



International Federation
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The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement

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Outline: The fundamental principles

1. Historical development
2. Implications
3. Analysis
4. Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies activities



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1. Historical development





“...the women of Castiglione, seeing that I made no distinction between nationalities followed my example, showing the same kindness to all these men whose origins were so different, and all of whom were foreigners to them.”

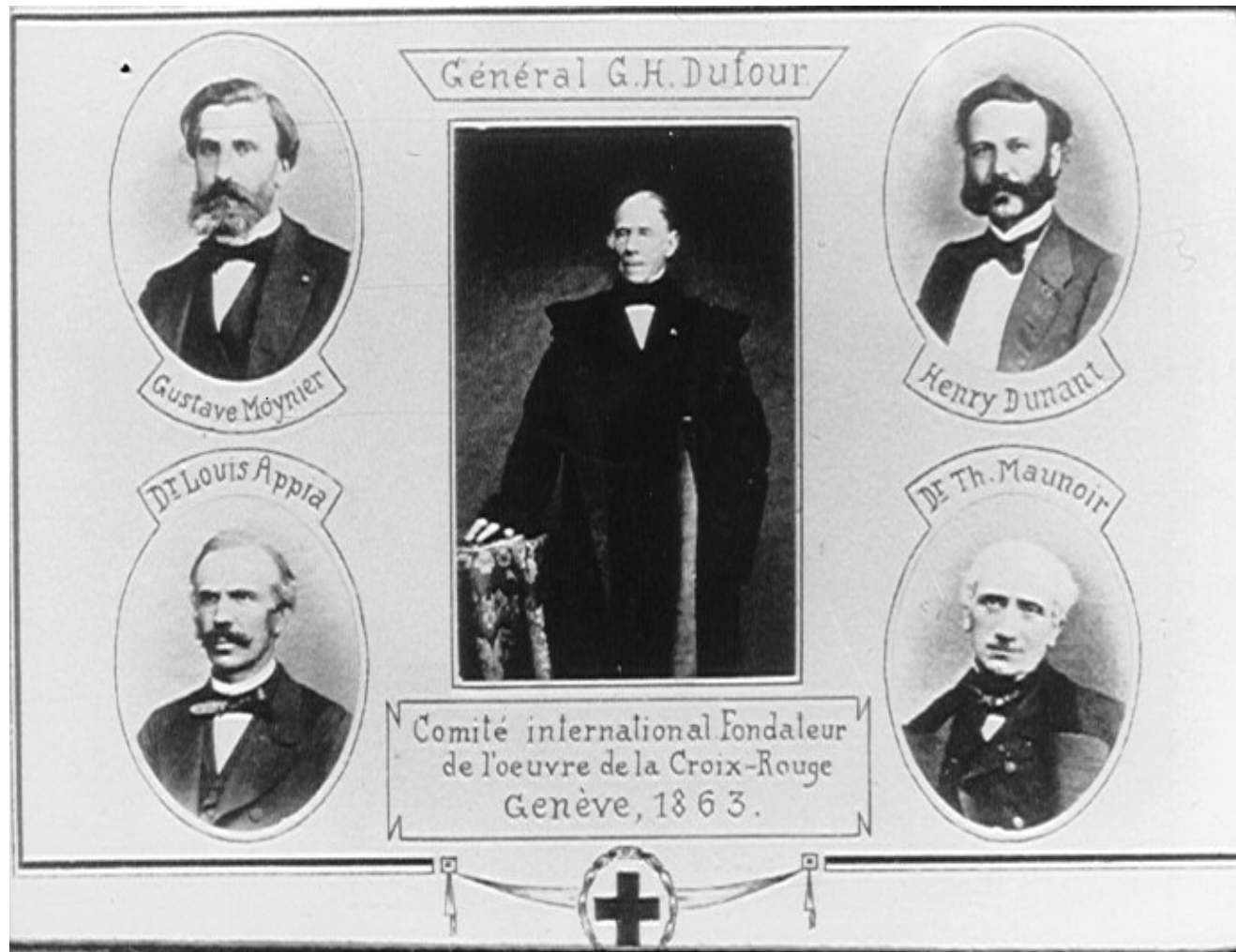
Tutti fratelli (all brothers) they repeated feelingly. All honour to these compassionate women, to these girls of Castiglione.....”

“ Would it not be possible, in times of peace and quiet, to form relief societies for the purpose of having care given to the wounded in wartime by zealous, devoted and thoroughly qualified volunteers?”



