



STATUTES OF
THE MALDIVIAN RED CRESCENT

24 April 2021
Version 3

STATUTES OF

THE MALDIVIAN RED CRESCENT

1 .1 Legal Status and Character

- 1.1.1 These Statutes shall be cited as "**The Statutes of Maldivian Red Crescent**". These Statutes are enacted pursuant to authority granted to the Maldives Red Crescent under the "**Maldivian Red Crescent Act**" (Law Number: 7/2009).
- 1.1.2 The Maldivian Red Crescent is formed by virtue of the **Maldivian Red Crescent Act** (Law Number: 7/2009), ratified by the President of Maldives on 7 May 2009, as a voluntary aid organisation, auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field.
- 1.1.3 The Maldivian Red Crescent is the only National Society of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the Maldives territory. It carries out its activities within the entire territory of the Maldives.
- 1.1.4 The Maldivian Red Crescent is an independent and non-political humanitarian organisation with a legal personality of its own, which shall work in accordance with Maldivian laws and regulations, the **1949 Geneva Conventions** and their **Additional Protocols** to provide humanitarian services.
- 1.1.5 The Maldivian Red Crescent, as a legal entity independent of its members, can sue and be sued in its own name, and can lawfully create, purchase, accept, dispose of, and own movable and immovable assets.
- 1.1.6 The Maldivian Red Crescent maintains its autonomy, which allows it to act at all times independently, and in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The public authorities shall at all times respect the adherence of the Maldivian Red Crescent to the Fundamental Principles.
- 1.1.7 The Maldivian Red Crescent is legally empowered to carry out and implement all the objectives of the Maldivian Red Crescent. In accordance with *Article 8.1.A (e)* of the **Constitution of International Federation**, the Maldivian Red Crescent may support other National Societies, when called upon, in accordance with the applicable rules of co-ordination and co-operation.
- 1.1.8 Along with these Statutes, the Rules of Procedure shall regulate the work of all bodies of the Maldivian Red Crescent.

1.2: The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The Maldivian Red Crescent shall in all its work respect the following Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent 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 people.

Impartiality: It 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, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary Service: It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity: There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

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.

1.3: The Name

The name of this organization is “**Dhivehi Red Crescent**” and “**Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC)**”. Any reference made herein after to as “**Dhivehi Red Crescent**” or “**Maldivian Red Crescent**” or “**MRC**” refers to the Maldivian Red Crescent.

1.4: Registered Office

- 1.4.1 The registered head office of the Maldivian Red Crescent shall always be located in Male' City, the capital of the country. The headquarters of Maldivian Red Crescent should not be located in a government building. However, should the circumstance arise, Maldivian Red Crescent and the government may arrive at an alternative arrangement in such a way that Maldivian Red Crescent is able to maintain the Fundamental Principles of the Movement at all times.
 - 1.4.2 The Maldivian Red Crescent has the discretion to change its head office to any location as is determined by the Maldivian Red Crescent's Governing Board, unless in extraordinary circumstances such as in times of distress and emergencies as determined by the Maldivian Red Crescent. The Maldivian Red Crescent also has the discretion to establish other offices or units as may be determined by the Maldivian Red Crescent's Governing Board.

1.5: Emblem and Seal

Maldivian legislation on the use and protection of the emblem, as well as the 1991 Regulations on the Use of the Emblem, adopted at the International Conference, whose provisions are binding by the National Society.

1.6: Respect for the Statutes of the Movement and Constitution of the International Federation

- 1.6.1 The Maldivian Red Crescent, including all of its governing bodies shall at all time act in compliance with the **Statutes of the Movement**, the **Constitution of the International Federation**, **International Humanitarian Law**, and resolutions and decisions of the **International Conference** including *Resolution 3 of the International Conference in 2007* related to the specific nature of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, the **Council of Delegates** and the **General Assembly of the International Federation**.
- 1.6.2 As a member of the Movement, the Maldivian Red Crescent shall fulfil the conditions laid down in Article 4 of the Statutes of the Movement, and its relations with the other components of the Movement shall comply with Article 3 of the Statutes of the Movement.
- 1.6.3 As a member of IFRC the Maldivian Red Crescent shall be bound by the obligations laid down in Article 8 of the Constitution of the IFRC.

1.7: Amendment and dissemination of the Statutes

- 1.7.1 Proposed amendments to the Statutes should be submitted and approved by the Governing Board of the Maldivian Red Crescent before its adoption by the General Assembly.
- 1.7.2 Before adoption by the General Assembly, amendments to the Statutes shall be submitted to the Government Nominated Ministry, for its consideration. Any comments by the Ministry shall be taken into account and shall be in conformity with the seven Fundamental Principles of the Movement.
- 1.7.3 Any amendments to the Statutes should be adopted with a quorum of two-third (2/3) of the Governing Board members present and voting before their submission to the General Assembly for their final approval.
- 1.7.4 According to the Resolution VI of the XXII International Conference 1973 in Teheran, and the Resolution XX of the XXIV International Conference 1981 in Manila, any amendments to the Statutes shall be submitted to the ICRC/International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes before their adoption by the General Assembly and shall be taken into account before such amendments to the Statutes can be adopted by the General Assembly.
- 1.7.5 Any comments, by the ICRC/International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes shall be referred to the Government Nominated Ministry to ensure that it is in compliance with the national legislation of the Maldives.
- 1.7.6 Any amendments to the Statutes should be adopted at the General Assembly with a quorum of two-third (2/3) of the General Assembly Representatives and with the two-third (2/3) majority of the Members present and eligible to vote in the General Assembly.
- 1.7.7 After the adoption of any amendments to the Statutes by the General Assembly, the Maldivian Red Crescent shall submit a complete set of the new version of Statutes to

the Government Nominated Ministry and ICRC/International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes.

- 1.7.8 In the event of any inconsistency or discrepancy between the English version and any other linguistic versions of this Statutes, the English language version shall prevail.
- 1.7.9 A review of Maldivian Red Crescent shall be included in the agenda of the General Assembly at least every four years.
- 1.7.10 The Statutes shall be disseminated throughout the Maldivian Red Crescent and made available, upon request, to any National Society member or volunteer.

1.8: Dissolution of Maldivian Red Crescent

- 1.8.1 The Maldivian Red Crescent, can be dissolved either by:
 - 1.8.1.1 A resolution supported by two-third (2/3) of the entire Governing Board members which shall be adopted by the Governing Board. This resolution shall then be presented to the General Assembly and must be supported by two-third (2/3) of the entire representatives of the General Assembly. Such a resolution shall then be submitted to IFRC and ICRC for their recommendation after which their recommendations shall be followed.
 - 1.8.1.2 A competent court of law in the Maldives when the performance of the national Society is repeatedly in violation of the objectives and the Statutes of the Society, and the Maldivian Red Crescent can no longer operate in accordance with its Statutes.
- 1.8.2 In the event of dissolution or the winding up of Maldivian Red Crescent there remains after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Maldivian Red Crescent but shall be given or transferred in whole or in part to some other organization or organizations within the Maldives having exclusively charitable objectives which are all together or in part similar to those of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement as determined by the General Assembly at or before the time of winding up.

2. Objectives and Tasks

2.1 General Objective and Tasks of the Maldivian Red Crescent:

The Primary Objective of the Maldivian Red Crescent in conducting its humanitarian activities, acting independently in the Maldives, is to prevent and alleviate suffering with complete impartiality, making no discrimination as to nationality, citizenship, ethnic origin, age, gender, disability, religious beliefs, language, social background or political opinions or for any other reasons.

