

**SYNTHESIS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA**

Meeting in TUNIS from 10 to 12 of March 2009

The Delegates of the International Working Group (IWG) met in TUNIS on March 10-12, 2009. Following Article 22.6 of the ICMM Statutes, the group meeting was convened by the Secretary-General of the ICMM, in order to work on preparing the General Assembly of Delegates from the Member States, due to take place in KUALA LUMPUR next October, and to reflect on the question as to what Member States can do to improve ICMM and to assist the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General of the ICMM, Dr SANABRIA, was accompanied by Colonel (MD) LEMMENS, Deputy Secretary-General, by Major General (MD, Prof) MERLIN, Chairman of the Scientific Council, and by Air Commodore (MD) VAN LEUSDEN, Political Advisor.

Brigadier General (MD, Prof) CHEBBI, Chairman of the ICMM, enhanced this meeting. The Secretary of the meeting was ensured by Col KHOLIKOV, representing the Delegate of the Fed of RUSSIA, elected to be the reporter of the meeting to the general Assembly in KUALA LUMPUR.

The delegates from the following countries were also able to attend: BRAZIL, PR of CHINA, CYPRUS, GREECE, MALAYSIA, Fed of RUSSIA, SAUDI ARABIA, SERBIA, SUDAN, SWEDEN, TUNISIA and USA.

The IWG acknowledges with the satisfaction and approves the actions that were undertaken by the Secretary-General in order to support international, regional and scientific activities.

The IWG analyzed and agreed with the proposed simplification of the statutes (Art 19 and 20) about the organization of the Scientific Council and recommends the General Assembly to accept these changes. The IWG recommends accepting the new RIO of the Scientific Council.

The IWG is of the opinion that better exchange of information and the creation and strengthening of Regional Working Groups (under auspices of the Secretary General) for organizational and scientific matters, in line with the decisions of the General Assembly in TUNIS in 2007 under guidance of a leading State, is the priority to be undertaken by all parties involved. This leading State, changing each two years, is the country that will host the following Regional Congress.

The IWG suggests that a strategic plan be drafted to reflect required activities of ICMM in a changing environment. The Delegates of the IWG will forward by mail any item that is deemed to be relevant in drafting a strategic plan.

Parallel to the improvement of communication, the first step of the process to be implemented about the strategic plan will be the enhancement of the Regional Working Groups. In that purpose, the finalization of the Pan European Regional Working Group and the creation of an Asia-Pacific Regional Working Group are two priorities for the ICMM. Each ICMM Regional Working Group will have to screen the regional priorities so as to identify regional scientific

and technical objectives. On the basis of these proposals, the International Working Group of the ICMM will identify the main objectives that will be part of the strategic plan.

The second step will be to give an account of the tasks that will have to be performed to reach these objectives.

The third step will be to find an agreement about the means (human, material and financial) necessary to implement these tasks.

The fourth and last step of the process will be to elaborate the agenda.

The IWG agrees and recommends that the Directors of the Health Services will:

- Ensure continuity by involving middle level staff officers for ICMM activities;
- Provide manpower (i.e. time for ICMM activities) by appointing project officers for specific activities that are endorsed by the Secretary-General;
- Support goodwill visits and exchange of medical personnel (if necessary to be facilitated by the Secretary General);
- Ensure delivery of relevant information to the Secretary-General, the General Assembly and the Review;
- Provide support to regional groups.

The IWG recommends that the Secretariat General further enhances relations with relevant partners.

The IWG recommends that Regional Working Groups will assist in :

- Formulating specific regional requirements and priorities, taking into account the required means;
- Providing assistance to working groups created by the Secretary-General and to the Technical Commissions;
- Providing assistance in development of a communication strategy;
- Reporting activities to the Secretary General, the General Assembly and the Review;
- Further developing relevant courses.

The IWG proposes that the Secretary General establish a protocol (in accordance with Article 32 of the Statutes) in order to introduce the use of Arabic within the ICMM. This protocol is to be discussed with the Chairman of the Pan Arab Regional Group: the Delegate from Saudi Arabia, prior to the General Assembly in Malaysia.

At the request of the Pan Arab Group, the Secretary General is to assign the task of translating official ICMM texts from English into Arabic to the Head Office of Armed Forces Medical Services of Saudi Arabia, who will also take responsibility for the accuracy of the translation.