

Based on the Law on the Slovenian Red Cross (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 7/93) and the Law on societies (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 60/95, 49/98-Constitutional Court Decision and 89/99) the General Assembly of the Slovenian Red Cross adopted at its session on 25 April 2006 the

## **STATUTE OF THE SLOVENIAN RED CROSS – FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS**

### **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 1**

The Slovenian Red Cross – Federation of Associations is an independent humanitarian volunteer federation of Red Cross associations which acts on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia on the principle of unity in accordance with the Law on the Slovenian Red Cross, the Law on societies, the Law on humanitarian organizations, the Geneva Conventions and two supplementary protocols, the Statute of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (hereon after the “Movement”), and this statute.

#### **Article 2**

(1) Name: The Slovenian Red Cross – Federation of Associations [*in Slovenian: Rdeči Križ Slovenije – Zveza združenj*].

(2) Abbreviation: the SRC [*in Slovenian: RKS*]

(3) Headquarters: Mirje 19, 1000 Ljubljana.

#### **Article 3**

(1) The SRC is a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, it respects its Statute and it exercises its member rights and duties in accordance with the provisions of the Statute.

(2) The SRC is a component of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and it co-operates with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as well as with other national and foreign bodies and organizations which can co-operate with the SRC and help it fulfil its tasks and attain its objects.

#### **Article 4**

The SRC emblem is a red cross on a white background, as determined by the Geneva Conventions of 1949, two supplementary protocols of 1977, the Regulations on the use of the Emblem of the Red Cross or the Red Crescent by the National Societies of 1991 and the Law on the Slovenian Red Cross.

## **Article 5**

The SRC stamp is round with 3 cm in diameter, and written on it are the text “Rdeči križ Slovenije – Zveza združenj” (The Slovenian Red Cross – Federation of Associations)” and the headquarters of the federation. The red cross emblem is in the middle of the stamp. Other SRC emblems are determined by the Main Committee by a special legal act.

## **Article 6**

The SRC is a legal entity of private law in accordance with the Law on societies.

## **Article 7**

(1) The SRC activities are public. The publicity of the work is the responsibility of: the President of the SRC, the Vice-President of the SRC and the Secretary General of the SRC who are also authorized to give information on the SRC activities.

(2) The publicity of the activities for members shall be guaranteed by inviting members to sessions of the bodies, general assemblies and councils, by providing them material and by means of internal and mass media.

(3) The publicity of the organization activities shall be guaranteed by inviting mass media representatives to sessions, by providing them material and other information on its work, and by calling press conferences and providing notices to public.

## **II. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE MOVEMENT**

### **Article 8**

(1) The SRC shall act in accordance with the following fundamental principles of the Movement:

#### **- HUMANITY**

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

#### **- IMPARTIALITY**

The Movement makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

#### **- NEUTRALITY**

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

**- INDEPENDENCE**

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, shall always maintain their autonomy as well so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principle of the Movement.

**- VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

The Movement is a voluntary association for help and solidarity not prompted by desire for gain.

**- UNITY**

In any one country there can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society which shall be open to all. It shall carry on its humanitarian work throughout the whole territory of the country.

**- UNIVERSALITY**

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

(2) These principles shall be respected and implemented by the SRC and by all local Red Cross associations, their bodies, members and staff, other co-operators and volunteers of the Red Cross who shall therewith preserve the reputation of the SRC.

### **III. OBJECTS AND TASKS OF THE SLOVENIAN RED CROSS**

#### **Article 9**

The SRC shall help prevent and alleviate human suffering, protect life and health, promote healthy life by being active and guarantee the respect of human rights, especially during armed conflicts, natural disasters and other cases of emergency.

#### **Article 10**

(1) The SRC shall attain its objects by carrying out the following tasks. It shall, in particular:

- promote international humanitarian law among the public, disseminate and implement the fundamental principles of the Movement and encourage its members in effort to achieve international solidarity, friendship among nations and peace in the world;
- co-operate with competent national authorities, institutes and other organizations in activities for safeguarding health, for a healthy lifestyle and for the protection of natural environment;

- encourage and motivate people to donate blood and human body parts; organize blood collections and introduce initiatives for further development and progress of blood donation;
- organize and carry out preventive health care and continuation of hospital treatment as well as holidays for children;
- co-operate with competent national authorities, social institutes and other organizations in the implementation of social politics; organize and ensure assistance to individuals and groups being socially at risk;
- participate in the implementation of social and medical assistance to people in the event of natural disasters, epidemics and other greater disasters, and to this end organize solidarity activities and provide distribution of aid;
- co-operate with competent national authorities in preparations for ensuring medical and social assistance to people in the event of armed conflicts; actively participate in First Aid, in care and treatment of injured people and patients, in carrying out social assistance and other responsibilities deriving from the Geneva Conventions relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War and supplementary protocols;
- co-operate and carry out tasks in the system of protection, salvage operations and assistance;
- co-operate with competent government authorities responsible for the application of international humanitarian law and protection of the red cross and red crescent emblem;
- provide storage and distribute aid given by the National Red Cross Societies, other organizations and individual donors; organize the collection of governmental and civil solidarity aid in the Republic of Slovenia and send it abroad with the help of international aid;
- participate in educational and training activities of children and youth aimed at the implementation of the fundamental principles of the Movement; organize and promote their integration in the SRC and in its activities;
- issue informational publications and other publications from its fields of activity, and publications of general benefit for general public;
- create conditions for children's holidays in the Youth health and holiday resort Debeli rtič.

(2) The SRC shall carry out its tasks and public powers on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia by its bodies, its Professional Service and its local associations; it shall direct and coordinate their work and provide them with all necessary technical assistance in the implementation of common tasks and in problem solving.

(3) The SRC shall provide special care to young people, especially within the respect of the fundamental principles of the Movement; it shall care for the engagement and organization of

young people within the SRC and therewith for the continuity of the SRC activities in Slovenia as well.

### **Article 11**

The SRC and its local associations may set up institutes, funds and enterprises in order to attain their objects and tasks.