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The International Committee for the Relief to the Wounded in Time of War
Geneva, 1863





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The revised
Statutes of the
ICRC incorporated
4 Fundamental
Principles:

Impartiality
Independence
Universality
Equality

1921

Analysis and
definition by
Jean Pictet

17 Principles
(two categories):

-Fundamental Principles
-Organic Principles

1955

Second
Analysis
by
Jean Pictet

1979

1875

Moynier suggests
4 fundamental
principles:

Foresight
Solidarity
Centralization
Mutuality

1946

4 Fundamental
Principles
+ 13 Principles
+ 6 rules of
application



**“Oxford
Principles”**

1965

20th International
Conference:

7 Fundamental
Principles
unanimously
adopted

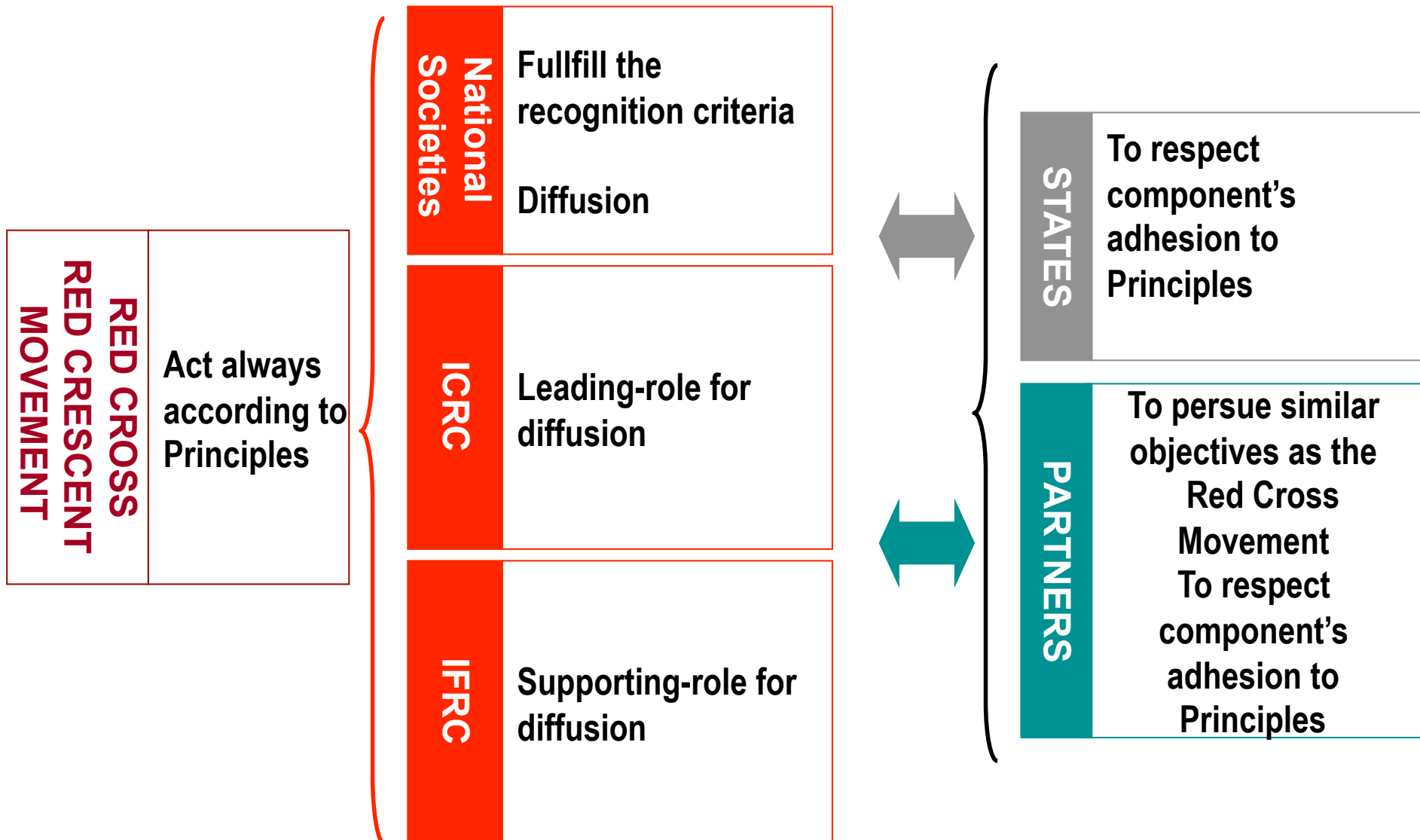
1986

25th International
Conference:

Inclusion of
Fundamental
Principles in
Preamble to the
Movement’s
Statutes



2. Implications





3. Analysis



Why?

