - a. on 8 May, World Red Cross Day;
 - b. on 15 June, the anniversary of its foundation.
- 5.2. Every year, the Italian Red Cross celebrates the memory of the birth of the idea of the Red Cross with the traditional torchlight procession from Solferino to Castiglione delle Stiviere.



CHAPTER 2 - GENERAL OBJECTIVES AND SPECIFIC TASKS

6. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- 6.1. The main objective of the Italian Red Cross is to prevent and alleviate suffering impartially, without distinction of nationality, race, gender, religious belief, language, social class or political opinion, contributing to the preservation and promotion of human dignity and a culture of non-violence and peace.
- 6.2. To achieve this, the Italian Red Cross aims in particular to:
- a. intervene in the event of armed conflict and, in peacetime, to prepare to intervene in all the fields provided for by the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols and in favour of all victims of war or serious international crises, whether civilian or military;
 - b. protect health, prevent disease and alleviate suffering;
 - c. train the population in the prevention of damage caused by disasters of any kind, by providing the necessary activities for this purpose, in the ways and forms established by law and by national or local programmes;
 - d. protect and rescue people involved in accidents or affected by disasters, calamities, social conflicts, diseases, epidemics or other situations of collective danger;
 - e. operate in the field of personal services, i.e. in activities that aim to provide individuals and families with an integrated system of interventions, to promote actions to guarantee the quality of life, equal opportunities, non-discrimination and citizenship rights, to prevent, eliminate or reduce conditions of individual and family need arising from inadequate income, social difficulties, conditions of non-autonomy;
 - f. promote and collaborate in solidarity, development cooperation and social welfare actions in general and in welfare or social services, with a particular focus on groups or individuals with difficulties in social integration;
 - g. promote the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and those of international humanitarian law in order to spread humanitarian ideals among the population;
 - h. promote the participation of children and young people in Red Cross activities;
 - i. hire, train and assign the personnel necessary to fulfil their responsibilities;
 - j. cooperate with public authorities to ensure compliance with international humanitarian law and protect the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems.
- 6.3. The activities of the Italian Red Cross are inspired by the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values of the Movement and bases them on an analysis of the needs and vulnerabilities of the communities the Association serves on a daily basis.
- 6.4. The work of the Italian Red Cross is periodically reviewed and adapted on the basis of local needs, local, national and international vulnerabilities, and changes in strategy by the bodies of the Movement.
- 6.5. The actions of the Italian Red Cross are at any rate transparent in relations with third parties, respectful of national laws, the Geneva Conventions and the subsequent Additional Protocols as well as the decisions of the statutory bodies of the Movement, in particular the resolutions of the International Conference of the Movement and the decisions of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors of the International Federation.
- 6.6. Regulations govern the organisation of bands, fanfares and sports groups of the Italian Red Cross.



7. PUBLIC INTEREST TASKS

- 7.1. The Italian Red Cross, pursuant to Article 1, paragraph 4 of Legislative Decree No. 178 of 28 September 2012, is authorised to carry out the following activities in the public interest:
- a. organising a volunteer network that is always active to ensure the Italian State's application of the Geneva Conventions, of the subsequent Additional Protocols and international resolutions, as well as supporting activities included in the national civil protection service;
 - b. organising and carrying out, in peacetime and in accordance with the provisions of the applicable international conventions and resolutions, social assistance and medical relief services in favour of populations, including foreign populations, during disasters and emergency situations of local, regional, national and international importance;
 - c. carrying out humanitarian activities at centres for the identification and deportation of foreign immigrants, as well as managing these centres and those for the reception of immigrants and in particular asylum seekers;
 - d. in times of armed conflict, carrying out the search and assistance service for prisoners of war, internees, missing persons, refugees and deportees and, in times of peace, the search service for missing persons in support of the police;
 - e. carrying out auxiliary work for the public authorities, in Italy and abroad, after consulting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Ministry of Defence in the case of auxiliary employment of the Armed Forces, in accordance with the rules determined by the Movement;
 - f. acting as the operational division of the national civil protection service pursuant to Article 11 of Law No. 225 of 24 February 1992;
 - g. promoting and disseminating health education, a mindset of civil protection and personal care in compliance with the regulations in force;
 - h. implementing development cooperation activities in foreign countries, in agreement and in liaison with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the offices of the Minister for International Cooperation and Integration;
 - i. collaborating with Movement members in activities to support foreign populations who are in a condition of significant vulnerability;
 - j. carrying out advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy as understood by the conventions and resolutions of the international Red Cross bodies;
 - k. carrying out activities with and for the youngest, also through educational activities at schools of all levels;
 - l. disseminating and promoting the principles and institutions of international humanitarian law as well as the humanitarian principles that inspire the Movement;
 - m. fostering a mindset of voluntary blood, organ, and tissue donation among the population; organising donation drives and coordinating voluntary donors in compliance with current legislation and statutory provisions;
 - n. carrying out training activities for non-medical personnel and civilian personnel in the use of life-saving devices in non-hospital settings and issuing the relevant certificates of suitability for use, pursuant to Article 1, paragraph 2-bis, of Law No. 120 of 3 April 2001, as amended, within the framework of regional planning and in compliance with the provisions issued by regional governments;
 - o. carrying out professional, social, healthcare and socio-healthcare training activities, also in favour of the other components and operational divisions of the National Civil Protection Service, within the framework of regional planning and in compliance

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- with the provisions issued by the regional governments.
- 7.2. The Italian Red Cross may enter into agreements with public administrations, participate in tenders organised by public administrations, and sign the relevant contracts for the performance of healthcare and socio-healthcare activities, including first aid and transport of the sick for the National Health Service, special relief, and psycho-social services.
- 7.3. In order to carry out its social activities and personal care services, the Italian Red Cross may enter into agreements with public administrations, participate in tenders organised by public administrations and sign the relevant contracts.
- 7.4. The Italian Red Cross may also carry out training, qualification and professional upgrading activities addressed to its own operators and to the public - in particular to students, teachers and school operators, as well as to other categories or professional orders or public or private bodies - aimed at promoting and disseminating the culture and practice of volunteering, education to active citizenship and legality, school and social inclusion, sustainable development, intercultural dialogue, peace and international solidarity, as well as other activities of public interest as referred to in Article 1, paragraph 4 of Legislative Decree No. 178/2012. The Italian Red Cross also provides training in continuing medical education.
- 7.5. As provided for in Legislative Decree No. 178 of 28 September 2012, for the performance of the activities referred to in this Article, the public administrations referred to in Article 1, paragraph 2, of Legislative Decree No. 165 of 30 March 2001 shall enter into agreements with the Association as a matter of priority.
- 7.5-bis As provided for in Article 56 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017, in order to carry out social activities or services of general interest in favour of third parties, the public administrations referred to in Article 1(2) of Legislative Decree No. 165 of 30 March 2001 may enter into agreements with the Association or Committees as voluntary organisations.
- 7.5-ter As provided for in Article 57 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017, the public administrations referred to in Article 1(2) of Legislative Decree 30 March 2001, No. 165 may entrust emergency and urgent medical transport services to the Association or Committees as voluntary organisations by way of agreement.
- 7.6. The Italian Red Cross and the local bodies referred to in Article 20 below may use funds for voluntary activities, including those deriving from the donation of 0.5% of income tax ("5 per mille") under current legislation, as well as for local civil protection.
- 7.7. The Italian Red Cross is also authorised to present projects and compete for funding under the current provisions on international cooperation.
- 8. AUXILIARY ACTIVITIES FOR THE ARMED FORCES**
- 8.1. The Italian Red Cross, through the ItRC' Volunteer Military Corps and the ItRC' Volunteer Nurse Corps, and in compliance with the regulations in force, carries out auxiliary activities for the Armed Forces, in Italy and abroad, both in peacetime and in wartime.
- 8.2. The Italian Red Cross, in times of war, serious international crisis or armed conflict:
- contributes, in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, brought into force by Law No. 1739 of 27 October 1951, to the evacuation and care of the wounded and sick of war as well as victims of armed conflict and to the performance of health and welfare tasks connected with civil defence activities;
 - cooperates with the Armed Forces in the provision of health and social welfare



services, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and subsequent Additional Protocols;

c. carries out search and rescue services for prisoners of war, internees and missing persons.

8.3. The activation and deployment of the Italian Red Cross in times of war, serious international crisis or armed conflict are carried out in accordance with and for the purposes of the law in force and may not compromise the integrity of the Italian Red Cross or conflict with the rules laid out by the Movement.

8.4. In order to perform the ItRC' auxiliary services for the Armed Forces, Mobilisation Centres are set up, reporting to the National President of the Italian Red Cross, who may delegate the relevant functions to the National Inspectors for their respective Corps and, moreover, determines their location and territorial competence, corresponding to the territorial organisation of the Italian Army.

8.5. The organisation and operation of the services of the Italian Red Cross that are auxiliary to the Armed Forces are subsidised by the State.

9. AGREEMENTS, OBLIGATIONS, GENERAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

9.1. The Italian Red Cross may enter into agreements with other organisations, entities, associations or bodies as well as with public authorities for the implementation of specific projects that comply with the Fundamental Principles and the aims of the Association.

