

STATUTES OF THE BULGARIAN RED CROSS

The Bulgarian Red Cross was founded on 25 October, 1878. This Statutes is based on the provisions underlying the first Statutes of the Bulgarian Red Cross, on the Geneva Conventions to which Bulgaria is a party, and on the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement which are:

1. 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, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. VOLUNTARY SERVICE

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

6. 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.

7. 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.

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

- (1) The Bulgarian Red Cross is officially recognized by the state on the basis of the national legislation as a voluntary aid Society, auxiliary to the public authorities, for rendering help to the needy, in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, and as the only National Red Cross Society which may carry out its activities throughout the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.
- (2) With regard to the state, the Bulgarian Red Cross maintains an autonomy which allows it to act at all times in conformity with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Law of Bulgarian Red Cross.

(3) The Bulgarian Red Cross, which was recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross on October 20th 1885, is part of the International Red Cross. It is a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

(4) The Bulgarian Red Cross is constituted sine die.

(5) The Bulgarian Red Cross is a corporate body with a legal personality according to the Law on Non-Profit Legal Entities. It is an organization for performing activities to the benefit of the general public.

(6) The Bulgarian Red Cross' seat is in Sofia, "Lozenets" Quarter, the address of its headquarters being 1407 Sofia, 76 James Boucher Boul.

(7) The name of the legal entity is Български Червен кръст (БЧК) and can be additionally inscribed in Latin letters as: Bulgarian Red Cross.

Article 2

(1) The Bulgarian Red Cross has a four-level structure with the following governing bodies:

1. National level

- General Assembly
- National Council

2. Regional level, respectively metropolitan level

- General Assembly
- Regional Council, respectively Metropolitan Council

3. Municipal level, respectively territorial level

- General Assembly
- Municipal Council, respectively Territorial Council

4. Chapter level

- Chapter Assembly
- Chapter governing body.

(2) All eligible bodies within the Bulgarian Red Cross shall be elected for a four-year period.

Article 3

(1) The Bulgarian Red Cross' emblem is the heraldic sign of a red cross on a white ground, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and the Law of the Bulgarian Red Cross, for all purposes provided for by the Regulations on the Use of the Emblem of the Red Cross and Red Crescent by the National Societies.

(2) The flag of the Bulgarian Red Cross contains the sign of a red cross on a white ground, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

(3) The seal of the Bulgarian Red Cross is round and red. Each seal bears the following inscription: above - Bulgarian Red Cross, below – National Council, and in the middle – the red cross sign. In the seals of the regional organizations, respectively the metropolitan and the municipal organizations, respectively the territorial organizations, the text of "National Council" is replaced by "Regional Council..." resp. "Metropolitan Council – Sofia", "Municipal Council -.....", resp. "Territorial Council -...." . The seal of the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth, and the seals of the bases and centres of the Bulgarian Red Cross comprise their names and seats. The procedure of making, using, storing and destroying the seals of the Bulgarian Red Cross is defined in the Rules of Procedure containing attachments with samples of the seals as approved by the National Council.

(4) The Bulgarian Red Cross' distinctions include badges of honour and honorary titles, specified by rules adopted by the National Council.

CHAPTER II

GENERAL OBJECT

Article 4

The general object of the Bulgarian Red Cross is to prevent and alleviate human suffering with impartiality, making no discrimination as to nationality, race, sex, religious beliefs or political opinions.

FUNCTIONS WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING THE GENERAL OBJECT

Article 5

With a view to achieving the general object as defined in Art. 4, the functions of the Bulgarian Red Cross shall be the following:

1. In case of armed conflict to act, and in peace time prepare to act, for protection of all victims of war (victims of hostilities), no matter if they are civilian or military, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.
2. To contribute to the protection and improvement of public health, prevention of diseases and injuries, by means of programmes for training and services for the benefit of the community, adapted to the national, regional, municipal and local needs, circumstances and capacities.
3. In cooperation with governmental, municipal and non-governmental organizations, to carry out activities in maintaining preparedness and rendering assistance in case of disasters, accidents and calamities/crises.
4. To promote and affirm non-remunerated blood donation.
5. To conduct social welfare and health activities.
6. To recruit and train such volunteering and staff contributors as are necessary for the discharge of its duties, and to carry out acts of intercession for the benefit of the vulnerable.
7. To encourage and assist the participation of children and young people in the work of the Red Cross, in congruence with the Statutes of the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth.
8. To organize and govern the mountain rescuing activities through the Mountain Rescue Service being part of the Bulgarian Red Cross and guided by Regulations approved by the National Council.
9. The Water Life-Saving Service takes active part in carrying out water life-saving activities throughout the country. It organizes and governs the training of water life-saving personnel and conducts activities to prevent water accidents. This activity is regulated by means of the Rules of the Water Life-Saving Service at the Bulgarian Red Cross and the respective normative acts.
10. To disseminate the Movement's Fundamental Principles and the norms of International Humanitarian Law.
11. To assist the social integration of refugees provided with the relevant status in conformity with the 1951 Convention on refugees, and of asylum-seekers with humanitarian status, through the Refugee and Migrant Service.
12. To interact with governmental and municipal authorities, trade unions, associations and foundations etc. with similar objects and activities.
13. To cooperate with international governmental and non-governmental organizations with similar objects and activities.
14. To study, apply and disseminate the Bulgarian and international expertise.

OBJECTS OF ACTIVITY

Article 6

The objects of activity of the Bulgarian Red Cross shall be the following:

1. To render assistance to vulnerable and impoverished citizens, social and medical institutions etc., and to provide social and health services;
2. To organize and maintain social institutions;
3. To provide socially-oriented legal and psychological consultations;
4. To collect, receive, store and distribute humanitarian aid and donations from the country and abroad;
5. To organize training events and courses in first pre-medical aid, mountain rescuing, water life-saving, first psychological aid, drug addicts' problems, HIV/AIDS, promotion of non-remunerated blood donation, etc.;

6. To organize courses for training, qualifying and re-qualifying staff members, accompanied by issuing the respective certificates, with a view to implementing its activities and achieving its goals;
7. To organize and carry out mountain and water rescuing;
8. To render assistance to victims in the mountains and water areas;
9. To develop preventive and control activities for avoiding accidents in the mountains and water areas;
10. To organize the search of missing persons and the transportation of victims in the mountains upon request of citizens and competent authorities;
11. To set up and maintain rescue stations;
12. To form teams and structures, and give assistance for victims of natural disasters, accidents and calamities/crises;
13. To provide assistance for victims of natural disasters, accidents and calamities (crises), in conformity with the tasks of the Bulgarian Red Cross when natural disasters, accidents and calamities (crises) occur;
14. To provide assistance, alone or in cooperation with other formations and specialized services, to prevent and limit the consequences of disasters, accidents and other emergencies, within its competences.
15. To prepare and render aid, within its possibilities, in response to appeals of other states and National Societies following disasters and conflicts;
16. To build up, equip and maintain warehouse stocks with a view to servicing the Red Cross activities;
17. To conduct the organization of and ensure participation in meetings, seminars, courses, conferences, press conferences, competitions and reviews on the major activities of the Bulgarian Red Cross and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
18. To trace, on the country's territory and abroad, members of families separated as a result of wars, other armed conflicts and natural disasters;
19. To provide assistance to persons having received the right of asylum in the country; to refugee status applicants registered at the State Agency for Refugees, and to persons with refugee status, humanitarian status or under temporary protection.

CHAPTER III

MEMBERSHIP, RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Article 7

(1) An individual member of the Bulgarian Red Cross can be any Bulgarian or foreign able-bodied physical person with no discrimination based on race, sex, religion, social status or political opinions, who recognizes the present Statutes and acts in congruence with the Movement's Fundamental Principles accepted by the governing body of the respective BRC chapter, and pays the annual membership dues as fixed by the General Assembly.

(2) A collective member of the Bulgarian Red Cross can be any Bulgarian or foreign legal entity which recognizes the present Statutes and acts in congruence with the Movement's Fundamental Principles, paying the annual membership dues as determined by the General Assembly in accordance with the number of employees declared. The collective member exercises its rights and duties through an attorney appointed by the body representing the legal entity. An attorney of a collective member may only be a physical person provided with explicit powers of attorney. Each attorney may represent only one collective member and may not re-authorize with his powers a third person, having the right to one vote in the governing bodies on the respective level.

(3) The membership shall be voluntary.