- **Identity** (distinctive nature *vis-à-vis* other humanitarian organisations)
- *Conditio sine qua non* for **recognition**
- **Integrity**
- **Access** to beneficiaries

What does this imply?

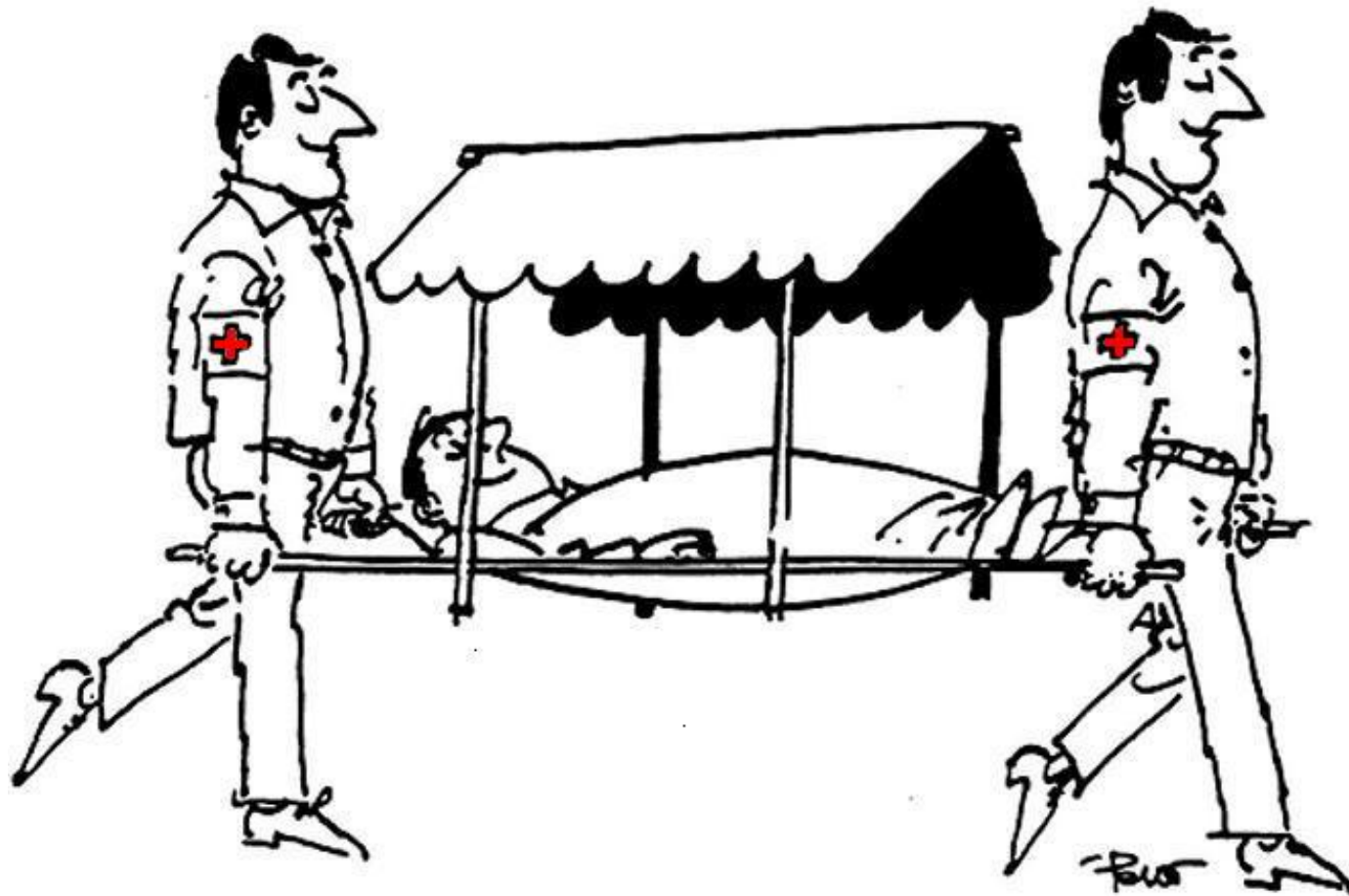
- Integrate into **decision-making**
- Integrate into **operations/actions**
- Encourage behavioural change by being a living example