9.2. These agreements are only in writing and may in no way bind and/or force the Italian Red Cross to act against the Fundamental Principles or impair its complete independence and autonomy.

9.3. Obligations undertaken and agreements entered into by the Committees of the Italian Red Cross at all levels under Article 20, in compliance with the preceding paragraphs, only bind the Committee and not the whole Association, consistent with their mutual and distinct patrimonial autonomy.

9.3-bis The Italian Red Cross and the territorial bodies referred to in article 20 below carry out, mainly and predominantly in favour of third parties, for the non-profit pursuit of civic, solidarity and socially useful purposes, mainly by relying on the voluntary work of its members or persons belonging to the associated bodies, in addition to the activities in the public interest referred to in art. 1, paragraph 4, of Legislative Decree No 178 of 28 September 2012, indicated in Article 7 above, also the additional public interest activities referred to in letters a), b), c), d), e), f), h), i), k), l), n), p), q), r), u), v), w), y) and z) of Article 5 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017.

9.3-ter The Italian Red Cross provides training activities not only in the field of continuing medical education, but also in subjects consistent with its institutional functions and is authorised to present projects and to compete for national and supranational funding provided for by the current provisions on research and technological innovation.

9.3-quater Within the framework of the activities referred to in the preceding paragraphs, the Italian Red Cross may carry out research and technological innovation activities for the purpose of improving individual and community well-being either directly or by collaborating with universities and other entities; it may also promote the establishment of scientific research and care institutes.

9.3-quinques The Italian Red Cross may also carry out activities to combat male and gender-based violence to support and protect women who have suffered or are suffering violence and their children, as well as empowerment initiatives.

9.4. The Italian Red Cross and the local bodies referred to in Article 20 below may, pursuant

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to Article 6 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017, carry out activities other than those of general interest referred to in the preceding paragraph and those of public interest referred to in Article 7 of the By-laws, which are secondary and instrumental with respect to the latter, in accordance with criteria and limits laid out in the Ministerial Decree referred to in the same Article 6. Their identification will then be made by the National Governing Council, after hearing the opinion of the National Consultative Council.

- 9.5. The Italian Red Cross may also, as an instrumental activity for the performance of its institutional tasks, produce and organize holidays and travels by land, sea, and air, making use of fully or partially computerised systems; conduct intermediation activities through the sale of transport tickets, holidays, travels, and cruises, in compliance with the provisions of the laws in force.



CHAPTER 3 - MEMBERS

10. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ITALIAN RED CROSS

- 10.1. Everyone, without distinction, can join the Italian Red Cross.
- 10.2. Adherence to the Fundamental Principles is a condition for membership of the Italian Red Cross.

11. MEMBERS

- 11.1. Through a system of representation, the members of the Italian Red Cross determine its policy, strategy, objectives and governing bodies. Through its members, the Italian Red Cross identifies needs and provides assistance in an impartial manner.
- 11.2. *Repealed.*
- 11.3. On joining the Italian Red Cross, all members formally subscribe to the Fundamental Principles and sign the code of ethics.
- 11.4. The Members of the Italian Red Cross, hereinafter also referred to as 'Voluntary Members', are natural persons who regularly and continuously carry out voluntary work for the Italian Red Cross and elect its statutory bodies. They become members of the Association following attendance of a training course organised locally in compliance with national legislation, which also establishes the amount of the annual membership fee; they are considered volunteers by right within the meaning and effect of Articles 17 and 18 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017. Regulations approved by the National Governing Council govern the organisation, activities, training and ordering of volunteers.
- 11.5. *Repealed.*
- 11.6. *Repealed.*
- 11.7. *Repealed.*
- 11.8. The Italian Red Cross Association has a digital register of members. The register of members is subdivided for each CRI committee and the relevant President is responsible under current regulations for keeping it up to date. The territorially competent Regional or Autonomous Province Committee is responsible for verification, monitoring and control functions. The register is pursuant to Art. 17, paragraph 1 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017. For the upkeep of the register, including the minimum contents and methods of uploading data and information, the requirements of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017 and the implementing legislation are observed.
- 11.9. The register of members of the Committees of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano is to be understood as comprising all the members of the relevant ItRC' Committees, also including the register of volunteers referred to in Article 17, paragraph 1 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017.

11-bis REGISTER OF SUPPORTERS AND BENEFACTORS

- 11-bis.1 The National Committee has established the Register of Supporters and the Register of Benefactors of the Italian Red Cross. The first Register consists of the sections 'natural persons', 'legal persons' and 'municipalities and educational institutions'; the second Register consists of the sections 'natural persons' and 'legal persons'.
- 11-bis.2 Supporters are natural or legal persons who make a financial contribution to support the association's activities; they are entered in the relevant Register upon payment of the contribution established at national level. Municipalities and educational institutions may be registered in the appropriate section of the Register if they sign memoranda of



- understanding, agreements or, more generally, enter into cooperation agreements with the Committees to pursue the statutory purposes of the Association.
- 11-bis.3 Benefactors are natural or legal persons who distinguish themselves through significant donations repeated over time or through large one-off donations that make a decisive contribution to support the Association.
- 11-bis.4 The Committees are authorised to enter Supporters of the Italian Red Cross in the appropriate Register, while the National Governing Council has the authority to designate and enter Supporters and Benefactors of the Italian Red Cross in the appropriate Registers. Special regulations, approved by the National Governing Council, govern the modalities of registration and operation of the Registers.
- 11-bis.5 The recording of donors in the registers does not imply any type of social right or duty, nor any type of management or representative power, as they are merely an honorary title of a non-compulsory nature.

12. VOLUNTARY AUXILIARY BODIES OF THE ARMED FORCES

- 12.1. Members of the following voluntary organisations of the Italian Red Cross that act as auxiliaries of the Armed Forces are considered as members of the Italian Red Cross by right, in accordance with Article 11 above, provided they have attended a training course organised locally in accordance with national regulations and are up to date with the payment of membership fees:
- ItRC' Voluntary Military Corps;
 - ItRC' Voluntary Nurse Corps
- 12.2. The Auxiliary Corps report directly to the National President of the Italian Red Cross. They are subject to the provisions of Legislative Decree No. 66 of 15 March 2010, and Presidential Decree No. 90 of 15 March 2010, as in force, as well as, for matters not covered by law, the provisions of the previous Article 11.3.
- 12.3. The representatives of the ItRC' Voluntary Military Corps and the Inspectors of the Voluntary Nurse Corps are obliged to conduct their relations with the President of the corresponding territorial level with loyal cooperation and to provide prior information on all activities. The Presidents of each territorial level are obliged to respect the prerogatives of the Auxiliary Corps, in accordance with the legal provisions in force. Without prejudice to what is specifically provided for by the law, the representatives of the ItRC' Voluntary Military Corps and the ItRC' Inspectors of the Voluntary Nurse Corps must follow the directives of the ItRC' Committee to which they belong, agreeing with their respective President on the way the Corps' resources should be used in all activities that are not auxiliary to the Armed Forces. They are required to provide the President with regular reports on their activities and staff.
- 12.4. At all territorial levels, the representatives of the ItRC' Military Volunteer Corps and the Inspectors of the Voluntary Nurse Corps, where established, are required to take part in the work of the Governing Councils in accordance with the procedures set out in Articles 273 and 993 of Presidential Decree No. 90 of 15 March 2010.
- 12.5. The National Inspector of the ItRC' Voluntary Military Corps is chosen from among the serving colonels from the same Corps and is appointed, with the simultaneous conferment of the rank of Major General, by decree of the President of the Republic, at the proposal of the Minister of Defence, upon designation by the National President of the Italian Red Cross.
- 12.6. The National Inspector of the ItRC' Voluntary Nurse Corps is appointed by decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, at the proposal of the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Health, from a shortlist of three names indicated by the National



President of the Italian Red Cross. The Inspector is chosen from among the voluntary nurses who meet the requirements of specific technical training and leadership skills. She holds office for four years and can be confirmed no more than once consecutively. The National President identifies the shortlist of three names by a reasoned decision, taking into account both the indications of the Deputy National Inspectors and the Secretary General of the Inspectorate and any other element that can be useful for the identification and evaluation of the candidates.

- 12.7. In accordance with Article 97 of Legislative Decree No. 66 of 15 March 2010, the Auxiliary Corps celebrate the anniversary of the granting of the national flag on 25 June.