For this purpose, the tasks of the Maldivian Red Crescent are in particular:

- 2.1.1 to act in case of armed conflict and peace, and to act in all the fields covered by the **Geneva Conventions** and on behalf of all victims of armed conflict, both civilian and military;
- 2.1.2 to help victims of war and internal violence and to protect and assist the victims including preservation of the physical integrity and dignity of the victims;
- 2.1.3 to contribute to the improvement of the conditions of the weak and the

- vulnerable; in times of ill health, in prevention of diseases, and in response to all humanitarian emergencies;
- 2.1.4 to organize, within the scope of a national plan and in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority, emergency responses for the victims of disasters, whatever the cause be;
 - 2.1.5 to educate the population on disaster preparedness and how to respond to disasters, whatever the cause may be;
 - 2.1.6 to promote the participation of young people in the formation of and activities in the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
 - 2.1.7 to strive towards maintaining gender balance in all structures and activities of the Maldivian Red Crescent;
 - 2.1.8 to promote the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and those of **International Humanitarian Law** in order to further a culture of peace and the development of humanitarian ideals amongst the population, and in particular among children, youth and law enforcement personnel;
 - 2.1.9 to recruit, train and assign Maldivian Red Crescent personnel at national, branch and unit levels as are necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities and to involve volunteers in the activities and promote capacity building at all levels of the Maldivian Red Crescent, making no discrimination as to nationality, citizenship, ethnic origin, age, gender, disability, religious beliefs, language, social background or political opinions or for any other reasons;
 - 2.1.10 to co-operate with public authorities at all levels to ensure respect for **International Humanitarian Law**, to protect the distinctive emblems of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
 - 2.1.11 to promote mutual assistance and co-operation with public authorities at all levels, and to co-operate with other partners within and outside the Movement; and
 - 2.1.12 to strengthen international relations, and **International Humanitarian Law**, both in the Maldives and globally.

3: Relationship with the Government Nominated Ministry

- 3.1 When fulfilling its objectives mentioned under *Article 2* and in particular of *Articles 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.10 and 2.1.11* the Government Nominated Ministry shall be appointed, in writing by the Government of the Maldives

For this purpose, the Maldivian Red Crescent:

- 3.1.1 Shall provide a copy of its annual report to the Government Nominated Ministry; and
- 3.1.2 When fulfilling the objectives mentioned under *Articles 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.10 and 2.1.11*, the Maldivian Red Crescent, to enhance collaboration with the public authorities, may, if need be, conclude written agreements with the relevant public authorities regarding the execution of their services. These agreements shall not contain an obligation on the Maldivian Red Crescent to act against the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

- 3.2 In addition, the Government Nominated Ministry shall appoint a member to the Maldivian

Red Crescent Governing Board.

4: Membership

4.1 The membership of the Maldivian Red Crescent is open to all individuals and legal entities without any discrimination irrespective of nationality, citizenship, ethnic origin, gender, disability, religious beliefs, language, social background, political opinions and any other similar criteria. Individuals and entities shall adhere to the Maldivian Red Crescent's principles and objectives and may become members of the Maldivian Red Crescent.

4.2 The Maldivian Red Crescent's membership comprises of three categories:

- 4.2.1 Active Member
- 4.2.2 Subscribing Member
- 4.2.3 Honorary Member

4.3 Active Member

- 4.3.1 Is an individual who fulfils the requirements of membership and pays a membership fee and registration fee as stipulated in Article 4.8 hereto.
- 4.3.2 Membership within this category is obtained once the registration fee and membership fee is paid.
- 4.3.3 An Active Member is entitled to all membership rights, including the right to vote subject to Article 4.9 hereto and stand for election within the governing bodies.
- 4.3.4 Any individual holding any part time or full time staff positions of the Maldivian Red Crescent cannot obtain Active Membership or stand for election of any governance positions.

4.4 Subscribing Member

- 4.4.1 The Maldivian Red Crescent, by decision of the Governing Board of the Society, and a Unit by decision of the Unit Board may accept subscribing members which can be an individual or legal entity.
- 4.4.2 Such membership may be granted after an examination of the applying member's image and credibility and granting of such membership should not adversely affect the image and credibility of the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- 4.4.3 Subscribing Membership fees shall be determined as stipulated under Article 4.8 hereto.
- 4.4.4 A subscribing member does not have the rights or obligations pertaining to an Active Member including voting rights and the right to stand for election.

4.5 Honorary Member

- 4.5.1 Honorary membership shall only be awarded to individuals who have paid exceptional service to the Maldivian Red Crescent with an outstanding reputation and the membership shall be approved by the Governing Board.
- 4.5.2 An Honorary Member is entitled to all the rights of membership except

the right to vote and to stand for election to any position.

4.6 Becoming a member

- 4.6.1 Any individual or legal entity wanting to become a member of the Maldivian Red Crescent shall, at registration, accept to respect the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as stipulated in *Article 1.2* and the objectives of the Maldivian Red Crescent as stipulated in *Article 2.1* at all times.
- 4.6.2 The registration of Active and Subscribing Members of the Maldivian Red Crescent shall take place at the Unit level. In the event that a unit has not been established in a particular island, then registration shall take place at the nearest geographical Unit.

4.7 Registry of members

- 4.7.1 The Registry of all members shall be at all times available at the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- 4.7.2 The Registry shall comprise of the following information about the members:
 - a) Unit
 - b) Full name
 - c) Gender
 - d) Identity Card number or Passport number
 - e) Nationality/Citizenship
 - f) Date of birth
 - g) Permanent and temporary address
 - h) Contact details
 - i) Profession
 - j) Membership category
 - k) Date of recognition
 - l) Date of annulment of membership
 - m) If the member is a legal entity, the registered address of the entity, the address of its main offices or headquarters, and the registration number of the legal entity.

4.8 Registration and Membership Fees

- 4.8.1 The rate of membership fees for Active Members shall be determined by the General Assembly based on deliberations done by the Finance Commission. The method of collection, accounting procedure, and disbursement of registration fee shall be included in the Rules of Procedure.
- 4.8.2 The rate of membership fees for Subscribing Members who are individuals shall be proposed by the Units and approved by the Governing Board and shall be included in the Rules of Procedure.
- 4.8.3 The rate of membership fees for Subscribing Members for legal entities

shall be determined by the Governing Board.

- 4.8.4 The membership data for the year shall be as at 31st January of that calendar year.

4.9 Voting Rights

- 4.9.1 Members who are eligible to vote shall only exercise their voting rights three (3) months after they have registered as members.

4.10 Loss of Status of Member

- 4.10.1 Any member, if he or she may so wishes, may give notice of resignation in writing at any time.
- 4.10.1 Membership for Active and Subscribing Members is renewed by paying the annual membership fee. Their membership expires on 31st December each year, unless the membership is renewed. If a member holding a post loses membership, due to failure of renewal of membership, the member also loses his / her respective post in office.

4.11 Suspension and expulsion

- 4.11.1 The Unit Board may suspend or expel members under its jurisdiction for serious cause, and may also recommend to the Governing Board for expulsion of such members.
- 4.11.2 In such instances of serious cause, the suspended or expelled member shall be informed within 7 working days in writing of the reason for suspension or expulsion by the responsible body. The Rules of Procedure shall include procedures for handling such disciplinary actions.
- 4.11.3 Any member so expelled shall have the right to appeal to the responsible body and then to the Complaints Committee so as to ensure that no member is unjustly treated, and that the procedure is fair and in accordance with the laws of Maldives.
- 4.11.4 Appeals have to be made in writing within 45 days from notification of expulsion to the responsible body or Complaints Committee.
- 4.11.5 Serious cause for the purpose of expulsion is defined as the display of character or morality incompatible with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement or an engagement in activities that are detrimental to the reputation of the activities of the Maldivian Red Crescent, including abuse of the Maldivian Red Crescent funds and resources.
- 4.11.6 Death or dissolution of a person or legal entity.