Know, Understand, Apply, Live



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Humanity



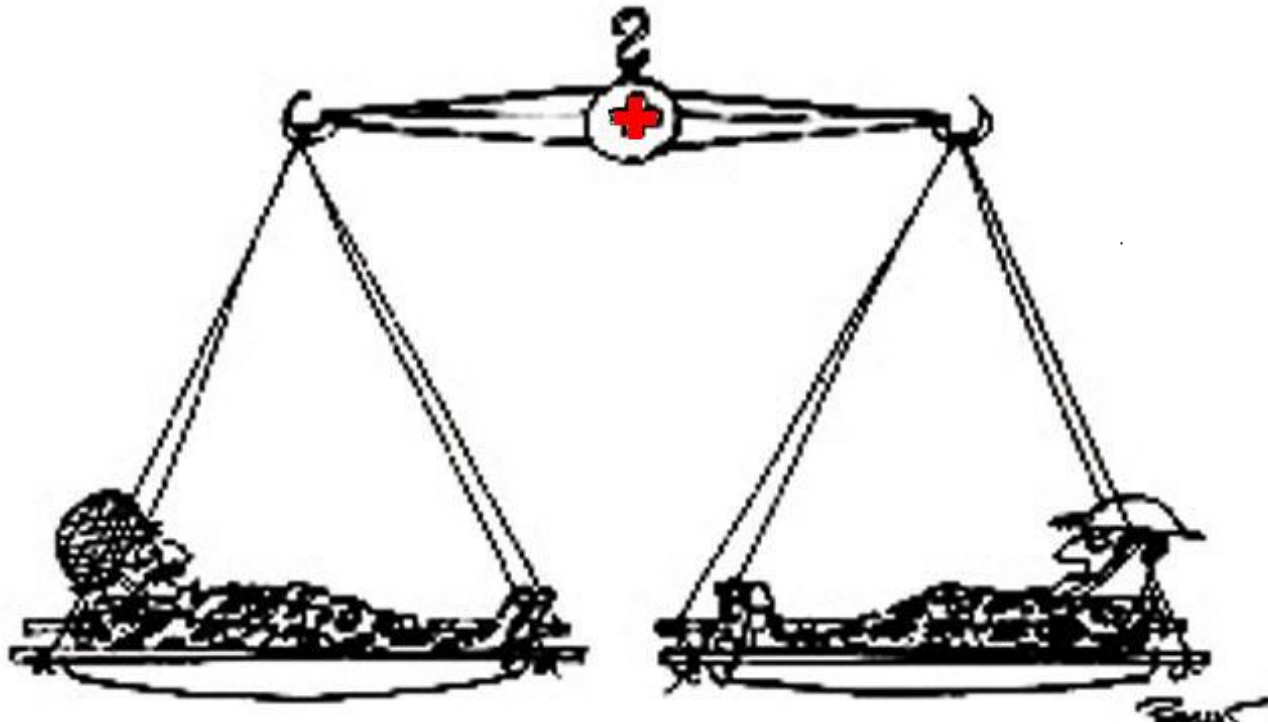


Principle	Component/definition	Underpinning value	Required skills
Humanity	1. Alleviate/prevent suffering Alleviate: assistance Prevention includes helping remove negative conditions	Compassion Charity Friendship Mutual understanding Peace	Empathy Listening Non-violence
	2. Protect life and health Protection: preserving others from suffering, violence	People-centred action	
	3. Human treatment of beneficiaries/ others	Respect for human being / dignity / freedom Well-being of beneficiaries	



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Impartiality





Principle	Component/definition	Underpinning value	Required skills
Impartiality	1. Action solely guided by needs, proportional to the degree of suffering and prioritised on the basis of urgency/vulnerability		Listening Objective analysis of problem Critical thinking Drop bias Integrity
	2. Non-discrimination on subjective grounds	Respect for diversity	
	3. Impartiality(judgment based on established rules, without taking sides for reasons of interest/sympathy)	Open-mindedness	



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Neutrality





Principle	Component/definition	Underpinning value	Required skills
Neutrality	1. Purpose is to enjoy the confidence of all	Tolerance	Non-judgement Equanimity Discipline
	2. Prohibition to take part in hostilities.		
	2. Prohibition to engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature		