13. YOUTH OF THE ITALIAN RED CROSS

- 13.1. The Italian Red Cross recognises the role of young voluntary members aged between fourteen and thirty-one, as agents of change, innovators, intercultural ambassadors, peer facilitators, community mobilisers and advocates for the vulnerable.
- 13.2. The Italian Red Cross recognises that young people are not only the future but also the present of the Association. They are actively involved in building and supporting communities grounded in respect and solidarity. To this end, the Italian Red Cross:
- a. recognises the need to attract and involve, through peer-to-peer discussion, an increasing number of young people;
 - b. undertakes to promote the development of young people through training, both within and outside the Association, to provide young volunteers with appropriate tools and to enable them to play an active role in planning, leading and participating both in voluntary activities and in the governance of the Association. The National Committee allocates a special fund for this purpose;
 - c. ensures the self-determination of young people in choosing the strategy of the Italian Red Cross as concerns the young, as well as in the democratic and participative choice of their representatives on the Governing Councils. To this end, the National Governing Council, upon the proposal of the Youth of the Italian Red Cross, approves a document outlining the strategy, ideas, actions and training peculiarities of the young, as well as a regulation governing the representative bodies of the young at all levels and the respective Consultative Councils, as places for dialogue, gathering and definition of initiatives with and for the young.
- 13.3. The recommendations of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies constituting the "Youth Policy" shall apply immediately to the Youth of the Italian Red Cross.
- 13.4. The Youth of the Italian Red Cross carry out activities, including dialogue activities, together with the Youth of the other National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and are an active part of the supranational networks of the Youth of the International Movement.
- 13.5. The Youth of the Italian Red Cross, in compliance with the principle of Neutrality, take part in the National Youth Council, of which they are members, as well as in the coordinating bodies and youth representation platforms at national and local level.
- 13.6. Youth action is fully integrated within the ItRC' Committees. At each level, activities for the promotion and development of youth and active citizenship are approved by the Governing Councils of the ItRC' Committees and are part of their planning activities.

14. MEMBERS' RIGHTS

- 14.1. Each Member of the Italian Red Cross in the performance of his/her duties is entitled to:

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- a. be identified as a Member of the Italian Red Cross. For this purpose, he/she receives a special badge, the shape of which is determined by the National Governing Council;
 - b. be governed by clear, understandable and readily available rules;
 - c. express his/her thoughts in all circumstances by means of written or verbal communications while respecting the organisation's hierarchy.
- 14.2. Voluntary Members are also entitled to:
- a. use suitable premises as well as means and materials made available by the Association;
 - b. if on duty, wear suitable uniforms, the design of which, together with that of the badges, is governed by a provision of the National Governing Council, without prejudice to legal provisions concerning Auxiliary Corps;
 - c. obtain an advance or reimbursement of expenses, in relation to missions approved in advance by their Committee, as well as to obtain reimbursement of meal expenses incurred during working hours and documented, in accordance with the law and regulations in force;
 - d. move to another Committee with automatic recognition of seniority, titles, and qualifications, subject to the formalities provided for in the regulations referred to in Article 11.4 above. This is without prejudice to the rules laid down by law for the Auxiliary Corps;
 - e. an insurance policy covering civil liability towards third parties and the risks of illness and accidents incurred during service for the Association, as well as - if the ItRC' Committee Assembly so resolves - an insurance policy covering civil liability, property damage and legal protection in relation to activities performed as President or member of the Governing Council;
 - f. a periodical health check, depending on the activities performed, by and at the expense of the Committee to which they belong, in accordance with the provisions of a specific regulation approved by the National Governing Council, in compliance with current legislation;
 - g. be trained and prepared in relation to the activities they perform and to take part in training events organised at all levels, in order to ensure professionalism in any type of service rendered internally and externally. Every ItRC' volunteer has the right to take part in the training and specialisation courses organised, on the basis of his/her commitment to the activity and willingness to follow the initiatives and projects that are active in his/her ItRC' Committee, as well as in accordance with his/her personal inclinations. The ItRC' Committees are obliged to take the necessary steps to ensure the exercise of this right;
 - h. be periodically informed of the progress of the activities and initiatives undertaken, as well as to examine the organisation's financial records in the manner detailed by specific regulations;
 - i. participate, by personal, free, equal and secret vote in the election of the members of the statutory bodies of the Association.
- 14.3. Volunteer members:
- a. are eligible to vote if they have been registered for at least three months and have paid their annual membership fee;
 - b. are eligible to stand as candidates if they have been registered for at least three months, are of legal age and have paid their annual membership fee.
- 14.4. Members of the ITRC' Voluntary Military Corps acquire active and passive electoral rights in accordance with the previous paragraph and only if they perform regular,



continuous and unpaid service; the latter requirement is certified by the competent Mobilisation Centre. In no case are employees belonging to the Military Corps eligible to stand as candidates.

- 14.5. Voluntary ItRC' nurses acquire active and passive electoral rights when they obtain matriculation, provided they have paid their annual membership fee.
- 14.6. The receipt of remuneration for any reason from the Italian Red Cross entails the suspension of electoral rights for the entire duration of the paid relationship.
- 14.7. Any election to an office of a Member who does not meet the requirements shall be considered null and void.

15. TRAINING

- 15.1. The action of ItRC' members implies training aimed at ensuring professionalism in any type of service rendered internally and externally. Training is instrumental to the qualitative growth of the service rendered, the personal growth of the Volunteer and the development of the Association.
- 15.2. The Italian Red Cross organises training and specialization courses on its activities, characterized by quality, professionalism, and alignment with the initiatives and projects organised at various levels. To this end, it may establish regional or interregional training centres or centres in the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano, connecting them in a network with the National School. The relevant regulations are approved by the ItRC' National Governing Council.

16. MEMBERS' DUTIES

- 16.1. Each Member of the Italian Red Cross must behave correctly and in a manner befitting the Association to which he/she belongs. In particular, each member is required to:
 - a. observe the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, respect their emblems and prevent their abuse;
 - b. abide by the By-laws, the code of ethics, the regulations and other applicable rules loyally and diligently;
 - c. behave in a serious and committed manner, in compliance with the provisions issued by the Association's central and local governing bodies;
 - d. not involve the Italian Red Cross in propaganda activities promoted or organised by political movements or associations with a clear political inspiration;
 - e. follow the organisational hierarchy as determined by the By-laws and Regulations at all times, both within the Italian Red Cross and in external contacts;
 - f. behave responsibly at all levels and in the use of all external communication tools, taking care to specify that one's opinions do not involve the entire Association, protect the confidentiality of all those to whom the activities are addressed, avoid associating the uniform and emblem with political, religious or philosophical discussions
 - g. pay the annual membership fee by the established deadlines, with the exception of Members employed by their Committee as universal community service volunteers, pursuant to Legislative Decree No. 40 of 6 March 2017, for whom the deadline for payment of the membership fee is deferred until the thirtieth day following the end of their service.
- 16.2. Voluntary members are also required to:
 - a. exercise courtesy, understanding, firmness and honesty in relations with third parties, as well as acting with impartiality and respect towards all recipients of the activity;



- b. observe strict confidentiality about what they hear, see or do while on duty;
 - c. respect and properly use the symbols, uniforms, equipment and any other material belonging to the Italian Red Cross;
 - d. not be or become members of associations whose aims are in conflict with the principles of the International Movement and/or whose activities directly compete with those of the Italian Red Cross. Instances of incompatibility are listed in the Code of Ethics;
 - e. actively participate in Assembly meetings and meetings of statutory bodies.
- 16.3. If a voluntary Member is appointed to representative and coordinating roles in the Association, he/she is also required to:
- a. ensure the transparency of decisions, send out circulars and notes on new activities, make it easy to access current regulations and ensure maximum publicity for the related innovations;
 - b. take an active part in the organisation for the planned duration;
 - c. explore the nature and function of the Association's body in which he/she operates;
 - d. adequately prepare for the discussion of items on the meetings' agenda, also by gathering opinions and advice from other Members;
 - e. refrain from deciding on matters in which he/she is involved;
 - f. ensure that accurate minutes of meetings are kept;
 - g. at the end of his/her term of service, guarantee that his/her successor receives comprehensive information and documentation, in order to facilitate continuity and effectiveness.
- 16.4. Breach of duties is punishable as provided for in the following articles.

17. LOSS OF MEMBER STATUS

- 17.1. Any member may resign in writing at any time.
- 17.2. Voluntary members lapse:
- a. in the event of non-payment of the annual membership fee by the mandatory deadlines set by the National Governing Council, without prejudice to the provisions for universal community service volunteers referred to in Article 16 paragraph 1, letter g);
 - b. in the event of inactivity, as governed by the national regulations referred to in Article 11.4 above.
- 17.3. Supporting Members' membership expires after twelve months, unless renewed.
- 17.4. Member status is also lost in the event of expulsion.

18. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

- 18.1. Depending on the seriousness of the offences and/or transgressions committed while on duty, the disciplinary measures of reprimand, written warning, temporary suspension for a maximum period of six months and expulsion may be applied to Members. This is without prejudice to the legal provisions on disciplinary matters in force for the Auxiliary Corps.
- 18.2. Disciplinary measures are imposed after notification of the conduct to the person concerned, who must be made aware of:
- a. the subject matter of the ongoing proceedings and the facts alleged;
 - b. the office and person responsible for the proceedings;
 - c. the date by which the proceedings must be concluded;
 - d. the office where he/she may view the related documents;
 - e. the time limit within which he/she may submit his/her counter-arguments and be

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heard in person.