4.12 Responsibilities of Members

- 4.12.1 Members shall:
- Respect, promote and work towards achieving the objectives of the Maldivian Red Crescent;
 - Act in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as stipulated in Article 1.2 of these Statutes, refrain from acts contradicting the Maldivian Red Crescent's

objectives in the activities organized by or partaken by the Maldivian Red Crescent;

- c) Accept and adhere to the rules and regulations of the Maldivian Red Crescent, including Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Code of Conduct; and
- d) Ensure payment of their membership fees, if applicable.

4.13 Rights of Members

- 4.13.1 All members have the right to express their opinion in the meetings, in accordance with the procedural direction of the chairperson and enquire about the activities of the Maldivian Red Crescent within the confines of the Maldivian Red Crescent's Statutes and the Rules of Procedure;
- 4.13.2 All Active Members have the right to vote at the Unit level and at higher levels if elected, in the meetings and in any of the Maldivian Red Crescent's elections as stipulated in the Maldivian Red Crescent's Rules of Procedure, subject to *Article 4.2, its sub-articles and Article 4.9 of these Statutes*;
- 4.13.3 All Active Members have the right to stand for election to the governing bodies subject to *Article 8.3, and its sub-articles*; and
- 4.13.4 All members have the right to take part in the activities of the Maldivian Red Crescent as per these Statutes and Rules of Procedure.
- 4.13.5 All members have the right to report a serious incidence of misconduct, a violation of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement or a serious threat or harm to the interest of the Maldivian Red Crescent. Any member who reports such an incidence must be ensured the same protection as stipulated in Article 10.1 of this statutes.

5. Volunteers

- 5.1 A Maldivian Red Crescent Volunteer is a person who carries out volunteering activities regularly or occasionally by free will, and not by a desire for material or financial gain, or by external, social, economic or political pressure and agrees and adheres to the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and to the Maldivian Red Crescent Code of Conduct.
- 5.2 The Maldivian Red Crescent is open to all who want to volunteer without any form of discrimination based on nationality, citizenship, ethnic origin, age, gender, disability, religious beliefs, language, social background or political opinions or for any other reasons.
- 5.3 Responsibilities of Volunteers:
 - a) Respect, promote and work towards achieving the objectives of the Maldivian Red Crescent;
 - b) Act in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as stipulated in Article 1.2 of these Statutes, refrain from acts contradicting the Maldivian Red Crescent's objectives in the activities organized by or partaken by the Maldivian Red Crescent; and

- c) Accept and adhere to the rules and regulations of the Maldivian Red Crescent, including Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Code of Conduct

5.4 Rights of Volunteers:

- a) All volunteers have the right to take part in the activities of the Maldivian Red Crescent as per these Statutes and Rules of Procedure.
- b) All volunteers have a right to report a serious incidence of misconduct, a violation of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement or a serious threat or harm to the interest of the Maldivian Red Crescent. Any volunteer who reports such an incidence must be ensured the same protection as stipulated in Article 10.1 of this statutes

6. Organizational Structure

6.1 The organizational structure for the Maldivian Red Crescent comprises of the following bodies:

- a) General Assembly;
- b) Governing Board;
- c) Finance Commission;
- d) Complaints Committee;
- e) National Youth Council;
- f) Units; and
- g) Management.

7. General Assemblies

7.1 The General Assembly is the Maldivian Red Crescent's supreme decision-making authority and it has the right to steer all activities of the Maldivian Red Crescent.

7.2 The General Assembly shall be held before the end of April every other year.

7.3 The General Assembly meetings shall be chaired by the President. In the President's absence, the First Vice-President shall take the chair. If the President and the First Vice-President are both absent, then the chair shall be the Second Vice-President.

7.4 The General Assembly shall comprise of a maximum eighty (80) seats for representatives from the recognized Units in addition to the members of the Governing Board.

7.5 The representation at the General Assembly shall be distributed across the country based on the Administrative Atolls and Cities where Units have been recognized.

7.6 The eighty (80) seats shall be allocated to cover the Administrative Atolls and Cities with recognised Units using the following calculation

7.6.1 Allocate 2 seats to cover each Administrative Atoll or City that has a recognized Unit.

7.6.2 Apportion the balance seats to cover the Administrative Atolls and Cities with recognized Units, in the proportion of the resident populations of the respective Administrative Atolls and Cities. The resulting numbers shall be rounded down to the nearest integer. The maximum number of seats allocated to cover any one Administrative Atoll or City shall not exceed fifteen (15).

7.7 The procedures for the selection of members from Units for the allocated seats for the General Assembly shall be stipulated in the Rules of Procedures. Priority shall be given to select the representatives from Units for the allocated General Assembly seats in the following order:

- a) Unit Chairperson or in their absence Unit Vice-Chairperson
- b) Youth Members
- c) Other Unit Board members
- d) Other Active Members

7.8 The population data used for the above calculations shall be the most recent official census data released by the Government of Maldives.

7.9 Any paid staff or other member of the Secretariat/Management of the Maldivian Red Crescent at any level shall not hold a governance post of the Maldivian Red Crescent or be a representative at the General Assembly or/and has no right to take part in the adoption of decisions, votations or elections.

7.12 Notice

7.12.1 Notice of the General Assembly shall be issued in writing by the Governing Board, including the date and venue of the General Assembly.

7.12.2 The General Assembly shall be called with a notice of not less than thirty (30) calendar days. The General Assembly and Maldivian Red Crescent's meetings shall adhere to and will be deemed as submitting to the rules and regulations herein, regardless of whether a member fails to attend such meetings or the member's notice is omitted, misplaced or held up.

7.12.3 The notice of the General Assembly shall include any Governing Board positions that will be elected or re-elected at the General Assembly.

7.13 Eligibility & Attendance

7.13.1 The General Assembly composes of the Unit Representatives and the members of the Governing Board.

7.13.2 Any paid staff of the Maldivian Red Crescent cannot be a representative at the General Assembly.

7.13.3 The Unit Representatives in the General Assembly and Governing Board members are eligible to be present and take part in proceedings at General Assemblies.

7.13.4 Members of the Maldivian Red Crescent other than those stipulated under Article 7.13.2 of these Statutes and subject to Article 4, and its sub-articles, who has officially

applied and been accepted as an eligible candidate to stand for the posts of the Governing Board must be invited to the General Assembly during the agenda item of electing the members of the Maldivian Red Crescent Governing Board.

7.14 Quorum

- 7.14.1 The General Assembly has quorum when attended by 51% of its representatives. Its decision shall be adopted by a simple majority of those present and voting, except in cases stipulated otherwise.
- 7.14.2 If the required quorum is not met in 30 minutes from the declared starting time of the meeting, the Chair shall postpone the General Assembly to the earliest possible date.
- 7.14.3 If the postponed General Assembly as per Article 7.14.2, does not meet its quorum for the second time, the General Assembly shall be re-scheduled again and the quorum for the third attempt to have the General Assembly shall be 1/3 (one third) of the representatives of the General Assembly.
- 7.14.4 No General Assembly shall be held if the required quorum for any such meeting is not met.
- 7.14.5 If quorum of a General Assembly meeting cannot be met for a third time then the said General Assembly of the Society shall be held as per a recommendation sought from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent or International Committee of the Red Cross.

7.15 Voting

- 7.15.1 Each General Assembly representative has one vote.
- 7.15.2 In case of a tie on a vote, the Chair of the meeting shall have the right for a casting vote.
- 7.15.3 If a Unit Representative at the General Assembly is unable to participate in a meeting of the General Assembly, the Unit may appoint in writing a substitute, who shall be a member with voting rights and from the same Unit for the General Assembly meeting in question with voting power.
- 7.15.4 Before any vote at a General Assembly is taken, the topic of the matter shall be presented at the General Assembly in an understandable manner and representatives shall have the right to express their opinion on the subject at the General Assembly.
- 7.15.5 A voting shall always be counted.
- 7.15.6 All elected members of the Governing Board of the Maldivian Red Crescent, including the President shall be elected by secret ballot. All resolutions shall be adopted by a show of hands unless it is decided otherwise at the General Assembly.