### **Article 12**

(1) The SRC and its local associations shall carry out the following tasks as public power:

- to organize staff training in order to carry out tasks, determined by the Geneva Conventions;
- to carry out tasks related to informing, recording and searching for victims of armed conflicts and for people affected by natural and other disasters;
- to perform activities in order to recruit blood donors and to organize blood collections;
- to organize courses and exams in First Aid;
- to organize and train First Aid units;
- to issue cards to human body part donors;
- to perform actions for the protection of human health in the event of natural and other disasters and in the event of armed conflicts;
- to perform actions in order to welcome and accommodate evacuated population and other people at risk, as well as other actions that may facilitate supply for people at risk and affected people.

(2) The Slovenian Red Cross shall issue documents and certificates that are uniform on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia on all the facts from the previous paragraph.

(3) The Slovenian Red Cross carries out the major part of its programme in the field of health protection, a big part of it in the field of social security and assistance to vulnerable individuals and social groups, in the field of civil protection units and education on humanitarian law and human rights. The fields of activity of the Slovenian Red Cross are very diverse. They are determined by the Geneva Conventions and two supplementary protocols, the Statute of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Law on the Slovenian Red Cross, the Law on humanitarian organizations, the resolutions adopted by International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as well as by important strategies and guidelines adopted within the Movement, and the strategies of its work on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia.

(4) The SRC shall also carry out part of these activities as gainful activity: First Aid courses and exams for motor vehicle drivers, courses and exams for rescue divers, and professional lectures in these fields for external customers. The Slovenian Red Cross shall use the

resources acquired by such activity for its own activities and for developing a material basis for these activities, and for attaining its basic objective, namely performing humanitarian activity in accordance with this statute.

### **Article 13**

The SRC and its local associations may within the fundamental humanitarian objective and their objects and tasks determined by law and this statute – to ensure a material basis for their activities and exercise of powers and to manage their assets – set up enterprises and companies in accordance with law and regulations valid on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia by the decision of the General Assembly of the SRC or the Assembly of the LRCA (Local Red Cross Associations). Gainful activities shall be performed as supplementary activity, whereas the SRC shall use the excess income in order to attain its basic objective and objects and to perform humanitarian activity in accordance with this statute.

The Slovenian Red Cross shall perform its gainful activity as a supplementary activity to the basic activities by providing accommodation, catering and commercial activities within the framework of health and social programmes of youth health and holiday resorts as well as by publishing professional literature from the field of its activities.

## **IV. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SLOVENIAN RED CROSS**

### **Article 14**

(1) Every resident of the Republic of Slovenia who is member of a local association can be a member of the Red Cross, irrespective of race, sex, religion, language and national origin, social class or political opinion. Rights and duties of residents who are members of the Slovenian Red Cross are determined in the statutes of local associations, including the right to vote and to be elected to local association bodies and the SRC – Federation of Associations. Forms of membership are determined in the statutes of local associations.

Procedures of admission or suspension from membership are determined by the statutes of local organizations or by the Regulations. Suspension from membership may occur if a member violates the provisions of Article 40 of this statute in which the right to appeal is determined as well.

(2) Members of the SRC – Federation of Associations are local Red Cross associations.

(3) Members of the SRC shall receive a membership card. The format of the membership card is uniform; the format and content are regulated by the Main Committee of the SRC – Federation of Associations.

### **Article 15**

A member of the SRC is a local association expressing its desire in a written declaration by which it becomes bound to fully respect this statute. The declaration is annexed to this statute.

The record of signed declarations for the Main Committee is maintained by the Professional Service of the SRC.

### **Article 16**

The rights of local associations towards the SRC shall be:

- to participate in the work and decision-making of the SRC bodies via their representatives;
- to vote members of the SRC bodies;
- to participate in the preparation, adoption process and realization of SRC projects and programmes;
- to present problems noticed during their activities and give proposals for solving them to the SRC;
- to request the SRC to provide opinion, views, explanations and help on individual issues from the field of their activities;
- to receive financial resources to exercise public powers and other financial resources from the SRC in accordance with the annual financial plan;
- to propose to the SRC bodies to exercise certain tasks and carry out actions in accordance with the policy determined by the General Assembly of the SRC, the statute of the SRC and the SRC work programme;
- to be familiar with the work of the SRC bodies by means of regularly receiving minutes and decisions of the sessions held by the General Assembly, the Main Committee, the Executive Committee, the Supervisory Committee, opinions of the Statutory Commission and final decisions of the Honorary Arbitration Court from the SRC;
- to present to the General Assembly objections to decisions of the Main Committee and other SRC bodies.

### **Article 17**

The duties of local associations shall be:

- to contribute with their work to the realization of the SRC tasks;
- to respect the SRC statute, other general legal acts as well as conclusions and decisions of its bodies;
- to provide the SRC with the information necessary for carrying out of common tasks;
- to regularly fulfil their financial and other agreed obligations towards the SRC;
- to carry out programme and other tasks of national importance for the SRC;

- to concurrently maintain the record of their members;
- to participate at sessions, trainings and other activities organized by the SRC in order to efficiently carry out its work programme;
- to provide the SRC with minutes of Assembly sessions, annual substantial and financial reports on the work of a local association as well as with the annual work programme of a local association.

### **Article 18**

The membership of the SRC shall cease:

- by termination of local association activities
- by suspension from membership
- by withdrawal

After the cessation of membership, the ex-member shall stop using the red cross emblem and name containing the phrase “the Red Cross”. The cessation of the right to use the emblem and name may be published in the media.

### **Article 19**

Before the Assembly of a local association may make decisions on termination of the activities, the President of the local association shall provide a written notice of this purpose to the Main Committee of the SRC which shall adopt a position at the first following session and communicate it in writing to the local association in order to preserve the local association operation and preserve the SRC operation on the territorial principle.

### **Article 20**

(1) A local association may as a member of the SRC be suspended only in case of severe violations of provisions in this statute. A severe violation of the statute is a violation of the fundamental principles of the Movement and a violation that shall or may cause major material or moral damage to the SRC. The Honorary Arbitration Court shall rule on disciplinary violations based on the Law on the Slovenian Red Cross, the Regulations of the Honorary Arbitration Court, the Code of Conduct for elected representatives (the last two legal acts shall be approved by the SRC Assembly), and this statute. Judgements pronounced by the Honorary Arbitration Court are accompanied by these measures against the member: warning, public warning, suspension of parole and suspension from membership in the SRC.