- 18.3. Disciplinary power is devolved to a collegiate body that operates according to the principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence.
- 18.4. A special regulation, approved by the National Assembly, defines the prerequisites and modalities of application of the provisions of the previous paragraph, also with reference to cases of repeated and unjustified absence from meetings of the association's bodies.

19. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 19.1. The Italian Red Cross honours those who distinguish themselves in voluntary work or in supporting, collaborating, defending, disseminating and fulfilling the principles and objectives of the Red Cross.
- 19.2. Awards include honours for merit, meritorious awards and seniority of service crosses.
- 19.3. A regulation adopted by the National Governing Council governs the manner in which the awards are conferred.



CHAPTER 4 - ORGANISATION

20. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 20.1. The organisation of the Italian Red Cross is based on the principles of subsidiarity, democracy and on the election of individuals to association positions, the distinction between policy-making and oversight functions, and the operational autonomy of territorial bodies, as well as the criteria of effectiveness, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness.
- 20.2. The organisational structure must facilitate the Members in the pursuit of the statutory objectives of the Association.
- 20.3. The Italian Red Cross is structured into the following territorial bodies:
 - a. a local organisation divided into committees with autonomous legal personality;
 - b. a regional organisation divided into Regional Committees and the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano, which coordinates and controls by means of specific powers the activities of the Committees operating in each region, while respecting the autonomy of each Committee;
 - c. a national organisation, which sets the strategy of the Association and approves the general regulations, denominated National Committee.
- 20.4. The functioning of the bodies of the Italian Red Cross Committees at all levels is governed by specific regulations, which set out the procedures for exercising their functions. Pursuant to Article 24, paragraph 4 of Legislative Decree No. 117/2017, the meetings or sessions of these bodies may also be held by videoconference, in accordance with the procedures and requirements laid out in the regulatory text.

21. COMMITTEES

- 21.1. The Committees of the Italian Red Cross are the core of the Association and enable the Association to extend its statutory activities throughout the country. They pursue the aims of the Italian Red Cross as a membership base and in accordance with the Principle of Unity, in accordance with the provisions of the law and these By-laws and in compliance with the directives and under the coordination and supervision of the Regional Committees.
- 21.2. The Committees are composed of Italian Red Cross members.
- 21.3. The Committees are established in a homogeneous area, which normally coincides with that of a municipality, or one or more municipalities of a metropolitan area or several small municipalities and united by associative, geographical or historical ties. The needs and resources of each area as well as the political organisation of the state are taken into account when setting up the committees. Committees are named after the area in which they are established.
- 21.4. The Committees are autonomous entities and are endowed with financial autonomy as they obtain the economic resources they need to perform their activities from the revenue provided for in Article 33 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017 as well as from any other revenue provided for by law.
- 21.5. The Committees are registered under the 'voluntary organisations' section of the single national register of the Third Sector and are subject to the Third Sector Code as per Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017, unless otherwise specified in Legislative Decree No. 178 of 28 September 2012.
- 21.6. The association's name must contain the indication 'voluntary organisation' or the acronym 'ODV'.
- 21.7. The Committees operate with their own bodies and with organisational, administrative,

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- financial and operational autonomy.
- 21.8. The Committees can manage the procurement of goods and services and approve local staffing requirements.
 - 21.9. The Committees are accountable to the Members and the Regional Committee and must draw up an annual balance sheet in compliance with the provisions of the Third Sector Code and approved within the deadline set by the relevant regulations.
 - 21.10. Committees are established by the National Governing Council, upon the proposal of the relevant Regional Committee, after consulting the territorially competent Committee, after verifying the existence of the requirements concerning the minimum number of members, the presence of adequate economic resources sufficient to guarantee the performance of activities. A set of Regulations approved by the National Governing Council govern the steps of the relevant procedure. Following the same procedure, if the necessary criteria are no longer met, the Committee will be dissolved, its Members transferred, its territory merged with one or more neighbouring Committees, and its assets devolved.
 - 21.11. The Regional Governing Council will propose that the Committee be placed under external administration in case of serious irregularities or if the Committee is unable to function, as well as if the Regional Council determines that the additional scenarios outlined in Article 38 apply. It can also propose, after a specific investigation, that a Committee be placed under external administration if the annual balance sheet shows losses. If the conditions are met, the Regional Committee may propose the dissolution of a committee by means of a reasoned resolution.
 - 21.12. Committees may set up Italian Red Cross branches in the municipalities in their area. The local Italian Red Cross headquarters are the offices of the Committee that set them up.
 - 21.13. Pursuant to the Decree of the Minister of Health of 16 April 2014, the provisions of Law 720 of 29 October 1984 do not apply to the Committees, which have legal personality under private law.
 - 21.14. The Committees are governed by these By-laws and by standard By-laws approved by the National Governing Council of the Italian Red Cross. The standard By-laws must include:
 - a. a democratic structure and bodies as provided for in Articles 22, 23 and 24 below;
 - b. the non-profit nature of the services provided by members;
 - c. member rules: admission criteria, providing that members of the Committees be registered with the Italian Red Cross, exclusion criteria, as well as obligations and rights of members;
 - d. obligation of the Committees to support the association in the performance of public interest tasks, as provided for by law and by these By-laws;
 - e. the possibility for the National President to place Committees under external administration in the event of serious irregularities in accounting, reporting, contractual, personnel management or health management matters; failure to reimburse the National Committee, within the prescribed time limits, for the costs of the personnel used by the Committees or the sums advanced to the said Committees for any reason whatsoever; non-compliance with national directives in strategic matters or with reference to public interest functions; actions or behaviour in conflict with the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
 - f. the possible dissolution of the Committees in the event of impossibility of rehabilitation, reorganisation in the local area or reshuffling of activities, non-



- compliance with contractual and labour regulations;
- g. the obligation to draw up and approve the budget, the financial forecast and the financial statement to be sent to the National Committee via the Regional Committees and the Committees of the autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano with territorial jurisdiction;
 - h. the possibility of signing memoranda of understanding between the Committees and the National Committee and/or the Regional Committees aimed at carrying out institutional activities of the Italian Red Cross or specific projects and defining the possible remuneration;
 - i. the obligation to draft standard memoranda of understanding between the Committees and the National Committee and/or the Regional Committees aimed at defining the activities to be carried out in favour of the Auxiliary Corps for the fulfilment of public interest activities, including field mission activities and those concerning training;
 - j. the possibility for the committees to enter into agreements for the implementation of their tasks with public administrations, regions, provinces, local authorities and bodies of the National Health Service with territorial jurisdiction, as well as participation in public tenders and the signing of the relevant contracts;
 - k. the possibility for the National Committee and the Regional Committees and the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano to act as central purchasing office for all the Committees, upon their express request and subject to advance payment of the relevant financial resources;
 - l. the obligation of the Committees to appoint a Control Body when the conditions are met and in the manner set out in Article 30 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017.
- 21.15. Any subsequent proposals to amend or revise the Standard By-laws of the Committees are approved by resolution of the National Governing Council.

22. MEMBERS' ASSEMBLY

- 22.1. The Members' Assembly consists of all volunteer members registered with the Committee and entitled to vote.
- 22.2. The Members' Assembly:
- a. elects the President and the members of the Governing Council, and can challenge them;
 - b. approves the general guidelines for the development of the Committee's activities, consisting of the service charter, the plan of activities and consequent training initiatives, the financial forecast drawn up to achieve these objectives, as well as the annual activity report and the annual balance sheet;
 - c. appoints the auditor or the external auditing body of the Committee's budget and may dismiss them. The report of the auditor or the external auditing firm is forwarded to the Members' Assembly and the Governing Council, as well as to the Regional Governing Council;
 - d. appoints the supervisory body when the limits set out in Article 30, paragraph 2 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017 are exceeded, and may revoke it.
- 22.3. The Members' Assembly meets at least twice a year in ordinary session and extraordinarily whenever the Governing Council or one third of the volunteer Members so request. The President shall ensure that meetings are evenly spread over the calendar year. Meetings are convened by the President by means of a notice, containing the agenda, posted on the Committee's notice board at least fifteen days

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before the date set for the meeting. The extraordinary meeting must be held no later than 30 days after the request to convene it. The notice of summons is also sent to the President of the higher-level ItRC' Committee.

- 22.4. The Members' Meeting is chaired by the President and is validly constituted in first call with the presence of at least half plus one and, in second call, whatever the number of those present. In the absence of the President, the Meeting is chaired by the Vice President or, in his/her absence, by the most senior member of the Council.
- 22.5. The Members' Assembly adopts its decisions by a majority of those present at the meeting, except in cases where the By-laws provide for a different majority; members who abstain from voting are counted in the number necessary to make the meeting legal, but not in the number of voters.
- 22.6. Minutes of the meeting shall be drawn up and signed by the person chairing it and a secretary appointed for the purpose, and forwarded to the President of the higher-level ItRC' Committee within the following 15 days.