7.16 Agenda, Minutes and Texts

- 7.16.1 The draft agenda shall be circulated to the representatives of the General Assembly at least twenty one (21) days before the date of the General Assembly.
- 7.16.2 The minutes of all General Assemblies should be written, discussed, adopted and

filed at the next General Assembly.

- 7.16.3 The representatives of the General Assembly have the right to forward to the Governing Board any items for addition to the agenda of the General Assembly. Such requests shall be made to the Governing Board in writing at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the General Assembly.
- 7.16.4 The final agenda shall be circulated to all representatives of the General Assembly ten (10) days prior to the date of the General Assembly.
- 7.16.5 The financial accounts for the previous two years, proposed budget and audit reports shall be made available to the representatives of the General Assembly together with the notice of the General Assembly and shall be adopted at the General Assembly.
- 7.16.6 The members present at the General Assembly have the right to raise any questions or comments relating to an agenda item as necessary with the permission of the Chair of the General Assembly. However, if the item is not in the agenda, then the members must ensure that it is forwarded to the Governing Board fourteen (14) days prior to the General Assembly.

7.17 Powers

Subject to the present Statutes, the General Assembly is the highest authority of the Maldivian Red Crescent. The General Assembly shall:

- a) Formulate the mission and policies that govern the Maldivian Red Crescent;
- b) Adopt the Plans and the Annual Report of the previous two years;
- c) Adopt minutes of the previous General Assembly and Extraordinary General Assemblies;
- d) Adopt the Annual Report, including the Audited Financial Report of the Maldivian Red Crescent of the previous two years;
- e) Evaluate the performance of the Governing Board, including receiving a report from the Governing Board about the activities performed;
- f) Determine the registration and membership fees for Active Members;
- g) Ensure that the Statutes and internal regulations are up-to-date, and monitor the compatibility of the relevant national laws with the objectives of the Movement;
- h) Elect the members of the Governing Board other than the Government Nominated Member and Youth Member;
- i) Elect the members of the Complaints Committee;
- j) Appoint the auditor of the Maldivian Red Crescent; and
- k) Discuss all items entered on the final agenda which it has adopted.

7.18 Extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly

- 7.18.1 An Extraordinary General Assembly can be called:
 - a) by a decision of the Governing Board;
 - b) at the initiative of the President supported by at least three members of the Governing Board; or

- c) at the request of one-third (1/3) of the representatives of the last General Assembly.
- 7.18.2 The Governing Board shall call for an Extraordinary General Assembly no more than twenty (20) calendar days after receipt of such a request.
- 7.18.3 The representatives of the General Assembly must be notified of the Extraordinary General Assembly fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. The date, time, location and the agenda of the meeting shall be notified to the members.
- 7.18.4 Extraordinary General Assemblies shall be chaired in the same manner as ordinary General Assemblies. The rules on the voting, passing of resolutions, achieving the quorum and overall proceedings of the meeting are the same as for General Assemblies.
- 7.18.5 The minutes of all Extraordinary General Assemblies must be written, adopted and filed at the next General Assembly.

8. Governing Board

The Governing Board is the body that governs the Maldivian Red Crescent between sessions of the General Assemblies.

8.1 Composition

- a) Governing Board consists of twelve (12) members which consists of ten (10) elected members, One (1) Government Nominated Member and One (1) Ex Officio Member. They are;
 - a) The President;
 - b) The First Vice-President;
 - c) The Second Vice-President;
 - d) The Treasurer;
 - e) Government Nominated Member (non-elected member nominated by the Government Nominated Ministry on behalf of the Government of the Maldives.);
 - f) Governing Board Member - Youth – Shall be an ex-officio position by virtue of being the Chair of National Youth Council
 - g) Governing Board Member – Inclusivity - Seat allocated for inclusion of the marginalized and minority groups within the community – including persons with disabilities, migrants and others as specified in the Rules of Procedure.
 - h) Governing Board Member – North Region – 2 Members
 - i) Governing Board Member – South Region – 2 Members
 - j) Governing Board Member – Male' Region
- b) One member out of the two Vice Presidents, two North Region Members and two South Region Members, should be a woman.
- c) Posts of the Maldivian Red Crescent's Governing Board can only be held by individuals aged twenty one (21) years and above except the Chair of

National Youth Council who must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and must not have reached the age of twenty five (25) years at the time of election.

- d) The Secretary General attends meetings of the Governing Board in an ex officio capacity with no voting rights.
- e) The Chair of the National Youth Council stipulated in Article 9 of these Statutes, by virtue of that office shall be the Youth Member of the Governing Board.

8.2 Responsibilities of the Governing Board

- a) Approval of the Maldivian Red Crescent's Annual Report, financial accounts and Audit Reports, communicating these documents to stakeholders and concerned parties within 30 days from holding the General Assembly.
- b) Approval of the forthcoming fiscal year's budget statement before the beginning of the fiscal year.
- c) Recruiting and dismissing the Secretary General for the operation of the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- d) Approving formation, restructuring and dissolution of units as per these Statutes in the interest of fulfilling the Maldivian Red Crescent's goals and objectives.
- e) Setting up the committees or commissions which it deems desirable or necessary for carrying out these tasks.
- f) Assessing and documenting the various activities and meetings conducted by the various committees or commissions,
- g) Being informed by the Units of the Maldivian Red Crescent of their activities through submission of the Units' Annual Reports.
- h) Publishing the agendas for public and special or purpose-specific meetings, including Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assemblies.
- i) Determining the order of the discussions in the agenda for the General Assembly.
- j) Finalize, approve and ensure that the Rules of Procedure of the Maldivian Red Crescent is in place and in order.
- k) Ensuring adequate policies are in place for sustainable, cost effective, legal, and ethical organizational performance and actions.
- l) Monitoring organizational performance to ensure progress on strategic goals and compliance with policies and practices.

8.3 The election and selection process for posts of the Governing Board

- a) The General Assembly shall select a 5 member Election Committee from the General Assembly as stipulated in the Rules of Procedure to oversee and steer the election process of members to be elected to the Governing Board.
- b) All seats of the Governing Board except the Government Nominated Member and Chair of National Youth Council shall be selected through the election process at the General Assembly which shall be referred to as the

Elected Posts of the Governing Board. The post of the Government Nominated Member of the Governing Board shall be appointed by the Government Nominated Ministry.

- c) The term of all members of the Governing Board shall be four (4) years.
- d) Any one person can hold a Governing Board position only for one term which is four years.
- e) Any member holding a post of the Governing Board for one term can stand for re-election for any governance posts only after two (2) years from the end of their last completed term. The same restrictive period shall apply for the Government Nominated Member.
- f) All elected members of the Governing Board who resigns shall only be eligible to run for re-election of the elected posts of the Governing Board, after a minimum of two (2) years from the date of resignation. The same restrictive period applies for the Youth Member and Government Nominated Member if running for an elected post of the Governing Board.
- g) Any member holding a Governing Board or a governance post if expelled shall only be eligible to run for re-election, after a minimum of three years from the date of expulsion. In such instances of serious cause the Governing Board may decide to further extend the period of or withhold the right of the member to run for any governance post indefinitely.
- h) All members of the Governing Board or holding a governance post if expelled shall
- i) If at any time a post of the Governing Board other than the Government Nominated Member becomes vacant, then a new member shall only be elected at the next General Assembly or the earliest Extraordinary General Assembly. However, the responsibilities of the vacant post shall be overtaken by one of the remaining members of the Governing Board, who shall be elected by a simple majority of the Governing Board, until the new member is elected at the next General Assembly. If the post of the Government Nominated Member becomes vacant, a new member can be appointed at any time by the Government Nominated Ministry on behalf of the Government of the Maldives.
- j) Those who wish to stand for election to Governing Board posts shall inform the Secretary General of the Maldivian Red Crescent in writing, of their intention to do so in the manner prescribed in the Rules of Procedure.