(2) The initiative to begin the procedure may be introduced by any member of the SRC or local associations, any body of the SRC or local associations, or by an individual member of these bodies. In the procedure, the Honorary Arbitration Court shall first identify the reasons for the hearing, make attempt to overcome them and propose necessary actions to the bodies. The body of second instance which shall decide on the appeal of the member concerned is the Assembly; whose decision is final. Its activities are in accordance with the Law on the Slovenian Red Cross, the statute, the Regulations of the Honorary Arbitration Court and the Code of Conduct.



(3) Conflicts between members shall be treated and resolved by the Arbitration which is specially defined in this statute.

## **V. THE SRC BODIES**

### **Article 21**

(1) The SRC bodies are:

- the General Assembly
- the Main Committee
- the Executive Committee
- the Supervisory Committee
- the Honorary Arbitration Court
- the Arbitration
- the Statutory Commission.

(2) The Main Committee may also appoint other consultative bodies.

(3) Only individuals who are members of the Red Cross may be elected to the bodies of the SRC and local associations; this does not apply to ministry representatives. People working in professional services of the SRC and local associations as well as honorary members cannot be elected to the bodies.

(4) Bodies may adopt Rules of Procedure for their activities.

## **General Assembly**

### **Article 22**

The supreme body of the SRC is the General Assembly. It is composed of local association representatives who represent the interests of their local associations in the General Assembly of the SRC. Each local association has one representative.

### **Article 23**

(1) The General Assembly called by the Main Committee shall meet in an ordinary session every year. On the initiative of the Main Committee, the Supervisory Committee or at the request of 1/5 of local associations, it can also meet in an extraordinary session.

(2) The notification of the calling of the General Assembly shall, as a rule, be published one month before the day it is convened on. The notification of the calling shall be submitted along with materials. Materials shall include proposals for decisions on individual items of the agenda.

(3) An extraordinary session of the General Assembly may be called within a shorter period than Ordinary Assembly, yet not less than 8 days before the session of the Extraordinary Assembly. It shall be called within 1 month after the request is made. The proposal for the calling of an Extraordinary Assembly is given to the Main Committee by the Supervisory Committee or by 1/5 of local associations. If the Main Committee does not call the

Extraordinary General Assembly within the stated period, it shall be called by the proposer. At the extraordinary session, the Assembly takes decisions only on issues on the agenda.

#### **Article 24**

(1) During the year, every local association has the right to introduce initiatives for putting individual topics on the agenda of the General Assembly, yet it shall give a reasoned proposal to the SRC within 40 days before the intended date of the session of the General Assembly. After this deadline, the putting of an individual topic on the agenda of the General Assembly cannot be requested. In extremely urgent cases in which extensive moral and material damage would occur, after the delivery of materials for the session of the General Assembly only the Main Committee has the right to propose an additional item of the agenda at the session of the General Assembly itself.

(2) Minutes shall be taken on the course of the session of the General Assembly. In order to ensure undisturbed work of the General Assembly, the following working bodies shall be elected among present representatives at the beginning of the session after the verification of the quorum:

- a working presidency consisting of a President and 2 members;
- a verification commission consisting of 3 members;
- an election commission if there are votes on the agenda, consisting of 5 members;
- two certifiers of the minutes.

(3) The right to discuss at the session of the General Assembly is also granted to members of the Main Committee and the Supervisory Committee, the Honorary Arbitration Court, the Statutory Commission as well as the President, the Vice-President and the Secretary General and other guests who are invited to do so. The working presidency may restrict the discussion. After the discussion is finished, the working presidency forms a proposal for a decision and puts it to the vote.

#### **Article 25**

(1) A quorum shall exist at the General Assembly if the votes of the representatives present and voting represent over half of all votes of all representatives. The General Assembly shall take decisions with the majority of the votes of those present and voting, with the exception of decisions aiming at amending the statute, on termination of the SRC and in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 5 which shall be taken by 2/3 of the votes of the representatives with the right to vote.

(2) If at the calling of the Assembly the quorum does not exist, the session of the General Assembly shall be postponed for 1 hour and then re-convened if the votes of the representatives present and voting represent over 1/3 of all votes of all representatives. Such a reduced attendance prevents the General Assembly from being carried out at the postponed time if there is a proposal aiming at amending the statute or a proposal for termination of the SRC on the agenda.

(3) At the session of the General Assembly there shall be open vote. The representatives may decide at the Assembly that voting shall be by secret ballot. In the election of the President,

the Vice-President and members of the Main Committee, with the exception of the ministry representatives, voting shall be by secret ballot.

## **Article 26**

The General Assembly shall exercise the following powers:

- to adopt the annual programme of the SRC along with the financial plan and medium-term policy orientations;
- to discuss the work and reports of the SRC bodies and to take decisions thereon;
- to adopt the SRC statute and its amendments;
- to take decisions on changes in the SRC organization and activities;
- to discuss and approve the substantial and financial report on the SRC management;
- to elect and dismiss the President and the Vice-President of the SRC as well as other members of the Main Committee – representatives of local associations, members of the Supervisory Committee, the Honorary Arbitration Court and the Statutory Commission;
- to approve and dismiss the Secretary General of the SRC on the proposal of the Main Committee and to evaluate his/her work;
- to approve and dismiss members of the Main Committee – ministry representatives;
- to take decisions on the initiatives and appeals against the decisions of the Main Committee, the Supervisory Committee, the Honorary Arbitration Court;
- to take general decisions on the policy of the disposal of all immovable property of the SRC;
- to take decisions on termination of the SRC in cases determined by this statute;
- to appoint honorary members of the SRC;
- to take decisions on setting up of enterprises and companies in accordance with this statute and with the Law on societies of permitted gainful activity;
- to determine the amount of the membership fee on the proposal of the Main Committee of the SRC. The membership fee shall be expressed in the currency determined by law.

