



CIMM
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE MÉDECINE MILITAIRE

ICMM
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF MILITARY MEDICINE

The General Assembly of the ICMM in Bali in May 2015 approved a document (Annex A) with a reminder of the ethical principles not only for health care providers but also those principles protecting health care providers as set out in the Geneva Conventions. This document was prepared under the impetus of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC), in cooperation with the World Medical Association (WMA), the International Council of Nurses, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and our organization: the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM).

This Ethical document was prepared within the framework of the “Health Care in Danger” project of the ICRC. After publication, this document was endorsed by several other health organizations, such as the WHO, MSF,

Based on this ethical document, a statement was issued on November 3, 2015, signed by 17 organizations (including the ICMM) calling on States, weapon bearers, international and national humanitarian agencies and health organizations to give urgent and special attention to the recommendations of the “Healthcare in Danger” initiative.”(Annex B)

During the biennial International Conference of the ICRC and the Red Crescent in Geneva in December 2015, a resolution was adopted by the 32nd International Conference of the ICRC calling on countries and stakeholders to initiate "joint actions to protect the delivery of health care". (Annex C)

The document on the ethical principles adopted by the General Assembly of the ICMM, the Declaration of November 2015, co-signed by the ICMM and the resolution of the 32nd International Conference of the ICRC subsequently formed the basis of Resolution 2286 of the Security Council of the UN (Annex D) on May 3, 2016.

This resolution of the Security Council states, among other points:

"Reaffirming the need for all parties to armed conflict to respect the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance, including medical assistance, and reaffirming also the need for all actors engaged in the provision of such assistance in situations of armed conflict to promote and fully respect these principles,..."

The resolution also gives some recommendations. I would like to particularly emphasize the following recommendations:



“... ..

4. Strongly urges States and all parties to armed conflict to develop effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities in armed conflict, including, as appropriate, through the development of domestic legal frameworks to ensure respect for their relevant international legal obligations, the collection of data on obstruction, threats and physical attacks on medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and medical facilities, and to share challenges and good practice in this regard;

5. Underlines the important role that education and training in international humanitarian law can play in supporting efforts to halt and prevent acts of violence, attacks and threats against the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities;

....”

In point 5 the Security Council especially mentions the need for "training in international humanitarian law" for all the potential actors in conflicts.

In the "Health Care in Danger" project, all parties agreed to bring this resolution of the Security Council to the attention of all their members.

The ICMM will take the following actions:

- Put on the agenda of the Regional Assemblies a discussion about the “Health Care in Danger” project and about the possible actions the members of the Regional Working Groups of the ICMM could take to raise awareness among their national political and military authorities - if possible together with the national sections of the ICRC - about the problem of Health Care in Danger and to consider with them what measures should be taken to address this problem.
- Assess the possibility of implementing education and training measures in international humanitarian law, for national military health service personnel and for the personnel of national Armed Forces. The ICMM course on ethics and international humanitarian law, which is organized yearly in Spiez (Switzerland), is very appropriate for this.

In the end, all our military health services and all our health care workers will benefit from these actions.