8.4 Persons who fall under the following criteria shall not be eligible to contest or retain Governing Board membership or Unit Board membership and they shall not stand for or retain General Assembly representation.

- a) Conviction of a criminal offence, unless a majority of the Governing Board members excluding the individual in question deem that the individual is fit to represent the Maldivian Red Crescent at the executive level;
- b) Absence from three (3) consecutive Board meetings without a written consent of the Chairperson;
- c) Proof of insanity;
- d) Proof of bankruptcy;

- e) Employed as a government official at or above the level of deputy ministers;
- f) Members of the People's Majilis;
- g) Chief Justice and judges;
- h) Be at a post at an executive level including the branch executive level in a political party; or
- i) Be at a post of the executive level of a corporation who is a member of the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- j) However, if a member holding a position in the governing bodies of the Maldivian Red Crescent has obtained any of the positions as defined in *Article 8.4 of these Statutes*, the member should resign from his or her functions of the Maldivian Red Crescent. Pending such resignation and in the interim, the concerned member shall do his or her utmost to ensure that his or her functions outside of the National Society does not give rise to a conflict of interest. In the event of a conflict of interest, the member in question shall abstain from voting and taking part in decision-making and the said conflict shall be resolved in the sole interest of the Maldivian Red Crescent.

8.5 The responsibilities of the members of the Governing Board

a) The President

- a) The President is the highest office bearer of the Maldivian Red Crescent. He/She shall act under the authority of the General Assembly and the Governing Board to guide the affairs of the National Society in conformity with their decisions and to ensure the smooth functioning of the National Society.
- b) The President has the Power of Attorney of the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- c) The President shall Chair the General Assembly and Governing Board meetings of the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- d) The President shall represent the Maldivian Red Crescent at the executive level within and outside the Maldives.

b) First Vice-President

The First Vice-President shall assist the President, undertaking the assignments issued by the President and filling in as interim President in his or her absence.

c) Second Vice-President

The Second Vice-President shall assist the President and the First Vice-President, undertaking assignments issued by them and filling in as interim President in their absence.

d) Treasurer

The Treasurer is the head of the Finance Commission, which advises the Maldivian Red Crescent on all financial management. The Treasurer is:

- a) responsible for overseeing the financial and asset management under the auspices of the Governing Board;
- b) responsible to get audited annual accounts of the preceding year to the Governing Board by the end of February of each year. These

accounts shall include cash flow statements, balance sheets and income & expenditure statements of the Maldivian Red Crescent;

- c) responsible to advise on policies and procedures regarding the financial management; and
- d) responsible for convening and chairing meetings and conducting the work and activities of the Finance Commission.

e) Government Nominated Member

The Government Nominated Member shall have full rights as a member of the Governing Board, including participation in deliberations of all issues presented to the Governing Board. He/she shall act as the liaison person between the government and MRC and assist MRC in implementing its auxiliary role to the government. However, the Government Nominated Member does not have the right to stand for elections for any other Governing Board position.

f) Governing Board Member – Youth

The Chair of National Youth Council has full rights as a member of the Governing Board, including participation in deliberations of all issues presented to the Governing Board. He/she shall advise the Governing Board on all matters related to youth issues in the Maldivian Red Crescent to ensure that youth perspective is respected and taken into account in all aspects of the work of the Maldivian Red Crescent.

g) Governing Board Member – South, North and Male'

The regional Members elected pursuant to *Article 8.1.1(vii) - (ix) of these Statutes* should represent the National Society as a whole and their participation in the Governing Board should not be restricted to presenting issues from only the regions they represent. He/she shall work towards strengthening the governance of the Units in the regions and report back to the Governing Board on matters related to the Units on a regular basis. They shall have full rights as members of the Governing Board, including participation in deliberations of all issues presented to the Governing Board.

h) Governing Board Member - Inclusivity

The responsibility of the elected member is to advise the Governing Board on all matters related to minorities and marginalized communities in the Maldivian Red Crescent to ensure that the perspectives of the minorities and marginalized communities are respected and taken into account in all aspects of the work of the Maldivian Red Crescent.

8.6 Meetings of the Governing Board

- a) All members of the Governing Board, and the Secretary General, shall be notified of Governing Board meetings in writing not less than fourteen (14) days before the meeting. Such notification shall include the venue, date, time and agenda of the meeting.
- b) If an extra-ordinary meeting of the Governing Board needs to be held, the fourteen (14) day notice may be waived.
- c) Unless otherwise determined, a Governing Board meeting shall be held

once every two (2) months. Not less than four (4) board meetings shall be held in a calendar year.

- d) The quorum for Governing Board meetings shall be any six (6) members including the chair.
- e) If the required quorum is not met in thirty (30) minutes from the declared starting time of the meeting, the chair shall postpone the meeting to the earliest possible date.
- f) If the postponed meeting, as per *Article of these Statutes*, does not meet its quorum for the second time, the meeting shall be re-scheduled again and the quorum of the third attempt to have the Governing Board Meeting shall be five (5) of the Governing Board members including the chair.
- g) No Governing Board meeting shall be held if the required quorum for any such meeting is not met.
- h) If for any reason a Governing Board meeting cannot be held due to absenteeism for the third consecutive time, then an Extraordinary General Assembly can be called by the General Assembly representatives at their initiative.
- i) The Governing Board meetings shall be chaired by the President. In the President's absence, the First Vice-President shall take the chair. If the President and the First Vice-President are both absent, then the chair shall be the Second Vice-President. In the absence of the President, the First Vice President and the Second Vice President, the chair of the meeting shall be elected by the simple majority of the attendees.
- j) If views of members differ over discussions, a decision shall be reached by voting. In case of a tie on a vote, the chair shall have the right for a casting vote.
- k) Before any vote at a Governing Board meeting is taken, the topic of the matter shall be presented at the meeting in an understandable manner and the Governing Board members shall have the right to express their opinion on the subject.
- l) Unless otherwise provided for in these Statutes, the Governing Board takes all its decisions by a majority of the votes.
- m) Voting shall be conducted by showing of hands unless otherwise is decided by simple majority.
- n) A voting shall always be counted.
- o) The Secretary General shall ensure that the minutes of all Governing Board meetings are written, approved by the Governing Board and filed safely.

8.7 Creating, dissolving and restructuring ad-hoc committees

- a) The Governing Board has the right to create and dissolve ad-hoc committees with proper terms of reference as and when necessary, in the interest of fulfilling the Maldivian Red Crescent's goals and objectives.
- b) The Governing Board has the right to restructure any ad-hoc committee, including its membership.