## **Main Committee**

### **Article 27**

The Main Committee has – within decisions, general guidelines and work programme of the SRC which are adopted by the General Commission – all powers required to fulfil the tasks and objects of the SRC.

### **Article 28**

(1) The Main Committee is composed of the President, the Vice-President and 14 representatives of local associations elected by the General Assembly on the principle of regional representation of members so that each region has one member, with the exception of the Ljubljana and Maribor regions, which have two members.

(2) Members of the Main Committee may also be representatives proposed by ministries of health, social security, and defence and protection. In the Main Committee, there may not be more than three representatives of these ministries, yet only one from each of the ministry. The ministry representatives are proposed by the appropriate ministry on the request of the Candidacy Commission. Ministry representatives have no right to vote.

### **Article 29**

(1) The candidacy procedure shall be lead by the Candidacy Commission which shall be appointed at least 3 months before the session of the General Assembly at which the elections are held. The Candidacy Commission is appointed by the Main Committee and consists of 5 members, whereas the President is one of the members of the Main Committee.

(2) Candidates for the President and the Vice-President may be proposed by local associations, the Main Committee and the Supervisory Committee of the SRC, and by the President, the Vice-President and the Secretary General of the SRC. Candidates for the President shall fulfil at least the condition of having university or high school education whereby active knowledge of the English language is required as well as substantial contribution to the implementation of the basic mission of the Red Cross by past active participation and personal engagement in the Red Cross organizations or humanitarian organizations.

(3) Candidates for members of the Main Committee – representatives of local associations shall be proposed by local associations whereas each local association shall propose one candidate, with the exception of the Ljubljana and Maribor regions, which may propose two candidates. Candidates shall be placed on a list of candidates according to region, which means that a list of candidates includes candidates of local associations from that region. An overview of regions and local associations from each region is annexed to this statute. The Main Committee shall at every amendment, yet at least once a year 60 days before an ordinary session of the General Assembly, update the Annex and harmonize it with actual situation. Candidates for the Main Committee members may be individuals who made a substantial contribution to the implementation of the basic mission of the Red Cross with their past active participation and personal engagement in the Red Cross organizations. Members of the Main Committee – representatives of local associations shall be elected by the General Assembly whereas ministry representatives are only approved by it.

### **Article 30**

All candidature proposers shall provide the Candidacy Commission with reasoned proposals for the candidature as well as with a written declaration of the candidate declaring that he/she

accepts the candidature and that he/she will, if elected, actively perform his/her new function. Candidate proposals shall be submitted to the Candidacy Commission in closed envelopes bearing the label “Za kandidacijsko komisijo – ne odpiraj” (For the Candidacy Commission – do not open). The Candidacy Commission shall open the envelopes at the session.

### **Article 31**

(1) Each member of the Main Committee shall, after having been elected or appointed, sign a declaration of the Code of Conduct of this body. The Code is adopted by the General Assembly.

(2) If, for any reason, a term of an individual member of the Main Committee is terminated, the body shall operate without this member until the first following General Assembly; this does not apply if the number of all members of the Main Committee has decreased below 11 members – in this case by-elections shall immediately be held to fill the positions of missing members.

(3) A proposal for the dismissal of the President, the Vice-President and a member of the Main Committee may be submitted to the General Assembly by any body which has, according to this statute, the powers to submit a candidature proposal for these functions. The proposal for the dismissal shall be written and reasoned. An initiative for the dismissal may be introduced to the supreme body in his/her organization or association by any member of the Red Cross. Reasons for the dismissal of a member of the Main Committee may be in particular:

- inactivity regarding member’s work in the body;
- activity, which is contrary to this statute;
- activity which causes material or moral damage to the SRC;
- termination of membership in the Red Cross.

### **Article 32**

(1) The Main Committee shall meet in a session at least every 3 months. Sessions may be ordinary or extraordinary.

(2) A session shall be called by the President or, in his absence, by the Vice-President. An extraordinary session may be called on the initiative of the Executive Committee, the Supervisory Committee, the Secretary General or at the request of one third of the Main Committee members. A quorum shall exist at the session if more than half of members with the right to vote are present. The Main Committee shall take decisions with the majority of the votes of members present at the session of the Main Committee. In urgent cases, the session of the Main Committee may be a correspondent session. The Secretary General shall obligatory be invited to sessions; if necessary, other workers or external professionals may also be invited if this would benefit the work of the Main Committee.

(3) Members of the Main Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years and may be re-elected or reappointed, yet not for more than two successive terms.

(4) The Main Committee is accountable to the General Assembly for its work.

(5) The President and the Vice-President may not be elected to their function for more than two successive terms.

### **Article 33**

The Main Committee shall exercise the following powers:

- to propose an annual programme of tasks which shall be carried out by the SRC as public power, and to submit it to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for adoption;
- to propose the calling for the session of the General Assembly and to prepare a draft agenda and materials for the session of the General Assembly;
- to elect and dismiss members of the Executive Committee;
- to implement the annual work programme of the SRC and decisions adopted by the General Assembly;
- to discuss and propose the annual substantial and financial report to be submitted to the General Assembly;
- to discuss and propose the annual work programme of the SRC along with the financial plan;
- to adopt the annual plan of blood donation;
- to adopt the annual plan of information activities;
- to adopt regulations and other general legal acts of the SRC;
- to adopt the annual work plan of the Youth health and holiday resort of the SRC and to appoint, on the proposal of the Secretary General, the head of this health resort who was selected on the basis of a public tender and his/her vision of the development over a longer period;
- to take decisions on international co-operation and activities of the SRC;
- to manage the movable and immovable property of the SRC;
- to give the SRC awards;
- to determine financial obligations of local associations in accordance with the adopted annual work programme;

- to adopt an annual programme of professional assistance to local associations in the exercise of public powers;
- to approve decisions taken by the Executive Committee;
- to adopt proposals for setting up institutes and funds approved by the General Assembly;
- to provide guidelines and monitor how the activities referred to in Article 13 of this statute are being carried out;
- to take decision on requests for rights protection of workers employed in the Professional Service of the SRC;
- to approve the contents of the employment contract of the Secretary General signed by the President of the SRC on the basis of the Main Committee decision;
- to give its consent to the Secretary General to manage resources and movable property and make investments with a value higher than 20,000 EUR in its tolar equivalent according to the medium exchange rate of the Bank of Slovenia;
- to give permission to the Vice-President to start carrying out presidential powers in the absence of the President;
- to appoint working bodies and other consultative bodies;
- to carry out tasks imposed by exceptional circumstances and by the needs to repair damage in the humanitarian area;
- to carry out other tasks imposed to it by this statute.

