



Croce Rossa Italiana
Il Commissario Straordinario

CRI/CC/0057885/2009
29/08/2009

To IFRC Election Committee
President
Prof. Pierre de Senarclens

Re: **International Federation Youth Commission - Vacancies**

Dear President,

with regard to the upcoming deadline for the vacancy as a member of the Youth Commission, the Italian Red Cross would like to propose the candidacy of Mr. **Flavio Ronzi**, high level Youth leader, expressing its interest for the chairman position.

Flavio began as a youth volunteer in the Rome branch of the Italian Red Cross when he was 15 years old. He held several offices, until he was elected Vice-Director and, subsequently, **Director of Youth** at the age of 20.

His fields of activity ranged from education, to the management of programmes and volunteers, to the involvement in the drafting of strategic documents for his National Society.

In 2006, he was appointed **special advisor on youth policies** to the President of the Italian Red Cross.

Flavio's great passion for education and training in the areas of the International Movement gave him the chance to meet thousands of young volunteers at the national and international level and he is today fully dedicated to the **training of youth leaders**, on topics such as dialogue techniques and conflict resolution.

In 2004, he started his international activity by participating to tens of international events among statutory meetings, high level conventions at International Organizations such as FAO, the EU, etc., technical meetings and youth camps, many of which he himself organized.

In all his activities and in the speeches he delivered in various occasions, national and international, he always advocated that the youth be recognized as a fundamental resource and the engine of our Movement, for their role as leaders of the Movement of today and tomorrow, often calling attention to the need to mobilize as many resources as possible on the organizational development of youth, in a spirit of self-determination.

Following the motto "**the youth for the youth**", *Flavio* promoted the strengthening of the decision-making role of youth and the development of youth policies totally integrated in the action plans of their National Societies.

First involved in roles of governance, he then held technical offices related to organizational development, through important professional experiences:

- as Youth officer in the RC/RC Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CCM), ensuring the follow-up of the Mediterranean Conference, strengthening the structures and developing youth policies within the National Societies of the Mediterranean and taking charge of the organization and management of youth camps, seminars and workshops. He drafted youth projects for fund raising to be presented to the EU and private donors, promoting partnerships among the National Societies of the Mediterranean and with other organizations;
- as IFRC Secretariat consultant: he coordinated, in the last year, a Rome-based team of young volunteers and staff for the general organization of "**Solferino 2009**" Celebrations, which saw the participation of some 150 National Societies from around the world.

In his activities, *Flavio* always distinguished himself for his attention to several issues, such as **inclusion, dialogue, reduction of any form of discrimination, integrity** of the International Movement in respect of the Seven Principles, and **diversity** as a defining value of human beings.

He demonstrated to overcome prejudices and barriers hindering communication and **mutual understanding**. Interested in different cultures and opinions, he speaks English and Spanish fluently, has a working knowledge of French and recently started studying Arabic.

In the last years, the Italian Red Cross began a process of total reconstruction of the Association and of the Red Cross Youth in particular, which led to an increasing participation of youth volunteers in the activities and in decision-making processes, at all levels.

The Italian Red Cross Youth is given credit for its contribution to the provision of services and is fully involved by the Italian Red Cross in **both the planning of the programmes youth are involved in, and the decision making processes** of the National Society.

In 2007, the Italian Red Cross Youth was awarded the **Youth Award for youth representation and participation**, thanks to the creation of the "Progetto Associativo", a working plan highlighting the role of the Italian Red Cross Youth within their National Society and better defining their mission and areas of intervention.

The autonomy of budget of youth, the responsibility of training approximately 80% of the new volunteers, the direct involvement of young volunteers in the "Area Sviluppo" (lit. development area) of youth, with the aim to gain and maintain the trust of the community, solicited the praise of the IFRC Vice-Secretary General and of the Joint ICRC-IFRC Commission for the Statutes of National Societies.

Since 2004, the Italian Red Cross Youth has opened to projects of cooperation with the youth of other National Societies, hosting and promoting international camps and demonstrating the capacity of youth to maintain **continuity** in its activities, by launching "Atlantis", the Mediterranean youth camp, which this year is at his fifth edition, turning out to be an "open space" to develop the RC/RC young humanity.

As a National Society, we also believe that a real investment in youth cannot be done only through the candidacy to the Presidency of the Youth Commission by one of our members, but it is necessary to mobilize resources to guarantee a constant organizational development, also by strengthening the human and financial resources within the Secretariat – as mentioned in the Governing Board's resolution of 2005 – and in the zone offices.

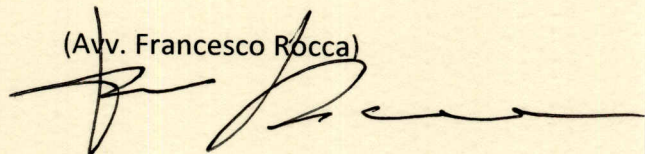
In this regard, the Italian Red Cross will make all efforts to attract and mobilize resources for the development of youth policies and structures, as was done on a national level. Such process was started by guaranteeing the presence of a staff on loan for the youth in the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean.

The Italian Red Cross is happy to make available its most valuable human resource to the Movement and to the Youth in particular.

Flavio will undoubtedly play a key role in the processes of change related to the youth. His **outstanding social skills and strong commitment** will play a significant role in reinforcing the leadership of youth, which will thus be able to achieve important results in the next two years.

Starting from **Solferino 2009**, which has represented for us the greatest challenge of the last years and highlighted the strength of Red Cross Red Crescent Youth, the Italian Red Cross, through the voice of the Youth Commission wants the **Youth Declaration to reach all National Societies, Governments and the public opinion and will make all efforts to ensure its implementation throughout the world.**

(Avv. Francesco Rocca)

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized first name and a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line for the surname.