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Independence



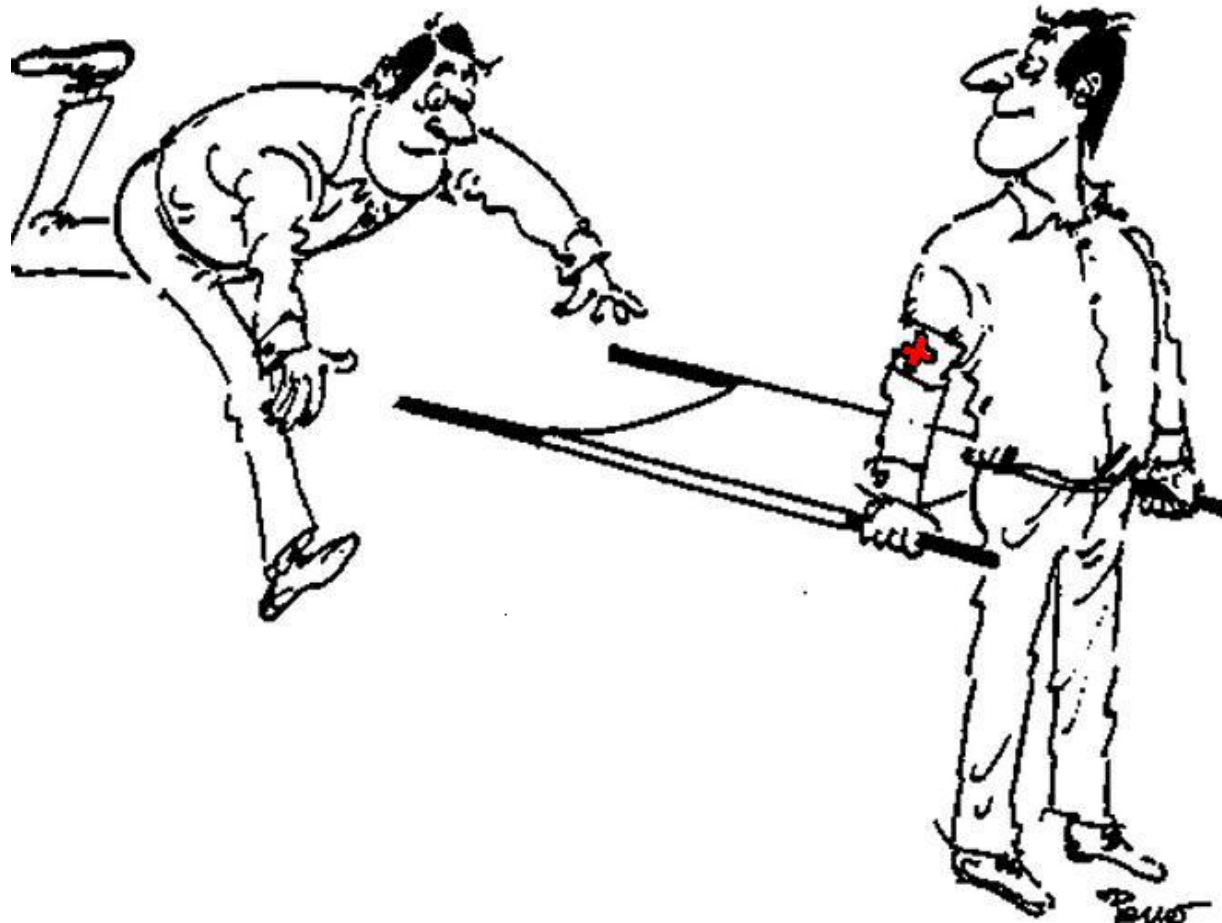


Principle	Component/definition	Underpinning value	Required skills
Independence	1 Not letting politics, economic, social pressure dictate RC line/ action	Inclusiveness Trust enabling access	Leadership Innovation Negotiation Stress management
	2 Auxiliary status to authorities in the humanitarian field (working conditions different from other organisations, independence from public authorities)		
	3 Maintain our autonomy to be able to act in conformity with the P&V		