23. GOVERNING COUNCIL

- 23.1. The Governing Council consists of the President, who chairs it, a Vice President and three Council members.
- 23.2. The Governing Council is elected by the voluntary members of the Committee who have the right to vote. The election procedures are outlined in electoral regulations approved by the National Assembly, which may include electronic and remote conduct options in accordance with criteria and minimum requirements defined by relevant legislation. Elections shall be held within 30 days from the deadline for approval of the final balance sheet for the last financial year of the term of office, unless the Governing Council, for any reason, dissolves before its natural expiry date. In any case, the Council must include both genders and a representative of the Youth of the Italian Red Cross.
- 23.3. The Governing Council:
 - a. resolves on programmes and activity plans and indicates the Committee's priorities and strategic objectives, in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly;
 - b. prepares the service charter, the plan of activities and consequent training initiatives, the financial forecast drawn up to achieve these objectives, as well as the annual activity report and the annual balance sheet;
 - c. approves budget variations made to achieve the objectives approved by the General Assembly;
 - d. coordinates, also through delegates and project contact persons, the activities of the Committee and verifies their compliance with local needs and national and regional planning;
 - e. may co-opt up to two additional members from civil society selected on the basis of their exceptional merits and professional skills. Co-optation is by unanimous vote of the members of the Council. Co-opted individuals do not have voting rights, lapse with the Council that co-opted them and assume the status of Supporting Member. Individuals holding political office cannot be co-opted;
 - f. may appoint a Secretary of the Committee at the proposal and indication of the President, who shall be entrusted with management powers.
- 23.4. At its first meeting, the Governing Council appoints a Vice President from among its members and on the proposal of the President. The Vice President performs the President's functions in the event of the absence or impediment of the President.
- 23.5. The Governing Council remains in office for four years. Members may not be re-elected



more than once consecutively in the same role, except for those committees that are located in a municipal area with a population of 10,000 or less.

24. PRESIDENT

24.1. The President:

- a. represents the Italian Red Cross within the area of the Committee;
- b. represents all the members of the Committee;
- c. handles relations with local authorities and other external bodies and associations exclusively, unless he/she delegates other individuals to perform these duties;
- d. exercises legal representation functions and signs the fundamental documents of the Committee;
- e. may, in cases of necessity and urgency, adopt resolutions that fall within the competence of the Governing Council, provided they are ratified at the first subsequent meeting; in the event of non-ratification by the Governing Council, these resolutions shall lapse.

24.2. The President holds office for four years and can only be re-elected once consecutively. In any case, anyone who has held a top office in the Committee, whether elected or appointed, for more than eight consecutive years shall also be immediately ineligible for the role.

24.3. The President may be dismissed by the General Assembly of Members upon the request for inclusion on the agenda of at least one third of the members. The motion of no-confidence, which can only be brought forward once during the term of office, requires the approval of a two-thirds majority of the voting volunteer Members present at the meeting. It results in the removal of the President and the Governing Council, and triggers the immediate appointment of a Commissioner, who assumes the responsibilities of the President and the Governing Council.

25. AREAS WHERE THERE ARE LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

25.1. In municipalities where there are linguistic minorities protected by the Italian Constitution, international treaties and the laws of the Italian State, the Committees are entitled to use the current regulations and material, including promotional material, in bilingual mode.

25.2. When nominating candidates for local offices, every useful initiative shall be taken to ensure that all languages are represented.

25.3. The National Committee and the Regional Committees will ensure the necessary support.

26. REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEES OF THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCES OF TRENTO AND BOLZANO

26.1. The Regional Committees, the Committee of the Autonomous Province of Trento and the Committee of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano:

- a. perform tasks in matters that concern the Association and that are assigned to it by law and by these By-laws;
- b. monitor and coordinate the work of the Italian Red Cross within their respective areas;
- c. indicate strategies to direct the committees on the activities to be carried out in their areas;
- d. may organise activities and enter into agreements involving the entire region or autonomous province;
- e. establish regional training centres to pursue the purposes set out in Article 15 of

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- these By-laws;
- f. approve staffing requirements at a regional level only, in accordance with the current collective bargaining rules, and manage them;
 - g. may provide for the centralisation of procurement procedures for goods and services on a regional basis;
 - h. engage institutionally with regional authorities, bodies, and associations of regional significance.
- 26.2. According to Legislative Decree No. 178 of 28 September 2012, Regional Committees and those of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano are automatically registered in the voluntary organisations section. The provisions of the Third Sector Code outlined in Legislative Decree No. 117 26.2-*bis* of 3 July 2017 apply to them, unless otherwise specified in Legislative Decree No. 178 of 28 September 2012.
- 26.2-*bis* The name of the Regional Committees and of those of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano must include the indication "voluntary organisation" or the acronym "ODV".
- 26.3. The Regional Committees and those of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano are autonomous entities and are endowed with financial autonomy as they obtain the economic resources they need to perform their activities from the revenue provided for in Article 33 of Legislative Decree No.117 of 3 July 2017 as well as from any other revenue provided for by law.
- 26.4. The Regional Committees and those of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano operate with their own bodies and with organisational, administrative, financial and operational autonomy, in accordance with the law and with these By-laws. The Committees of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano, in consideration of their distinctive territorial, organisational, regulatory, and autonomy factors, apply the same criteria as the Local Committees to ensure compliance with the requirements stipulated in Legislative Decree No. 117/2017.
- 26.5. The Regional Committees and those of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano must account for their activities to the Association by drawing up an annual balance sheet in accordance with the provisions of the Third Sector Code within the time limit set out in the relevant regulations.
- 26.6. The revenues of the Regional Committees and of those of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano consist of:
- a. contributions and subsidies of any kind from the Regional governments and from any other public or private entity;
 - b. donations, legacies, public fundraisers;
 - c. fees originating from the activities of the Regional Committee;
 - d. contributions from the Committees and the National Committee made on the basis of specific regulations and only for services actually provided.
- 26.7. The following are bodies of the Regional Committees and of those of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano:
- a. the Regional Assembly;
 - b. the Regional Governing Council;
 - c. the Regional President;
 - d. the Control Body, if any, when the conditions are met and in the manner set out in Article 30 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017;
 - e. the statutory Auditor;
- 26.8. For the Regional Committees and those of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano that do not have legal personality, in the absence of legal and financial

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autonomy, the provisions concerning the obligation to draw up the financial forecast and the final balance sheet and the appointment of the auditor, as well as Articles 26.1, letters f) and g), 26.2, 26.2-bis, 26.3, 26.4, 26.5, 26.6 and 26.7, letters d) and e), do not apply.

- 26.9. If the conditions of Art. 26.8 apply, the Regional Committees and those of the Committees of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano operate with the bodies referred to in Art. 26.7 letter a), b) and c), which have decision-making autonomy within the framework of the directives issued by the National Committee.

27. THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

- 27.1. The Regional Assembly consists of the Regional President, who chairs it, the members of the Regional Governing Council and the Presidents of the Committees established in the region. It also includes as observers the representative of the ITRC' Volunteer Military Corps and the Regional Inspector of the Voluntary Nurse Corps operating in the region. In the event of their absence or of an impediment, the Presidents of the Committees may delegate the Vice President or, alternatively, a member of the Governing Council to act on their behalf.
- 27.2. The Regional Assembly:
- approves the general lines of development of the region's activities, consisting of the plan of activities and the resulting training initiatives, the budget drawn up for the achievement of these objectives, as well as the annual activity report and the annual balance sheet;
 - appoints the auditor or the external auditing body of the Committee's budget and the control body referred to in Article 26.7, letter d), and may dismiss them. The report of the auditor or of the external auditing firm is forwarded to the Assembly and the Regional Governing Council, as well as to the National Governing Council.
 - resolves on the responsibilities outlined in points d) and g) of Article 26.1 above.
- 27.3. The Regional Assembly meets at least twice a year in ordinary session and extraordinarily whenever the Governing Council or one third of the members request it. The meeting of the Assembly is convened by the President by means of a notice containing the agenda, posted on the notice board and published on the institutional website at least fifteen days before the date set for the meeting. The extraordinary meeting must be held no later than 30 days after the request to convene it. The notice of summons is also sent to the President of the National Committee.
- 27.4. The meeting of the Regional Assembly is chaired by the Regional President and is considered validly convened on first call with the presence of at least half plus one of the members. In second call, the meeting is considered valid regardless of the number of attendees. In the absence of the Regional President, the meeting is chaired by the Regional Vice President or, in his/her absence, by the other Regional Vice President or the Regional Councillor with the most seniority in the Association.
- 27.5. The Regional Assembly adopts its decisions by a majority of those present at the meeting, unless the By-laws provide for a different majority. Those entitled to vote who declare their abstention shall be counted in the quorum, but not among the voters.
- 27.6. Minutes of the meeting shall be drawn up and signed by the person chairing it and a secretary appointed for the purpose, and forwarded to the National President within the following 15 days.

28. REGIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL

- 28.1. The Regional Governing Council consists of the Regional President, who chairs it, two



Vice Presidents and two Council members.