#### **Article 34**

The Main Committee shall exercise the following powers with regard to local associations:

- to give its opinion on the candidature for the position of the Secretary of a local association;
- to introduce an initiative to begin the dismissal procedure of the President or Secretary of a local association when acting contrary to fundamental principles of the SRC or when severely violating this statute;
- to give its opinion on the conformity of the statute of a local association with the statute of the SRC. In case of inconformity it proposes the following procedures: proposal for harmonization, proposal for disciplinary proceedings and proposal for suspension from membership;
- to give its opinion on the formation of legal entity in accordance with this statute;

- to propose a uniform amount of membership fee for local association members whereas the non-respect of the proposal means violation of common operational principles, which is subject to a Honorary Arbitration Court decision; it may provide guidelines or give its opinion on the activities of a local association;
- to warn local associations of eventual irregularities and help eliminate reasons for regularities and eventual conflicts;
- to carry out other tasks determined by this statute.

## **Executive Committee**

### **Article 35**

(1) The Executive Committee is composed of the President, the Vice-President of the SRC and 3 members elected by the Main Committee among its members for a period of four years. Term duration of a member of the Executive Committee is equal to that member's term duration in the Main Committee.

(2) If, for any reason, a term of an individual member of the Main Committee is terminated, the Main Committee shall elect a new member of the Executive Committee at the first following session.

(3) For dismissal, the same provisions shall apply as for dismissal of members of the Main Committee.

### **Article 36**

(1) The Executive Committee is an operational-executive body of the Main Committee and is accountable to the Main Committee.

(2) It takes decisions on all issues in form of written decisions and it submits concurrent reports to the Main Committee. Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be approved by the Main Committee at the first following session. If the Main Committee does not approve an individual decision of the Executive Committee, it shall annul it and take its own decision on the matter concerned.

(3) The Executive Committee shall meet in a session at least once a month. A quorum shall exist at sessions if more than half of members are present. Decisions are valid if more than half of the members present vote for them. In urgent cases, the session of the Executive Committee may also be a correspondent session. The Secretary General shall obligatory be invited to sessions; if necessary, also other workers or external professionals may be invited if this would benefit the work of the Executive Committee.

### **Article 37**

The Executive Committee shall take decisions on issues within the competence of the Main Committee to which it is entitled by the Main Committee, in particular:



- to carry out tasks of common importance for the work of the SRC and local associations;
- to carry out tasks from the annual work programme of the SRC and to monitor its realization;
- to prepare the agenda and materials for the sessions of the Main Committee;
- to form proposals for decisions for the Main Committee;
- to give its consent to the Secretary General to dispose of resources and movable property and make investments with a value higher than 10,000 EUR in its tolar equivalent according to the medium exchange rate of the Bank of Slovenia;
- to implement decisions of the Main Committee and to monitor how the decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Main Committee are being realized and implemented;
- to take decisions on giving prizes, awards and commendations granted by the SRC;
- to carry out other powers and tasks imposed to it by this statute.

## **Supervisory Committee**

### **Article 38**

(1) The Supervisory Committee is composed of 5 members who shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of 4 years and may be re-elected, yet not for more than two successive terms altogether. The Supervisory Committee shall elect a President among its members. The function of the Supervisory Committee is to perform permanent supervision of financial-material management of the SRC and to monitor how the bodies and officials work as well as to control the compliance of their work with the provisions of the statute, accounting standards and other applicable regulations in this field.

(2) Candidates for members of the Supervisory Committee may be proposed by local associations, the Main Committee and the Supervisory Committee of the SRC, and by the President, the Vice-President and the Secretary General of the SRC. Candidates for a member of the Supervisory Committee shall be familiar with the activities of the SRC and have experience in material-financial management. For presentations of candidature proposals in order to become a member of the Supervisory Committee, the provisions referred to in Article 29 of this statute shall reasonably apply.

(3) If, for any reason, a term of a member of the Supervisory Committee is terminated, by-elections shall immediately be held to fill the position of a missing member. For dismissal, the same provisions apply as for dismissal of members of the Main Committee.

### **Article 39**

(1) The Supervisory Committee shall meet at least twice a year. In urgent cases, sessions of the Supervisory Committee may also be correspondent sessions. A session of the Supervisory Committee shall be called by the President of the Supervisory Committee; it shall be called also on the initiative of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary General or a member

of the Main or Executive Committee. The Secretary General shall, if it is deemed necessary, receive an invitation to the session, yet the invitation is obligatory if a report of the Supervisory Committee is being prepared.

(2) A quorum shall exist at the sessions of the Supervisory Committee if more than half of members are present. The Supervisory Committee shall take decisions with the majority of the votes of all members of the Supervisory Committee. It may also engage external financial professionals or auditors in its work.

(3) The Supervisory Committee is accountable to the General Assembly and shall submit a report to it for each calendar year.

(4) Members of the Supervisory Committee have the right to be present at the sessions of the Main Committee and the Executive Committee, yet they do not have the right to vote. They have the right to consult all the documentation of the SRC.

## **Honorary Arbitration Court**

### **Article 40**

(1) The Honorary Arbitration Court shall discuss and rule on violations by members – individuals as well as the LRCA (Local Red Cross Associations) and TRCA (Town-based Red Cross Organizations). Violations may be related to: the violations of the provisions of the Law on the SRC, this statute, the Code of Conduct, fundamental principles and the use of the emblem and name. It is possible to bring an appeal against the decisions of the Honorary Arbitration Court to the General Assembly of the SRC, which gives the final decision.