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Voluntary service



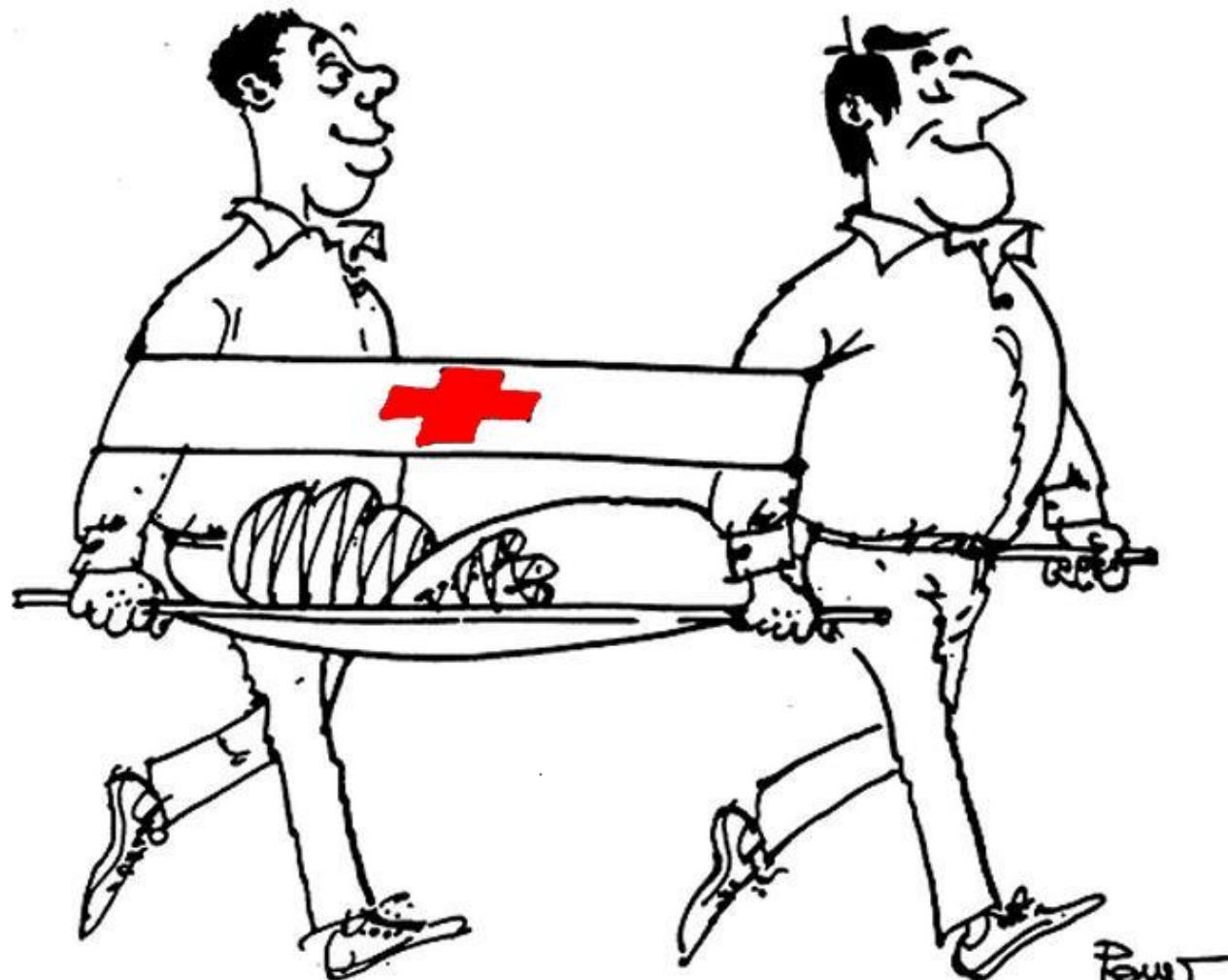


Principle	Component/definition	Underpinning value	Required skills
Voluntary service	1. Voluntary: freely accepted commitment/action devoid of external compulsion	Inclusiveness Free will	Team building Self-confidence Professionalism Flexibility Discipline Stress management
	2. Service: assistance is disinterested	Team spirit/ cooperation Solidarity	
	3. Selflessness: no reaping advantage of our acts, as we are only concerned with human interest of helping needy persons	Non-reciprocity	