- c) The Governing Board shall assign a Chairperson for each committee.
- d) The Governing Board shall secure transparency, including reporting to the General Assembly, about the activities and performance of such ad-hoc committees, including criteria for selection of members

9 Youth

- 9.1 There shall be a Youth Policy of the Maldivian Red Crescent stipulating the directives, standards, and structures to promote and sustain meaningful youth involvement and engagement in all levels and aspects including engaging the youth as leaders, volunteers, and beneficiaries.
- 9.2 Each Unit shall have a Youth Section composed of the following Youth Section Members:
 - a) all Active Members of the Unit between the age of eighteen (18) and twenty five (25) years;
 - b) all volunteers of the Unit who are under twenty five (25) years, and
 - c) children and adolescents (under 18 years) and young adults below twenty five (25) years, who shall be recognized as Youth Section Members following their participation in structured youth programme or activities of the Unit.
- 9.3 Each Unit shall have a Unit Youth Forum every year, inviting its youth members as practicable, as delegates and observers. The Unit Youth Forum shall adopt a conducive format including a session for elections during which the Active Members shall cast votes to elect the members of the Unit Youth Council. Youth representatives below the age of twenty five (25) years from community based organizations may be invited to the Unit Youth Forum.
- 9.4 The Unit Youth Forum may produce the following and other outputs:
 - a) Elections of the Unit Youth Council comprising of three (3) to five (5) members including a chair and a vice-chair, for the term, functions and responsibilities as stipulated in the Rules of Procedures. Subject to these Statutes, the Unit Youth Council members shall be Active Members of the Maldivian Red Crescent and shall not hold any other elected positions of governance bodies of the Maldivian Red Crescent.
 - b) A report outlining the main developments and activities of the Unit Youth Section and the Unit Youth Forum that will be presented to the next session of the Unit Assembly.
 - c) Propose amendments or provide feedback to the proposed Unit plans or Unit Assembly Draft Resolutions or to other relevant documents prepared for consideration at the Unit Assembly.
 - d) A Declaration by the Unit Youth Forum, that include the participants' main concerns or messages, which they would like to share with the Unit/National Society and/or other stakeholders.
- 9.5 A National Youth Forum shall be held every other year, inviting the chairs of the Unit Youth Councils or other members of the Unit Youth Councils as practicable, as delegates and observers.
- 9.6 The National Youth Forum may produce the following and other outputs:

- a) Elections of the National Youth Council comprising of three (3) to five (5) members including a chair and a vice-chair, for the term, functions and responsibilities as stipulated in the Rules of Procedures. Subject to these Statutes, the Unit Youth Council members shall be Active Members of the Maldivian Red Crescent and shall not hold any other elected positions of governance bodies of the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- b) A report outlining the main developments and activities related to youth in the National Society and the National Youth Forum that will be presented to the next session of the General Assembly.
- c) Propose amendments or provide feedback to the proposed plans or General Assembly Draft Resolutions or to other relevant documents prepared for consideration at the General Assembly
- d) A Declaration by the National Youth Forum, that include the participants' main concerns or messages, which they would like to share with the National Society and/or other stakeholders.

10 Compliance, Integrity and Dispute Resolution

- 10.1 A documented internal complaints handling and appeals process and policy shall be implemented at Unit and national levels, and members and volunteers shall be provided comprehensive, free and easily accessible information about that process and policy. This shall include:
- o adhering to the Fundamental Principles, and to the policies and regulations of the Maldivian Red Crescent;
 - o protecting confidentiality and maintaining the trust of those that the Maldivian Red Crescent serves;
 - o acting and making decisions in the interests of the Maldivian Red Crescent when acting on its behalf;
 - o treating everyone with dignity and respect and, therefore, abstaining from:
 - discrimination based on gender, ethnic origin, nationality or citizenship, age, disability, language, political opinions, religious belief, social background, or any other similar grounds
 - xenophobia and other forms of racism
 - bullying and harassment, including sexual harassment
 - sexual exploitation and abuse
 - o acting honestly and with integrity in all transactions and dealings, which includes abstaining from fraud and corruption, abuse of power and nepotism; and
 - o avoiding conflicts of interest and handling actual or possible conflicts of interest appropriately.
 - o Protection and ensuring confidentiality of members and volunteers who come forward as whistle blowers who reports a serious incidence of misconduct, a violation the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as stipulated in Article 1.2 of these Statutes, the rules and regulations of the Maldivian Red Crescent, including these Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Code of Conduct, or a serious threat or harm to the interests of the Maldivian Red Crescent, based on a reasonably held suspicion that

wrongdoing has occurred.

- 10.2 A Complaints Committee shall be established as per these Statutes and the Rules of Procedures, to handle complaints, including appeals regarding any action taken by any governing body of the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- 10.3 The Complaints Committee shall comprise of three (3) to five (5) members of which at least two (2) shall be members elected by the General Assembly and the rest maybe appointed by the Governing Board.
- 10.4 Complaints Committee members must meet the following criteria:
 - a) Should be more than twenty five (25) years old;
 - b) Should be a member of the Maldivian Red Crescent; and
 - c) Should not be a member of any of the boards of the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- 10.5 The presence of three (3) members of which at least one (1) is a member elected by the General Assembly shall constitute the quorum of the Complaints Committee.
- 10.6 Any member of the Complaints Committee with a conflict of interest in any matter or case presented to it shall recuse from all work and proceedings of such matter or case.
- 10.7 The Complaints Committee shall handle the following types of complaints:
 - a) appeals for expulsion of members for a serious cause defined under *Article 4.11.5 of these Statutes*;
 - b) complaints of misuse of authority given by the General Assembly;
 - c) complaints against members and Units violating rules and regulations of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement;
 - d) complaints against members and Units violating these Statutes and Rules of Procedures;
 - e) complaints against members and Units violating decisions of the General Assembly; and
 - f) complaints against members and Units for encouraging behaviour not acceptable to the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.
- 10.8 Any dispute arising between levels of governance that cannot be resolved through the use of appropriate dispute resolution methods and approaches shall ultimately be referred to the Complaints Committee.

10.8 Decisions of the Complaints Committee

- 10.8.1 The decision of the Complaints Committee shall be final and binding on all issues related to the expulsion of members as per *Article 4.11 of these Statutes*. However, the decision taken by the Complaints Committee regarding the complaints mentioned under *Article 10.7 (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) of these Statutes* can be appealed to an ad hoc committee appointed in the next General Assembly. The decision of this ad hoc committee will be considered binding and final.
- 10.8.2 The Complaints Committee shall not take any decisions that are against the

laws of the Maldives.

- 10.8.3 A decision shall be reached only after recognising and allowing a fair hearing involving both sides of the dispute matter.
- 10.8.4 The Complaints Committee has full access without any limitation whatsoever, to all books and records at all levels of the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- 10.8.5 The members of the Complaints Committee can report to the Committee on any irregularities or suspicions regarding issues related to corruption and abuse or misappropriation of funds, assets and facilities, breach of code of conduct, sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual and gender based violence

11 Management

The procedures regarding the conduct of management as laid down in the Rules of Procedure of the Maldivian Red Crescent shall be adhered to.

11.8 The Secretary General

- 11.8.1 The full responsibility of carrying out the functions assigned to the management by the Governing Board shall be undertaken by the Secretary General.
- 11.8.2 The Secretary General is the full-time Chief Executive Officer of the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- 11.8.3 The Secretary General shall be appointed and dismissed by the Governing Board under conditions previously laid down by the Governing Board.
- 11.8.4 The contract of appointment between the Maldivian Red Crescent and the Secretary General shall be drawn up by the Governing Board in accordance with the relevant provisions stipulated by the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- 11.8.5 The Secretary General of the Maldivian Red Crescent shall be a citizen and resident of Maldives.