(2) The Honorary Arbitration Court shall be composed of 3 members and 3 deputies who shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years. The members may be reappointed, yet not for more than two successive terms altogether. Members of the Honorary Arbitration Court shall elect a President and a Deputy President among themselves. If, for any reason, a term of a member of the Honorary Arbitration Court is terminated, by-elections shall immediately be held to fill the position of a missing member. For dismissal of members of the Honorary Arbitration Court, the provision of the paragraph 3 Article 31 shall apply.

(3) Candidates for members of the Honorary Arbitration Court may be proposed by local associations, the Main Committee and the Supervisory Committee of the SRC, and by the President, the Vice-President of the SRC and the Secretary General of the SRC. The Honorary Arbitration Court may give its opinion regarding the proposed members. For presentations of candidature to become a member of the Honorary Arbitration Court, the provision of Article 30 of this statute shall apply.

(4) The Honorary Arbitration Court shall make decisions with a panel. It is accountable to the General Assembly for its work. In case of violations of the SRC statute by a member of the SRC, it may pronounce a warning, a public warning, or a suspension from membership. The decision shall be written and reasoned, and the violator shall have the right to appeal against it in 15 days after its receipt. The appeal shall suspend the execution of the decision. The decision on the appeal is taken by the General Assembly.

(5) More detailed provisions on the conduct of procedures and on the imposing of penalties are determined by special regulations providing the description of violations and penalties. The Regulations shall be approved by the Assembly.

## **Statutory Commission**

### **Article 41**

(1) The Statutory Commission is composed of 5 members who shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of 4 years and may be re-elected, yet not for more than two successive terms. The Commission shall elect a President among itself. Candidates for members of the Statutory Commission may be proposed by local associations, the Main Committee and the Supervisory Committee of the SRC, and by the President, the Vice-President of the SRC and the Secretary General of the SRC. Majority of members of the Statutory Commission shall be individuals with education or work experience demonstrating experience in the field of working with legal acts. For presentations of candidature proposals in order to become a member of the Statutory Commission, the provision of Article 29, paragraph 2 of this statute shall apply.

(2) The tasks of the Commission shall be: to prepare and explain the statute as well as organizational, professional and other legal acts of the SRC and local associations, and to evaluate their compliance with the applicable legislation and fundamental international legal acts of the Red Cross. The Statutory Commission shall also evaluate the compliance of statutes and other legal acts of local associations with the statute of the SRC, other legal acts and decisions of the General Assembly and other bodies, and propose opinion thereon to the Main Committee.

(3) A quorum shall exist at the session of the Statutory Commission if at least three members are present. It shall take decisions with the majority of the votes of all members of the Commission. The Statutory Commission may also invite external professionals to work with it, yet they have no right to vote.

(4) A session of the Statutory Commission shall be called by the President of the Statutory Commission. A session may be called on the proposal of any member of the Statutory Commission.

(5) A session of the Statutory Commission may also be a correspondent session.

(6) The minutes shall be taken at the session of the Statutory Commission which shall be, when finished, sent to members of the Statutory Commission, to the Secretary General and to those LRCA's concerned by the session. The minutes shall also be taken at a correspondent session.

(7) Documentation for the session of the Statutory Commission shall be prepared by the Professional Service of the SRC as directed by the President of the Statutory Commission. All documentation including minutes shall be stored at the headquarters of the Slovenian Red Cross, Mirje 19, 1000 Ljubljana.

(8) The Statutory Commission shall submit a report on its work to the Main Committee of the SRC at least once a year.

## **President**

### **Article 42**

(1) The President of the SRC shall lead the SRC, assure legality and publicity of the work of the SRC bodies, as well as represent and present the SRC in legal relations. The President shall, in particular:

- call and chair sessions of the Main Committee and the Executive Committee;
- present a report on the work and state of the SRC to the General Assembly;
- coordinate work of the SRC bodies;
- present the SRC and represent it before national authorities, other bodies and organizations and the Movement in Slovenia and abroad;
- be, together with the Secretary General, the authorising officer regarding the execution of the financial plan of the SRC;
- carry out other tasks imposed by the General Assembly, the Main Committee and the Executive Committee, or determined in this statute.

(2) Term duration of the President is four years. The President may not be elected for more than two successive terms.

(3) The General Assembly may, besides because of the reasons which apply to members of the Main Committee, prematurely dismiss the President, if the following reasons exist:

- if the President does not work in accordance with applicable regulations and international legal acts on which the work of the Red Cross organization is based;
- if the Assembly does not adopt the annual substantial and financial report of the SRC;
- if the President causes significant material or moral damage to the SRC by his/her unscrupulous or incorrect work or if he/she neglects his/her duties or carries them out carelessly.

## **Vice-President**

### **Article 43**

(1) The Vice-President shall assist the President in work and stand in for him/her when the President is absent; the Vice-President shall have the same powers as the President. The Vice-President shall be elected for a period of 4 years and may be re-elected, yet for not more than two successive terms altogether. If the President is absent – which implies that the Vice-President should carry out presidential powers – the President shall immediately inform the Main Committee which shall give permission to the Vice-President to start carrying out presidential powers. In the decision on granting presidential powers to the Vice-President in

case of the absence of the President, the Main Committee shall determine the duration of this authorization and any special restrictions.

(2) The General Assembly may prematurely dismiss the Vice-President in the same manner and for the same reasons as apply to the President.

## **Secretary General**

### **Article 44**

(1) The Secretary General of the SRC is the executive official of the SRC and is responsible for the implementation of guidelines and decisions of the Assembly, the Main Committee, the Executive Committee and the Supervisory Committee of the SRC.

(2) The Secretary General of the SRC shall review the legality of the work of the Professional Service and shall draw attention to decisions and actions which are contrary to the law and other regulations.

(3) The Secretary General shall, in the absence of the President and the Vice-President or upon their authorization, present the SRC and represent it before national authorities and law courts as well as in relations with national and foreign organizations and the Movement.