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Unity



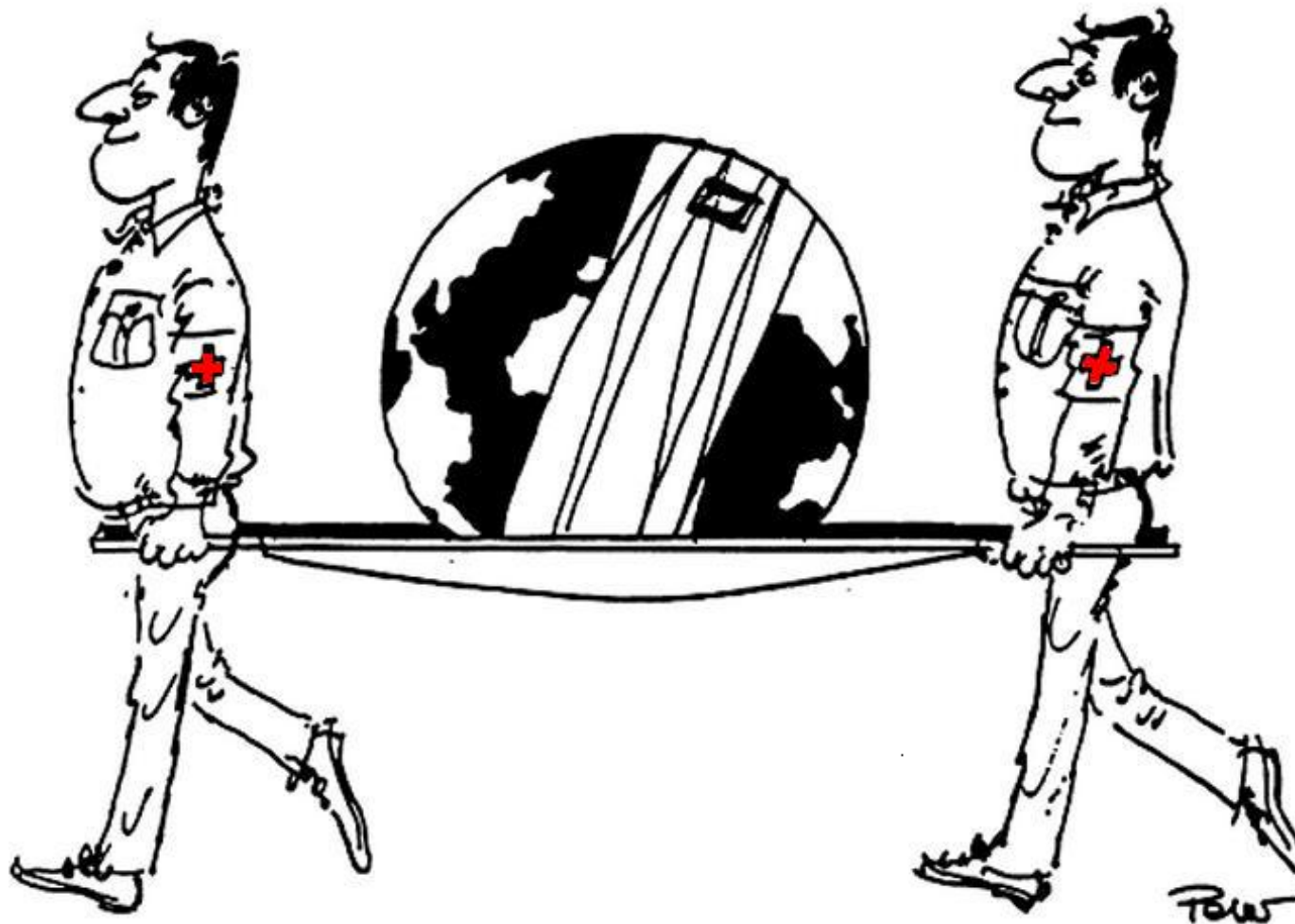


Principle	Component/definition	Underpinning value	Required skills
Unity	1. Only 1 National Society per country		
	2. Multitudinism (open to all)	Pluralism Respect for diversity	Flexibility Inclusiveness
	3. Generality of action (humanitarian work extends throughout the territory)		



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Universality





Principle	Component/definition	Underpinning value	Required skills
Universality	1. Universal mission	Mutual understanding Respect for diversity Tolerance	Comprehension Consensus building Conciliation Cultural adaptability <i>Discernment</i> Altruism
	2. Equality (of National Societies)	Non-discrimination	
	3. Solidarity	Cooperation	



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Principles & Values belongs to everybody

Together for humanity
Ensemble pour l'humanité
Juntos por la humanidad
معاً من أجل الإنسانية