11.9 Functions of the Secretary General

The Secretary General, who shall carry out functions under the authority of the Governing Board and the President, has the following functions:

- 11.9.1 To implement the decisions of the General Assembly and execute the mandates assigned to him or her by the General Assembly and the Governing Board;
- 11.9.2 To direct the Secretariat (the ‘Secretariat’ of the Maldivian Red Crescent means all staff of the Maldivian Red Crescent, including staff of the Maldivian Red Crescent appointed to Units) and be responsible for the execution of the work entrusted to it;
- 11.9.3 To propose strategies and long term plans, including general policy frameworks;
- 11.9.4 To draft the budgets and financial reports and to ensure financial transparency;
- 11.9.5 To oversee all financial accounts and submit these accounts to the Governing Board as and when required;
- 11.9.6 To organize the different services of the Secretariat in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly and the Governing Board;

- 11.9.7 To appoint competent staff to the Secretariat ensuring human resource development, and when necessary terminate the appointment of staff;
- 11.9.8 To support and co-ordinate the work of volunteers and others assisting the Maldivian Red Crescent;
- 11.9.9 To disseminate and promote the Fundamental Principles and International Humanitarian Law including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols;
- 11.9.10 To facilitate close co-operation with the International Committee of Red Cross and with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as well as international co-operation both at the regional and global level;
- 11.9.11 To be the authorized representative of the Maldivian Red Crescent in relation to third parties and courts of law for all transactions whatsoever, including transactions executed in legal form relating to the acquisition, administration and expenditure of the resources of the Maldivian Red Crescent;
- 11.9.12 To direct the actions decided upon by the General Assembly. In exceptional or urgent circumstances, the Secretary General shall take all appropriate measures wherever possible in consultation with the President;
- 11.9.13 To carry out any other function assigned to him or her by the General Assembly, the Governing Board or the President;
- 11.9.14 To report on the activities of the Maldivian Red Crescent to the General Assembly and to the Governing Board;
- 11.9.15 The Secretary General shall be the ex. officio secretary with no voting rights at all General Assemblies and at the meetings of the Governing Board and, unless the Statutes provide otherwise, of all other bodies set up by the General Assembly or the Governing Board; and
- 11.9.16 The Secretary General shall establish the structure of the Secretariat, the general outline of which shall be subject to the approval of the Governing Board.

12 Branches

All Branches including the Branch Boards shall cease to exist within six months after the 11th General Assembly held in 2021. During this six (6) month transitional period, Branches are to meet all their financial obligations and transfer all remaining assets to the Units. However, all recognized Units shall continue to exist as per these Statutes.

13 Units

13.1 Nature and Recognition of Units.

Units are local divisions of the Maldivian Red Crescent formed with the objective of ensuring that the National Society's activities including programmes and services are extended throughout the entire country especially through community mobilisation and engagement. Units shall not be constituted as separate legal entities

13.2 Units may be recognised at the discretion of and by the Governing Board defining the territory allotted to each Unit and delegating such responsibility as it deems fit for the organisation of the Maldivian Red Crescent and its activities in local areas, at the recommendation of the Secretary General based on the interest of the respective community to form a Unit, and having met the following conditions:

- a) registered Active Members residing in the territory for the proposed Unit is not less than twenty (20)
- b) a pool of volunteers interested to carry out Maldivian Red Crescent's activities and services are active in the territory for the proposed Unit
- c) No more than one Unit shall be recognised by the Governing Board for any physical island. However, if a physical island is divided to two or more administrative islands each with its own Island Council (elected for local governance), a separate Unit may be recognized in each such administrative section of the respective island as stipulated in the Rules of Procedures.

13.3 Units may be de-recognised, transferred in whole or in part, reconstituted, merged, or consolidated at the discretion of and by the Governing Board based on written recommendations from the Secretary General.

13.4 Units shall be governed and managed as per these Statutes and the Rules of Procedures together with any other policies and regulations prescribed by the Governing Board and management policies and regulations prescribed by the Secretary General.

13.2 Governance of the Units

13.2.1 Each Unit is responsible primarily to the Governing Board and secondly to the Unit Board. The Governing Board grants the delegation to the Unit Board regarding governing and directing of the Unit and overseeing of the Unit management (overseeing does not include day-to-day involvement in management and operations). The Governing Board reserves the full power and authority to take any action as deemed necessary for the welfare of a Unit if the respective Unit Board becomes dysfunctional and to that end the Governing Board has the power and authority to:

- a) remove the chairperson and/or any other member of the Unit Board of a Unit if that member fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Unit Board without justifiable reasons and/or if that member is in the reasonable opinion of the Governing Board continually disinterested in fulfilling his/her duties and responsibilities as a member of the Unit Board;
- b) appoint the chairperson or other members to the Unit Board to fill vacancies for the remaining duration of terms of vacant positions, if a Unit is unable to hold by-elections within a reasonable duration to fill any such vacancy. Such appointees shall hold office until the next annual general meeting of the Unit Assembly;
- c) oversee and intervene in the affairs of a Unit and take any other or further action as the Secretary General may recommend under the circumstances.

13.2.2 A Unit Assembly inviting all Active Members of the Maldivian Red Crescent belonging to that Unit shall be conducted each year before the end of March. The Unit Assembly is responsible to the Governing Board and General Assembly. The Unit Assembly shall:

- a) have a quorum of a minimum of 50% of the eligible members of the Unit
- b) approve plans and annual reports of the Unit,
- c) approve the financial reports and budgets of the Unit

- d) elect members of the Unit Board other than its Youth Member; and
 - e) discuss and/or decide on all items that are on the adopted agenda
- 13.2.3 An extra ordinary Unit Assembly shall be held upon the request of 1/3 of all eligible members of the Unit or upon the decision of the Unit Board. Upon such request, all necessary administrative support shall be provided by the Secretariate. An extraordinary Unit Assembly shall be chaired in the same manner as the ordinary Unit Assembly. The rules on achieving the quorum , voting and overall proceedings of the meeting are the same as the ordinary Unit Assemblies.
- 13.2.4 The minutes of all Unit Assemblies must be written, adopted and filed at the next Unit Assembly. Any member holding a Governing Board or governance post if expelled shall only be eligible to run for re-election, after a minimum of three years from the date of expulsion. In such instances of serious cause the Governing Board may decide to further extend the period or withhold the right to run for any Governance post indefinitely.
- 13.2.5 Members to the Unit Assembly (ordinary or extraordinary) may attend in person and/or at the discretion of the Unit Board or in the absence of the Unit Board the Governing Board may decide to arrange for remote participation of meeting invitees through tele/video-conferencing or other electronic means such as webinars or other forms of Internet applications. Proxies shall not be accepted for Unit Assemblies.
- 13.2.6 All Active Members of the Maldivian Red Crescent belonging to that Unit shall have the right to vote in those Unit Assemblies as stipulated in Article 4.9.1 of these Statutes.

13.3 Unit Boards

- 13.3.1 The Unit Board will comprise of five (5) members, including a Unit Chairperson, a Unit Vice-Chairperson, a Treasurer, Youth Member, and General Member elected by each Unit.
- 13.3.2 The chair of the Unit Youth Council stipulated in Article 9.3 of these Statutes, by virtue of that office shall be the Youth Member of the Unit Board
- 13.3.3 The term of office for Unit Board members shall be two (2) years.
- 13.3.4 Any one person can hold a Unit Board position for a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms
- 13.3.5 Any member holding a post of the Unit Board for two (2) consecutive terms can stand for re-election for a Unit Board position only after one (1) year from the end of the last completed term.
- 13.3.6 If a member of the Unit Board resigns from the post, the member should observe a period of one (1) year before contesting to a board position again.
- 13.3.7 All members of the Unit Board except its Youth Member shall be elected only during the Unit Assembly.
- 13.3.8 The Unit Board are responsible for the following:
- a) review and endorse the plans and budgets of the Unit proposed by the Unit Secretary;
 - b) promote the ideals and work of the Maldivian Red Crescent as ambassadors in the communities relevant to the Unit and foster community involvement;

- c) provide oversight and guidance for the work of the Unit Secretary, without involvement in day-to-day management and operational affairs; and
 - d) provide direction and support for resource mobilization and fund generation activities and contribute to the sustainability and self-sufficiency of the Unit.
- 13.3.9 Meetings of the Unit Board shall be conducted at least once every two (2) months. The quorum of the Unit Board meetings shall be three (3) members including the chair.