(4) The Secretary General shall organize and lead the work of the Professional Service of the SRC and is responsible for its work, in particular he/she shall:

- be responsible for correct and timely execution of all the tasks necessary for undisturbed work of the SRC in accordance with documents and decisions adopted;
- prepare drafts of annual substantial and financial reports on the work of the SRC to be submitted to the General Assembly;
- submit a report on his/her work to the President, the Executive Committee and the Main Committee;
- appoint his/her deputy among the Professional Service workers, upon a prior opinion of the Main Committee;
- be present at the sessions of the Main Committee and the Executive Committee as well as, if necessary, at the sessions of the Supervisory Committee and the General Assembly, yet with no right to vote;
- regularly coordinate Professional Services and Secretaries of local associations as well as chair and direct the Secretary College;
- be, together with the President and the Vice-President, the authorising officer regarding the execution of the financial plan of the SRC in accordance with this statute and the powers granted by the Main Committee;
- adopt implementing legal acts in the fields of organization and labour relations to the employed people, in accordance with internal legal acts;

– carry out other tasks determined by this statute or imposed to him/her by the SRC bodies.

(5) The Secretary General shall be appointed for a period of four years on the proposal of the Main Committee and may be reappointed. The Main Committee shall select candidates on the basis of a public tender. The General Assembly may dismiss the Secretary General before the expiry of the term for the same reasons as it may dismiss the President, as well as if there is a reason upon which the employment relationship terminates by law. The proposal for dismissal may be given by the Main Committee.

(6) The Secretary General shall have a deputy who shall, in the absence of the Secretary General, organize the work of the Professional Service, so that it can be continued uninterruptedly. The Deputy Secretary General has no authorizations to enter into obligations and sign financial documentation. In urgent cases in which damage would occur, he/she shall introduce an initiative to the President for the calling of a session of the Executive Committee.

## **VI. ORGANIZATION OF THE SRC**

### **Article 45**

(1) The SRC is a federation of local associations consisting of members of town-based, district and municipal organizations, and local associations.

(2) The organization structure is as follows:

- town-based, district or municipal organization;
- local association;
- the Slovenian Red Cross as the federation of local associations (the SRC).

(3) The SRC and its local associations are legal entities whereas other organizational units have no status of legal entity.

(4) Local associations may also participate within the territorial area or region in forming common views or proposals. Participation within a region is not an organizational unit of the SRC but a form of work by local associations and the SRC.

(5) The SRC and local associations shall also have Professional Services which shall carry out operational tasks, monitor the execution of legal powers, the maintenance of the database and the organization of the Tracing Service in accordance with the Law on the Slovenian Red Cross.

(6) The SRC shall provide local associations with a uniform membership card and uniform membership form.

(7) Local associations shall determine their activities according to the principles laid down in Article 8 of this statute. Local associations are an integrated part of the SRC. They shall follow the SRC statute and the decisions of the SRC bodies. The statute of a local association shall be in accordance with the SRC statute.

## **Local associations**

### **Article 46**

(1) Local associations are set up and organized on those territorially rounded-off areas which were determined at the establishment of the Red Cross by law, and have the status of legal entities of private law which they acquire by registration at the competent administrative authority. Local associations carry out public powers in accordance with the Law on the Slovenian Red Cross.

(2) A local association consists of members organized in town-based and municipal organizations.

(3) Internal organization and Professional Services, representations and powers of local associations shall be determined by the statute and adopted by the Assembly which is the supreme body of a local association. Local associations shall, in their statutes, lay down such an internal organizational structure which would enable them carry out tasks and powers arising from fundamental tasks of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement and determined by the Law on the Red Cross, the Geneva Conventions and the SRC programme.

(4) In order to carry out tasks and powers, local associations shall form at least the following bodies:

- the Assembly
- the Local Committee
- the Supervisory Committee
- the Honorary Arbitration Court
- the Commission for public powers

(5) Besides these bodies, every local association has a Secretary who is authorized to carry out tasks adopted by the bodies. Local associations may also have the Executive Committee and other commissions.

### **Article 47**

(1) In order to ensure a uniform work and execution of tasks and public powers of the SRC in the whole country, local associations shall submit their statutes to the SRC for its consideration and attain positive opinion saying that the LRCA's statute is in compliance with this statute.

(2) The SRC may make comments and recommendations on the statutes submitted by local associations, and determine the period for supplementing the statute.

(3) The SRC may withhold the integration of a local association in the SRC if there is incompliance of the statute of a local association with the SRC statute.

## **VII. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT AND THE ARBITRATION**

### **Article 48**

Disputes between the SRC and local associations shall be settled by negotiation in order to reach consent. If the dispute cannot be settled by negotiation, each party involved in the dispute may refer the dispute to arbitration by which it shall be settled. The arbitration procedure starts by bringing an action; the jurisdiction of Court is excluded in this case.

#### **Article 49**

The Assembly of the SRC shall adopt a list of arbitrators on the proposal of local associations of the RC. The list of arbitrators shall be composed of 15 names of possible arbitrators and 5 names of possible presidents of the Arbitration. Possible presidents of the Arbitration shall have high education in law.

#### **Article 50**

(1) The arbitration procedure starts by bringing an action which shall be composed in accordance with the Law on the Civil Procedure. In the action, the plaintiff shall include the name of the arbitrator chosen from the list of arbitrators. The action shall be served on the opposite party with an invitation to appoint his/her arbitrator.

(2) The arbitrators, appointed in accordance with previous paragraph, shall appoint or name the president of the Arbitration among possible presidents of the Arbitration from the list of arbitrators. The Arbitration shall choose its procedural rules. It shall use the procedural rules as used by the permanent arbitration of the Chamber of Commerce of Slovenia, or arbitration rules as used by insurance companies.

#### **Article 51**

The decision of the Arbitration is final. The decision of the Arbitration may be contested only by an action for reasons as determined in Articles 477 and 478 of the Law on the Civil Procedure.

### **VIII. MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE SLOVENIAN RED CROSS**

#### **Article 52**

(1) The SRC shall receive resources from:

- membership fees;
- public funds of the Republic of Slovenia and of communities;
- donations;
- revenues from the FIHO Foundation and from other foundations, carrying out humanitarian activities,
- the revenues from the gainful activities carried out in accordance with this statute;
- sponsorships;
- donations and legacies;
- the revenues collected in the Red Cross and the Solidarity Week, and in other permanent or temporary actions;



- the lottery;
- voluntary contributions;
- other sources.