- 28.2. The Regional Governing Council is elected by the Presidents of the Committees established in the region. If there are not at least five Committees in the area, the President and the members of the Council are elected by all voluntary members of the region with the right to vote. The election procedures are outlined in electoral regulations approved by the National Assembly, which may include electronic and remote conduct options in accordance with criteria and minimum requirements defined by relevant legislation. In any case, the Council must include both genders and at least one representative of the Youth of the Italian Red Cross, who acts as Vice President.
- 28.3. The Regional Governing Council:
- decides on regional programmes and activity plans and indicates regional priorities and strategic objectives in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Assembly;
 - prepares the plan of activities and the resulting training initiatives, the financial forecast drawn up to achieve these objectives, as well as the annual activity report and the annual balance sheet;
 - approves budget variations made to achieve the objectives approved by the Regional Assembly;
 - appoints and removes the Secretary of the Regional Committee, to whom it entrusts operational management tasks. The Regional Secretary is accountable for achieving the objectives entrusted to him/her by the Governing Council. A regulation establishes how the Secretary is to be employed. In any case, the Regional Secretary's term of office expires when the Governing Council that appointed him/her lapses.
 - coordinates regional activities, also through delegates and project contact persons, and verifies their compliance with regional requirements and national and local planning;
 - appoints the auditors or external certifying bodies for the balance sheets of the Committees in the region, if the Committees concerned do not do so;
 - proposes that a Committee of the Region be placed under external administration where necessary and in accordance with the provisions of these By-laws;
 - may co-opt up to two additional members from civil society selected on the basis of their exceptional merits and professional skills. Co-optation is by unanimous vote of the members of the Council. Co-opted individuals do not have voting rights, lapse with the Council that co-opted them and assume the status of Supporting Member. Individuals holding political office cannot be co-opted.
- 28.4. The Regional Governing Council remains in office for four years. Members may not be re-elected more than once consecutively in the same role.

29. REGIONAL PRESIDENT

29.1. The Regional President:

- represents the Italian Red Cross at regional level;
- represents all Members in the region;
- is exclusively responsible, unless delegated, for relations with regional authorities and other bodies and associations of regional importance;
- exercises legal representation functions where the Regional Committee has legal personality and financial autonomy and signs its fundamental documents;
- appoints an Italian Red Cross contact person to handle relations with the Provincial or Metropolitan City Administration, the Prefecture and other provincial bodies and

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administrations, on the binding proposal of the Presidents of the Committees established in each Province or Metropolitan City. This is without prejudice to the specific competences attributed to the Auxiliary Corps by current civil defence legislation;

- f. may, in the event of necessity and urgency, adopt resolutions that fall within the competence of the Regional Governing Council, provided they are ratified at the first subsequent meeting; in the event of non-ratification by the Regional Governing Council, these resolutions shall lapse.
- 29.2. The Regional President may identify one of the two Vice Presidents as his/her deputy to carry out his/her duties in the event of his/her absence or impediment. Formal notice of the appointment must be given to the National President and the Presidents of the Committees in the region.
- 29.3. The Regional President holds office for four years and can only be re-elected once consecutively. In any case, anyone who has held a top office in the Regional Committee, whether elected or appointed, for more than eight consecutive years shall also be immediately ineligible for the role.
- 29.4. The Regional President may be dismissed by the Regional Assembly upon the request for inclusion on the agenda of at least one third of the members. The motion of no-confidence, which can only be brought forward once during the term of office, requires the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Assembly Members present at the meeting. It results in the removal of the President and the Regional Governing Council, and triggers the immediate appointment of a Commissioner, who assumes the responsibilities of the President and the Regional Governing Council.

30. ORGANISATION OF THE COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED IN THE CAPITAL OF ITALY

- 30.1. In order to adapt the structure to the specific characteristics of the Area of the Capital of Italy and enable a more impactful and widespread action by the Italian Red Cross in this area, the "Roma Capitale" Metropolitan Area Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Rome Committee") is hereby established in accordance with and for the purposes of these By-laws. The Committee shall be entrusted with the tasks set forth in the Standard By-laws of the Committees and shall have the power to coordinate all the Committees established throughout the "Roma Capitale" Metropolitan Area.
- 30.2. The Rome members' Assembly is composed of all the members of the Committee and of the members of the Committees established in the "Roma Capitale" Metropolitan Area.
- 30.3. Due to the specific territorial and organisational features that characterise the Italian capital, which also houses the headquarters of the National Association, the "Roma Capitale" Metropolitan Area Committee is the direct point of contact for the National Committee as regards emergencies, events or any other actions that the National Governing Council deems necessary and justified for strategic and territorial reasons.

31. NATIONAL COMMITTEE

- 31.1. The National Committee formulates the mission and policy of the Italian Red Cross, develops the organisation and mindset necessary to achieve the set objectives, defines the criteria governing relations with vulnerable groups, beneficiaries, members and employees.
- 31.2. The National Committee approves staffing requirements at the national level and in directly administered units, in accordance with the applicable collective bargaining rules.

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- 31.3. The National Committee is based in Rome.
- 31.4. The following are bodies of the Committee:
 - a. the National Assembly;
 - b. the National Governing Council;
 - c. the National President;
 - d. the National Consultative Council;
 - e. the Board of Auditors.

32. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- 32.1. The National Assembly is the highest representative body of the Italian Red Cross.
- 32.2. The National Assembly is composed of the National President, the two National Vice Presidents, the two National Councillors, the Presidents of the ItRC' Regional Committees and of those of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano, the Presidents of the ItRC' Committees, the National Inspector of the ItRC' Voluntary Military Corps and the National Inspector of the Voluntary Nurse Corps. In the event of their absence or impediment, the Presidents of the Committees may delegate a Vice President or, failing that, a member of the Governing Council to act on their behalf.
- 32.3. The National Assembly:
 - a. defines the mission and policy of the Italian Red Cross and approves its strategic plan;
 - b. approves the report on training activities and initiatives, as prepared by the National Governing Council;
 - c. determines the amount of the annual membership fees;
 - d. decides on changes to the By-Laws by a two-thirds majority of its members;
 - e. may approve recommendations on the updating of regulations;
 - f. appoints and dismisses the Board of Auditors referred to in Article 35-bis below;
 - g. verifies that national laws are compatible with the objectives of the Red Cross and Red Crescent;
 - h. approves the financial forecast by 31 December of each year and the annual balance sheet of the Italian Red Cross, drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Third Sector Code, by the deadline stipulated in the relevant regulations;
 - i. approves the Association's balance sheet when the limits set out in Article 14 of the Third Sector Code are exceeded, in the manner provided for in said article.
- 32.4. The National Assembly meets at least once a year in ordinary session and extraordinarily whenever the Governing Council, the National Council, or one third of the members request it. Meetings are convened by the National President by means of a notice containing the agenda and published on the institutional website at least fifteen days before the date set for the meeting. The extraordinary meeting must be held no later than 30 days after the request to convene it.
- 32.5. The meeting of the National Assembly is chaired by the National President and is considered validly convened on first call with the presence of at least half plus one of the members. In second call, the meeting is considered valid regardless of the number of attendees. In the absence of the National President, the meeting is chaired by the National Vice President or, in his/her absence, by the other National Vice President or by the National Councillor with the most seniority in the Association.
- 32.6. The National Assembly adopts its decisions by a majority of those present at the meeting, except in cases where the By-laws provide for a different majority. Those entitled to vote who declare their abstention shall be counted in the quorum, but not among the voters.

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32.7. Minutes of the Assembly shall be drawn up and signed by the person chairing it and a secretary appointed for the purpose, and published on the institutional website within the following 15 days.

33. NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL

33.1. The National Governing Council consists of the National President, who chairs it, two Vice Presidents and two Council members.

33.2. The National Governing Council is elected by the Presidents of the Committees and the Presidents of the Regional Committees and of those of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano. The election procedures are outlined in electoral regulations approved by the National Assembly, which may include electronic and remote conduct options in accordance with criteria and minimum requirements defined by relevant legislation. In any case, the Council must include both genders and at least one representative of the Youth of the Italian Red Cross, who acts as Vice President.

33.3. The National Governing Council:

- a. decides on programmes and activity plans and indicates the priorities and strategic objectives of the Italian Red Cross in accordance with the provisions of the National Assembly;
- b. approves the national plan of activities and consequent training initiatives;
- c. approves budget variations made to achieve the objectives approved by the National Assembly;
- d. approves the regulations provided for in these By-laws after obtaining the favourable opinion of the National Consultative Council;
- e. establishes the ItRC' Committees;
- f. grants and revokes the use of the emblem and identifying logo;
- g. coordinates the national activities, also through delegates and project contact persons, and verifies their compliance with national planning needs;
- h. decides on proposals made by the Regional Governing Councils to place a Committee under external administration;
- i. may co-opt up to two additional members from civil society selected on the basis of their exceptional merits and professional skills. Co-optation is by unanimous vote of the members of the Council. Co-opted individuals do not have voting rights, lapse with the Council that co-opted them and assume the status of Supporting Member. Individuals holding political office cannot be co-opted;
- j. may authorise the establishment of Metropolitan City Committees, corresponding to that territorial level, in place of and with the powers of the corresponding Committee;

33.4. The National Governing Council remains in office for four years. Members may not be re-elected more than once consecutively in the same role.