14 Regions

- 14.1 The Maldivian Red Crescent may group islands, atolls and cities of the Maldives to Regions, with the aim of decentralising management services, and to ensure coordination and collaboration among the Units of respective Regions. Regions may be formed, dissolved, restructured, transferred/restructured, transferred in whole or in part, reconstituted, merged, or consolidated at the discretion of and by the Governing Board.
- 14.2 The Regions will not have governance bodies or structures.
- 14.3 The Units in each Region shall have a Regional Forum inviting the Unit Board members of all Units of the Region every year before the end of August. The Regional Forum is a gathering to discuss matters of interest, share ideas and best practices, and to strengthen coordination, collaboration and resource sharing among Units.
- 14.4 The Regional Forum shall be chaired by the Chairperson of a Unit in the Region on a rotational basis. At the inaugural forum the interim chair for the Regional Forums will be determined by the Governing Board.
- 14.5 All the Units in a Region shall be collectively responsible to finance, organize and conduct the Regional Forums as per the Rules of Procedures.
- 14.6 Subject to the Article 11.9.16 of the Statutes, the Secretary General may establish regional offices in any Region or Regions.

15 Meetings held remotely

- 15.1 Any meeting or assembly stipulated in these Statutes, at the discretion of the respective Boards (Governing Board or Unit Boards), may be held through means of remote communication such as tele/video-conferencing or other electronic methods. If so authorized by a respective Board, subject to the Rules of Procedures and guidelines that the Governing Board may adopt, eligible participants/representatives not physically present may participate in such meeting by means of remote communication and be deemed present and vote at such meeting, provided that the Secretariat implements the following:
 - a) adequate measures to verify that each person joining by means of remote communication is an eligible representative/participant;
 - b) reasonable measures are taken to provide such representatives/participants with a reasonable opportunity to participate in the meeting and to vote on matters presented to them, including opportunity to hear and/or read the proceedings of the meeting substantially concurrently with such proceedings;
 - c) if any representative/participant joining through means of remote communication speaks or votes or takes any other action at the meeting, maintain a record as may be required for the minutes and other purposes; and

- d) implementation of a remote voting mechanism or system with adequate features including reasonable measures for authentication, security, data protection, privacy, anonymity of secret ballots, and transparency.

16 Activities

- 16.1 All activities of Units, Ad-hoc Committees, all of its governing bodies and Secretariat shall be within the objectives of the Maldivian Red Crescent, and shall not be engaged in promoting, facilitating or doing any work related to political activities, or works not related to Maldivian Red Crescent.
- 16.2 In case any such unrelated, political activities carried out by the Units, Ad-hoc committees, all of its governing bodies or any other representative of the Maldivian Red Crescent is reported to the Maldivian Red Crescent, such cases shall be referred to and handled by the Complaints Committee, as per *Article 10 of these Statutes*.
- 16.3 All activities of such Units, Ad-hoc committee, all of its governing bodies or any other representative of the Maldivian Red Crescent as referred to *Article 14.2 of these Statutes* shall be suspended until a decision has been made by the Complaints Committee on the case which has referred to the Complaints Committee.

17 Media

- 17.1 The President, the Secretary General, the First Vice-President and the Second Vice-President are the only individuals authorized to provide information to the media regarding the Maldivian Red Crescent. In their absence, an individual shall be designated at the discretion of the respective individual to provide information to the media regarding the Maldivian Red Crescent. The Unit Chairpersons may provide information to the media regarding the activities of their respective Units.

18 Official Language

- 18.1 The official languages of the Maldivian Red Crescent shall be both Dhivehi and English.

19 Finance and Assets

- 19.1 Financial resources of the Maldivian Red Crescent shall include all its assets and funds and shall only be used for the purposes of the Maldivian Red Crescent and not for any other purpose. There is no right of inheritance whatsoever over the assets and funds of the Maldivian Red Crescent. Financial resources of the Maldivian Red Crescent shall include, but not be limited to:
 - 19.1.1 All the assets and property; and
 - 19.1.2 The annual income of the Maldivian Red Crescent which are as follows:
 - a) Registration fees and annual membership fees;
 - b) The income from Maldivian Red Crescent's assets and property;
 - c) Income generated from activities;
 - d) Contributions from the Maldivian and Foreign Governments;
 - e) Contributions from other National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement;

- f) Contributions from IFRC and ICRC;
 - g) Contributions from private and public organizations in the Maldives and overseas, including international organizations;
 - h) Contributions from local NGOs and international NGOs;
 - i) Donations from the public; and
 - j) Other acceptable sources that do not contradict with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- 19.1.3 Twenty percent (20%) of all income received in respect of membership fees shall be transferred to the Maldivian Red Crescent Headquarters.

19.2 Accounts

- 19.2.1 The funds of the Maldivian Red Crescent shall be deposited in a bank located in the Maldives, designated by the Governing Board. Cheques issued by the Maldivian Red Crescent must be signed in accordance with the appropriate resolutions passed by the Governing Board.

19.3 Finance Commission

- 19.3.1 A Finance Commission must be established by the Governing Board, comprising of five (5) to seven (7) individuals including the Treasurer of the Maldivian Red Crescent. They should have recognised knowledge about finance, accounting and financial management except the Treasurer of Maldivian Red Crescent.
- 19.3.2 The Maldivian Red Crescent's Treasurer shall be the Chairperson of this commission. In the absence of the Treasurer, a Chair will be appointed by a simple majority of the attendees.
- 19.3.3 The Finance Commission has unhindered access to all books and records at all levels of the Maldivian Red Crescent and it shall report any irregularities or suspicions about abuse of funds of the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- 19.3.4 The Finance Commission may give advice on all financial questions concerning the Maldivian Red Crescent and assist the Governing Board in applying and implementing the decisions on the financial management of the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- 19.3.5 The Finance Commission and the auditor of the Maldivian Red Crescent shall meet at least once per year.
- 19.3.6 The Treasurer shall describe at the General Assembly, the financial status and the findings of the Finance Commission during the period since the last General Assembly.
- 19.3.7 The Finance Commission is responsible to give advice and recommendations to the Governing Board on the budgets proposed by the Secretary General.
- 19.3.8 The term of office for members of the Finance Commission shall be two (2) years. The maximum consecutive terms that an individual can be a member of the Finance Commission is two (2) terms. That is four (4) years.

19.4 Finances and Annual Financial Report

- 19.4.1 The Maldivian Red Crescent Secretariat shall maintain records of all income and expenditure of the Maldivian Red Crescent.
- 19.4.2 The responsibility for managing the finances of the Maldivian Red Crescent is with the Secretary General under the guidance of the Governing Board and the Finance Commission.
- 19.4.3 The financial year of the Maldivian Red Crescent starts on the 1st of January of every year and ends on the 31st of December the same year.
- 19.4.4 The annual budget covering expected income and expenditure for the following year shall be presented to the Governing Board before the end of November of the preceding year.
- 19.4.5 The Annual Financial Report shall include the income listed under Article 19.1.12 received from fundraising, charity and other sources of income and all expenses of the Maldivian Red Crescent in the related financial year.
- 19.4.6 All financial records from the previous ten (10) years must be kept securely at a location designated by the Governing Board.
- 19.4.7 The financial report and the consolidated accounts shall be audited annually by an independent, professional, and external audit.
- 19.4.8 The audited annual financial reports of the previous two years must be presented to the General Assembly for adoption.
- 19.4.9 The Governing Board shall establish procedures and regulations, with the guidance of the Finance Commission regarding financial management, including at the Branch and Unit levels.

20 Annual Report

- 20.1 The Annual Report for the preceding two fiscal years shall be presented to the General Assembly for adoption. It shall include both a narrative section (statistics and any other information on important matters that occurred during the year) and audited financial statements.
 - 20.2 The Annual Report shall be made available for members of the Maldivian Red Crescent and other stakeholders on request.
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