(2) The SRC shall dispose of financial resources within the approved financial plan and final account. Any excess income shall be used to facilitate activities.

(3) The supervision of the disposal of the SRC resources shall be carried out by the Supervisory Committee. An external authorized public auditor may be engaged on the proposal of the Main Committee and the Supervisory Committee.

### **Article 53**

Financial and material management is based on the Regulations on financial-material management in which the manner and forms of collecting data on financial-material management are determined. The Regulations shall be in compliance with the accounting standards for societies.

### **Article 54**

(1) Immovable property may only be bought or alienated from third parties upon the decision of the General Assembly (in case of the property of the SRC) or upon the decision of the Assembly of a local association (in case of the property of the local association).

(2) The powers of the Secretary General related to the disposal of movable property and resources of the SRC or of a local association may be restricted by the Main Committee, whereas such powers of the Secretary may be restricted by the Local Committee.

(3) The Youth health and holiday resort Debeli rtič, which is the property of the SRC is of special importance to the SRC. Decisions on the disposal of this property may only be taken by the Main Committee upon and within the decisions of the General Assembly.

### **Article 55**

The resources obtained by the SRC from public funds of the Republic of Slovenia for the functions carried out as public powers, and resources as referred to in Article 52 shall be divided among local associations upon the principles determined by the Main Committee regarding the contribution of local associations to the implementation of the annual programme of the Slovenian Red Cross.

### **Article 56**

(1) The property of the SRC includes all movable and immovable property owned by the SRC and found in the registry of the SRC property. The property of a local association includes all movable and immovable property owned by the local association and found in the registry of the property of each local association.

(2) In case of the termination of the SRC, the budgetary resources shall be returned to the budget, whereas other property shall be, upon the decision of the General Assembly, which

will take decision on the termination of the activities, transferred to a society which has its activities and objects based on universal principles of the humanitarian law, is similar to the SRC and is established by law.

## **IX. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE OF THE SLOVENIAN RED CROSS**

### **Article 57**

Working group consists of the SRC staff with headquarters in Mirje 19 and staff of the Youth health and holiday resort Debeli Rtič.

### **Article 58**

(1) A Professional Service is set up to perform professional, administrative, technical and other tasks in order to carry out programmes and activities of the SRC bodies, to offer professional help on the implementation of the programmes of local associations and to carry out legal powers. Organization and systemization of a Professional Service is determined by the Main Committee of the SRC on the proposal of the Secretary General of the SRC.

(2) The Professional Service shall carry out all operational work and tasks related to carrying out specific SRC tasks. The Professional Service is lead by the Secretary General.

(3) The head of the Youth health and holiday resort Debeli rtič shall be directly subordinated to the Secretary General. The Secretary General shall authorize, by a decision, the head and determines the degree of their independency and responsibility.

(3) Resources for the work of a Professional Service shall be provided from the SRC resources within the financial plan.

(4) The organization of the Professional Service and the systemization of jobs within the working group as well as other relationships concerning workers shall be determined in general legal acts of the SRC, adopted by the Main Committee.

(5) The organization and activities of Professional Services in local associations shall be determined by local associations.

(6) Professional Services of the SRC and of local associations also co-operate through a Professional Secretary College which shall, as a rule, meet once a month. The Secretary College is lead by the Secretary General. The Professional Secretary College shall provide the Main Committee with minutes from its sessions.

### **Article 59**

(1) Workers of the working group may be regular or contract workers. The Secretary General shall conclude, on behalf of the SRC and after previous consent of the Main Committee, an employment contract with a regular worker or a different contract with a contract worker.

(2) Collective agreement for health and social security, applicable labour legislation and general legal acts of the SRC regarding labour relations shall apply to labour relations.

## **X. TERMINATION OF THE SRC**

### **Article 60**

The SRC shall cease to exist:

- upon a decision of the General Assembly of the SRC which may take decision on termination only if the legal basis for the existence of the SRC ceases to exist;
- by law.

## **XI. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 61**

(1) The SRC shall harmonize its internal acts with this statute in 1 year after the adoption of this statute.

(2) Until the expiry of the term, as from the Electoral Assembly held on 3 April 2003, members of the Main Committee, in addition to the members of the Main Committee determined in Article 28 of this statute, shall be the Secretary General and 3 secretaries from local associations as well.

(3) Term limit, determined by this statute, for the President, the Vice-President and members of the bodies of the SRC and local associations shall be applicable for elections and appointments which will be carried out on the basis of this statute.

### **Article 62**

(1) Local associations shall harmonize their work and statutes with this statute by 31 December 2006.

(2) If, after the adoption of the statute referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the body members' term has not terminated yet, local associations may determine in the statute that bodies be elected upon the new statute after the expiry of the existing terms.

### **Article 63**

Debeli rtič is a special organizational part of the Professional Service which carries out, as its main task, preventive health care and continuation of hospital treatment and holidays for children; accommodation and supporting activities to carry out these main activities; as well as holidays under social programmes and special programmes of psycho-social therapy for groups and individuals who are particularly at risk.

### **Article 64**

The SRC shall be obliged to submit – before the decision-making procedure at the General Assembly – the proposal aiming at amending the statute, to the Joint Commission of the International Committee of the Red Cross/International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes.

#### **Article 65**

(1) This statute was adopted at the session of the General Assembly on 25 April 2006. With the adoption of this statute the following acts shall expire: the statute, adopted at the session of the General Assembly on 14 October 1997 with amendments adopted at a correspondent session of the General Assembly on 4 July 2002; the statute adopted at the Extraordinary Assembly on 14 February 2003 with amendments adopted at the Ordinary General Assembly on 3 April 2003; the amendments, and the statute adopted at the Assembly on 4 May 2004.

(2) The statute and its amendments shall be communicated to the appropriate authority at which the SCR is registered, within 15 days after the adoption.

President of the Slovenian Red Cross  
Primarius Janez Remškar, M.D