34. NATIONAL PRESIDENT

34.1. The National President:

- a. represents the Italian Red Cross both in Italy and abroad, before third parties and in courts of law;
- b. represents all members of the Italian Red Cross;
- c. handles relations with other National Societies and bodies of the Movement, and sits by right in the relevant bodies as representative of the Italian Red Cross;
- d. handles relations with the institutional authorities of the Italian Republic and with other external bodies and associations with national coverage;

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- e. in time of war and at the time of mobilisation of the armed forces of the Italian State, he/she assumes the powers under the applicable law;
 - f. in the event of disasters of national or supra-regional importance, he/she coordinates all the Association's emergency services;
 - g. may, in the event of necessity and urgency, adopt resolutions that fall within the competence of the National Governing Council, provided they are ratified at the first subsequent meeting; in the event of non-ratification by the National Governing Council, these resolutions shall lapse.
- 34.2. The National President may identify one of the two Vice Presidents as his/her deputy to carry out his/her duties in the event of his/her absence or impediment. The appointment must be formally notified to the National Governing Council, the Secretary General and the Presidents of the Regional Committees and of those of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano.
- 34.3. The National President holds office for four years and can only be re-elected once consecutively. In any case, anyone who has held a top office in the Association at the national level, whether elected or appointed, for more than eight consecutive years shall also be immediately ineligible for the role.
- 34.4. The National President may be dismissed by the National Assembly upon the request for inclusion on the agenda of at least one third of the members. The motion of no-confidence, which can only be brought forward once during the term of office, requires the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Assembly Members present at the meeting. It results in the removal of the President and the National Governing Council, and the immediate calling of elections. In the meantime, a board of three Regional Presidents drawn by lot and chaired by the most senior in terms of membership shall perform the functions of the President and the National Governing Council.
- 35. NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL**
- 35.1. The National Consultative Council is composed of the National President, who chairs it, the members of the National Governing Council, the Presidents of the Regional Committees and of those of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano.
- 35.2. The National Consultative Council typically convenes every two months and may be called for an extraordinary session whenever deemed necessary by the President or one third of its members.
- 35.3. The National Consultative Council:
- a. ensures constant coordination and loyal cooperation between the national and local levels of the Italian Red Cross;
 - b. expresses an opinion on the achievement of the objectives assigned to the Secretary General;
 - c. expresses a binding opinion on all proposals for internal regulations of the Italian Red Cross.

35-bis. BOARD OF AUDITORS

- 35-bis.1 In order to implement the control functions referred to in Articles 30 and 31 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017, the Board of Auditors of the Italian Red Cross Association is hereby established.
- 35-bis.2 The Board of Auditors cumulates the statutory auditing functions referred to in Article 31 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017 (Third Sector Code) and of the supervisory body referred to in Article 30 of the same Legislative Decree No. 117/2017 and must also be appointed if the limits laid down therein for mandatory

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establishment are not exceeded.

- 35-bis.3 The Board of Auditors consists of three members appointed by the National Assembly upon the recommendation of the National President, subject to compliance with Article 16 of Law No. 196 of 31 November 2009.
- 35-bis.4 The members of the Board of Auditors are chosen from among those listed in the register of statutory auditors.
- 35-bis.5 The members of the Board of Auditors hold office for three years and their term expires on the date of the meeting of the National Assembly for the approval of the balance sheet for the third financial year of their term of office; they may be reappointed.
- 35-bis.6 The members of the Board of Auditors may attend meetings of the National Governing Council and the National Assembly without voting rights.
- 35-bis.7 The office of member of the Board of Auditors is incompatible with any other office within the Italian Red Cross Association.

36. SECRETARY GENERAL

- 36.1. The Secretary General is in charge of the management of the Italian Red Cross and carries out his/her activities according to the directives of the National President and the National Governing Council.
- 36.2. The Secretary General:
- implements the decisions of the National Governing Council and carries out the tasks entrusted to him/her by the National Assembly;
 - draws up the budget, the annual balance sheet and financial reports;
 - organises the services of the Secretariat and decides its structure in accordance with the decisions of the National Assembly and the National Governing Council. To this end, he/she may employ personnel in accordance with the law and internal regulations. In any case, guidelines on the structure of the Secretariat are subject to approval by the National Governing Council;
 - performs any other function conferred by law, the By-laws or entrusted by the National Governing Council or the National President, and reports thereon;
 - participates with an advisory vote in the meetings of the National Governing Council, of the National Consultative Council and is by right the secretary of the National Assembly.
- 36.3. The Secretary General is appointed by the National Governing Council, which may dismiss him/her if he/she fails to achieve the assigned goals. A regulation establishes how the Secretary General is to be employed. In any case, the Secretary General's term of office expires when the National Governing Council that appointed him/her lapses.

37. POWER OF SUBSTITUTION

- 37.1. In the event of a serious and unjustified omission or delay in implementing actions or initiating regulatory procedures by a Committee, the hierarchically superior President may take any necessary steps to ensure compliance with the provisions of these By-laws, following the issuance of a formal notice to comply within a strict deadline of ten days.

38. EXTERNAL ADMINISTRATION

- 38.1. A Committee may be placed under external administration in the following cases:
- if there are insufficient candidates or if a quorum is not reached during an election



- for it to be deemed valid;
- b. following a motion of no-confidence against the Governing Council and the President;
 - c. in the event of serious violations of the By-laws by the President or the Council as a whole. Appeal to the National President is allowed;
 - d. in the event of the President's disqualification from office following the enforcement of the disciplinary sanction of suspension or expulsion;
 - e. in the case of Committees absent more than twice in the same calendar year from meetings of higher-level assembly meetings.
- 38.2. In the event of the resignation of a President before the natural expiry of his/her term of office, the appointment of an external Commissioner shall be made only if the Vice President is unable to ensure the day-to-day administration of activities.
- 38.3. The external Commissioner of the Committee:
- a. must be a voluntary member of the Italian Red Cross and must have the right to vote;
 - b. is appointed by the National President, on the proposal of the Regional President;
 - c. shall remain in office for a maximum period of six months, subject to the provisions of paragraph 8 below;
 - d. exercises the powers of the President and of the Governing Council and, where provided for in the appointment, of the Members' Assembly;
 - e. may not be in situations of incompatibility as set out in the following article;
 - f. may be replaced before the expiry of his/her term of office by the same procedure by which he/she was appointed.
- 38.4. One or two Deputy Commissioners may be appointed by following the same procedures.
- 38.5. When external administration involves a Regional Committee or that of an Autonomous Province, the rules set out in the preceding paragraphs shall be applied as far as this is possible.
- 38.6. The National Committee may not be placed under external administration.
- 38.7. If urgent action is required as a result of acts and behaviour that may cause serious and immediate harm, the National President may, after hearing the Regional President, order the Committee to be placed under external administration and appoint a temporary Commissioner. The measure shall be submitted to the National Governing Council for ratification in its first subsequent meeting.
- 38.8. The duration of the external administration may be extended up to twelve months if specific needs so require; moreover, in the presence of serious financial imbalances or over-indebtedness procedures, the external administration may be extended up to a maximum of eighteen months.
- 38.9. If the reasons behind the measure so require and in cases of particular complexity, such as to require specific skills or proven management experience, the National Governing Council may appoint an employee of the National Committee or an external professional to assist the Commissioner in the management of the Committee, after consulting the Regional Governing Council and the Committee's controlling or auditing body; the appointment of the National Committee's employees shall also be made after consulting the Secretary General.
- 39. INCOMPATIBILITY**
- 39.1. All elective offices referred to in these By-laws, including those of members of the Governing Councils, as well as the offices of representative of the Military Volunteer Corps of the ItRC' in the aforementioned Councils or as Inspector of the ItRC' Volunteer

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Nurse Corps at all levels are incompatible:

- a. with each other;
 - b. with the receipt of remuneration from the Italian Red Cross, including its Operational Body, even indirectly (through temporary work agencies, cooperatives, subsidiaries);
 - c. with the holding of an office in another body, company and/or association, which pursues similar institutional aims and activities, in competition or in conflict of interest with those of the Italian Red Cross;
 - d. with the holding of offices in the associations referred to in Article 16, paragraph 2, letter d) of these By-laws;
 - e. with the holding of positions of responsibility and representativeness in political parties and movements, as well as elective offices in local administrative elections - with the exception of those in municipalities with a population of less than 10,000 inhabitants - provincial and regional elections (including mountain communities), political elections and elections to the European Parliament, and with the holding of the office of councillor, undersecretary of state or minister. Elective offices under these By-laws are also incompatible with the holding of positions of responsibility and representativeness of national importance in other movements, trade unions, religious denominations and associations with similar aims to those of the Italian Red Cross. Incompatibility starts as the candidacy for elected offices or appointment for all other offices is accepted.
- 39.2. The right of option is exercised within five days from the moment in which the situation of incompatibility arises. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the office to which one was elected.
- 39.3. Candidacy to one of the elective offices referred to in letter e) or appointment to one of the offices referred to in letters c) and d) of the first paragraph shall entail the immediate forfeiture of the elective offices referred to in these By-laws, including those of members of the Governing Councils, as well as the offices of representative of the ItRC' Military Volunteer Corps on the Governing Councils or of Inspector of the Voluntary Nurse Corps at all levels.



TITLE V - RESOURCES

40. EMPLOYEES

- 40.1. The employees of the Italian Red Cross are subject to the national collective agreement laid out in accordance with Article 6 paragraph 5 of Legislative Decree No. 178 of 28 September 2012.
- 40.2. Employees are hired by the National Committee, the Regional Committees and the Autonomous Provinces, as well as by the Committees in accordance with their respective staffing needs, in accordance with the applicable collective bargaining regulations, and subject to their budget availability.

41. ASSETS AND REVENUES

- 41.1. The assets of the Italian Red Cross are used to fulfil its statutory purposes.
- 41.2. The Association's revenues may derive from:
- the membership fees paid by Members;
 - donations, legacies, inheritances and bequests in general;
 - ordinary and special contributions and subsidies from the State, the regional governments and any other public or private body;
 - contributions and subsidies from the institutions of the European Union and other foreign or international bodies and institutions;
 - revenues from activities performed and services provided under agreements;
 - funds provided for voluntary associations and community development organisations;
 - donations and public fundraisers;
 - voluntary contributions from members and third parties;
 - income from promotional initiatives aimed at raising funds, such as parties, lotteries and subscriptions, including with prizes;
 - revenues from assets;
 - revenues from sponsorship activities with national and international companies, carried out under the auspices of organisations belonging to the International Movement;
 - other revenues compatible with the aims of community development organisations, in accordance with applicable laws.
- 41.3. The Italian Red Cross does not accept donations, sponsorship or patronage from the proceeds of activities contrary to its Fundamental Principles.
- 41.4. Within the limits set by its objectives, the Italian Red Cross may acquire, own, dispose of, and manage any assets it deems appropriate.
- 41.5. The Italian Red Cross may set up and administer any reserve, insurance or fund for its staff or for one of its activities.
- 41.6. At every level, Committees are required to retain documentation for a minimum of three years, indicating the funding sources, related to the financial resources as per the preceding Article 41.2, letters b), c), d), e), as well as, for the financial resources mentioned in letter h), documentation regarding voluntary contributions, if intended for tax deductions and income tax reductions as provided by law.



- 41.7. Documents, resolutions, and assets are archived and kept, also in searchable digital format, for continuity in documenting activities and for subsequent research purposes.
- 41.8. Historical and archival material, including assets and objects preserved at the Committees' premises and at archives, and museums of the Italian Red Cross, already protected under the current Code of Cultural Heritage, constitutes the unique and inseparable historical heritage of the Association and forms its memory.
- 41.9. Historical and archival material is catalogued and managed in accordance with specific Regulations.

42. ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL SYSTEM

- 42.1. The financial year begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December of each year.
- 42.2. The financial and accounting system of the Italian Red Cross is governed by regulations approved by the National Assembly in accordance with the provisions and for the achievement of the objectives of these By-laws. The regulations must include the obligation for each ItRC' committee to allocate:
 - a. a quota for emergency operations;
 - b. a quota for international cooperation;
 - c. a quota for the training of its Members;
 - d. a quota to subsidise the ItRC' Regional Committee, for functions and services rendered to ItRC' Committees.
- 42.3. The proceeds from the activities may not, under any circumstances, be divided among the Members, not even indirectly. The operating surplus can be used exclusively for institutional activities.
- 42.4. At all levels, the Committees:
 - a. must achieve a balanced budget, with an indication of this in the annual balance sheet;
 - b. have managerial, economic, financial and patrimonial autonomy;
 - c. may apply for their own tax code and VAT number, unless they wish to keep the tax code and VAT number of their Regional Committee. The regulations for accounting and organisation indicate the specific manner in which this must be done;
 - d. shall be liable for the obligations directly assumed and shall not be liable in any way, cause or reason for obligations assumed by the other local bodies.
- 42.5. At the end of each financial year, the accounts of the Italian Red Cross at national level are audited by the board of auditors. The auditors appointed at the various local levels must be officially registered as statutory auditors.
- 42.6. As regards the tax regime, please refer to Chapter 10 of Legislative Decree. 117/17, insofar as not otherwise provided for by Legislative Decree 178/2012.



CHAPTER 6 - TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

43. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

- 43.1. These By-laws, enacted pursuant to Legislative Decree No. 178 of 28 September 2012, shall enter into force on 1 January 2014 and repeal the previous By-laws and any conflicting regulations previously enacted.
- 43.2. Amendments to these By-laws are approved by the National Assembly of the Italian Red Cross, after notifying the Secretary General of the International Federation and obtaining a favourable opinion from the Joint ICRC/IFRC Commission on the By-laws of the National Societies.

44. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 44.1. At the time of the entry into force of these By-laws:
- Local Committees take the name of Committees;
 - the Central Committee takes the name of National Committee;
 - Provincial Committees where the local committee of the provincial capital is established are dissolved;
 - the other Provincial Committees are automatically established as Committees; they are assigned the same territorial scope as the former Provincial Committee.
- 44.2. Within thirty days of the entry into force of these By-laws, the National President shall, also upon the proposal of each Regional President, allocate territorial competences to all established Committees.
- 44.3. Within twelve months of the approval of these By-laws, the following regulations shall be approved:
- Electoral regulations. The Electoral Regulations must contain the rules for the establishment of Electoral Offices at all levels, the composition and procedures of which shall be guided by impartiality and neutrality;
 - Accounting and organisational regulations;
 - Regulation on the use of the emblem and patronage;
 - Regulations, on the organisation, activities and training of the Volunteers;
 - Code of ethics, disciplinary measures and disciplinary boards;
 - Regulations on the protection of the safety and health of Volunteers;
 - Regulations for the recruitment of the Secretary General and of the Regional Secretaries;
 - Youth policy document and Youth regulations of the Italian Red Cross;
 - Regulations for the Italian Red Cross Awards;
 - Regulations for the protection of the archives and material of historical interest of the Italian Red Cross;
 - Regulations on the organisation of bands, fanfares and sports groups of the Italian Red Cross;
 - Regulations for temporary volunteers of the Italian Red Cross for the performance of the functions referred to in Article 5, paragraph 1, letter y) of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017;
 - Regulations governing the stages of the procedure for the establishment of Committees. Until the approval of these regulations, the regulations of Order No. 292 of 17 December 2015 are in force, insofar as they are compatible.
- 44.4. The regulations referred to in the previous paragraph are approved by the National Governing Council after consultation with the National Council. Until the elections of the association's bodies, these regulations are approved by the National President after hearing the favourable and binding opinion of the National Council. The regulations

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under a) shall be approved by the National Assembly together with the election calendar within three months of the entry into force of these By-laws.

- 44.5. Within twelve months of the approval of these By-laws, the President shall comply with the provisions of Article 8.4 above.
- 44.6. Within twelve months of the approval of these By-laws, the National President shall call for elections of Presidents and Governing Councils at all local levels.
- 44.7. The rules governing the circulation of vehicles of the Italian Red Cross, issued under the Consolidated Act of the Italian Red Cross pursuant to Article 138 of Legislative Decree No. 285 of 30 April 1992, shall apply directly and without the need for further implementation, in all branches of the Italian Red Cross in accordance with the Decree of the Ministry of Health of 2 August 2017 published in the Official Gazette No. 289 of 12 December 2017.
- 44.8. The historical heritage of the Italian Red Cross remains in the branches, archives and museums of the Italian Red Cross where it is located at the time of the entry into force of these By-laws. The same local branches will ensure its continuity of preservation, custody, updating and management.
- 44.9. The eight-year period leading to ineligibility as stipulated in Articles 24.2, 29.3, and 34.3 shall commence from the elections convened after the entry into force of these By-laws.
In any case, terms served within the Italian Red Cross as a public legal entity under the previous By-laws shall not be included in the calculation.
- 44.10. As of the date of publication of the Assembly's resolution amending Article 35-*bis*, the Board of Auditors appointed for the period 2021-2023 shall exercise the functions as provided in Articles 30 and 31 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017 for the duration of the appointment. At the same time, the Control Body shall be considered revoked. Acts undertaken by the Control Body up to the current date shall remain valid.

45. LEGAL REFERENCES

- 45.1. In the absence of express provisions within these By-laws, please refer to Legislative Decree No. 178 of 28 September 2012, Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July 2017 and to the Health Ministry Decree of 2 August 2017, as well as regulations temporarily in force.

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<i>No.</i>	<i>Date of National Assembly resolution</i>	
0	20 June 2013	<i>Approval</i>
1	30 January 2016	<i>First revision</i>
2	27 January 2018	<i>Second revision</i>
3	22 June 2019	<i>Third revision</i>
4	30 November 2019	<i>Fourth revision</i>
5	30 April 2021	<i>Fifth revision</i>
6	18 December 2021	<i>Sixth Revision</i>
7	30 April 2022	<i>Seventh revision</i>
8	14 October 2023	<i>Eighth revision</i>