Article 8

Each member of the Bulgarian Red Cross shall be entitled:

1. To take part in the assemblies of the respective chapter with the right to vote.

2. To elect and be elected in the governing bodies of the Bulgarian Red Cross at all levels.
3. To be informed about the activities of the organization.
4. To obtain assistance from the Bulgarian Red Cross with a view to properly performing the Red Cross activities.
5. To nominate and be nominated for Bulgarian Red Cross' honours of distinction.

Article 9

Each member of the Bulgarian Red Cross shall be obliged:

1. To abide by the Statutes of the National Society.
2. To take an active part in the activities of the Bulgarian Red Cross.
3. To pay the regular membership dues as fixed by the General Assembly.
4. In his/her behaviour, not to admit any actions contradicting the Red Cross principles.

Article 10

Honorary members shall be the persons and collectives approved as such by the General Assembly, upon proposal of the National Council, for recognized exceptional merits to the Bulgarian Red Cross.

Article 11

Affiliates shall be the persons and collectives who provide financial support or voluntary service to the Bulgarian Red Cross.

Article 12

(1) The membership shall be discontinued:

1. upon addressing to the Chapter a unilateral declaration of willingness to withdraw;
2. upon decease or imposition of interdict – for individual members, respectively upon liquidation or insolvency of the legal entity – for collective members;
3. upon expulsion;
4. upon dissolution of the organization;
5. upon dropping out because of membership dues default and/or systematic non-participation in the activity.

(2) The governing body of the respective chapter of the Bulgarian Red Cross may expel an individual or collective member for acts inconsistent with the principles of the Red Cross or the present Statutes. Any member so expelled has the right to lodge an appeal against such a decision to the Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assembly.

CHAPTER IV GOVERNING BODIES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 13

(1) The General Assembly shall be the supreme body of the Bulgarian Red Cross.

(2) The General Assembly shall be composed of 90 members, of which:

1. 87 – elected on a quota principle as defined by the National Council, on the basis of the average number of regional branch members within a four-year preceding mandate, for each calendar year as of 31 December, on the basis of the reported number of members.
2. 3 elected representatives, respectively of the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth, the Mountain Rescue Service and the Water Life-Saving Service.

(3) The sessions of the General Assembly are to be also attended by:

1. The Director General and the directors from the Secretariats of the Bulgarian Red Cross – with the right to a deliberative vote;
2. Invited representatives of the National Assembly, the Presidency, the Council of Ministers and other governmental and public institutions – with the right to a deliberative vote;

3. Invited representatives of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and National Red Cross / Red Crescent Societies – with the right to a deliberative vote;
4. Invited representatives of international organizations.

Article 14

(1) The General Assembly shall be empowered:

1. To adopt, amend and supplement the Statutes of the organization.
2. To adopt other internal acts.
3. To approve the Statutes of the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth and its amendments.
4. To elect, among the delegates to the General Assembly, the President of the Bulgarian Red Cross on a public service basis, and to discharge him/her.
5. To determine the number of and elect, among the delegates to the General Assembly, deputy president/s on a public service basis, and to discharge them.
6. To determine the number of and elect, among the delegates to the General Assembly, members of the National Council on a public service basis, and to discharge them.
7. To determine the number of and elect, among the delegates to the General Assembly, members of the National Control Commission on a public service basis, and to discharge them.
8. To fix the amount of membership dues.
9. To approve the budget of the organization.
10. To adopt the general guidelines and plan of action of the organization.
11. To approve the annual reports of the National Council and of the National Control Commission.
12. To take decisions on the opening and closing of branches.
13. To take decisions regarding the disposal of the organization's real estate.
14. To take decisions on the transformation or cessation of the activities of the Bulgarian Red Cross.
15. To cancel decisions of other bodies of the organization, which are contrary to the law, Statutes, previous resolutions of the General Assembly or other internal acts regulating the activities of the Bulgarian Red Cross.
16. To take decisions on other important issues related to the work of the Bulgarian Red Cross.

(2) The decisions of the General Assembly shall be binding on the other bodies of the organization.

Article 15

(1) The General Assembly shall be convened by the National Council upon the latter's initiative at least once a year or upon demand of one third of the members of the General Assembly of the Bulgarian Red Cross. In the last case, if the National Council does not send out within one month a written invitation for convoking the General Assembly, the latter shall be convened by the locally competent court upon receiving a written demand from at least one third of the members of the Bulgarian Red Cross' General Assembly or from a person entrusted by them.

(2) The invitation must include the agenda, date, timing and venue for holding the General Assembly as well as information on precisely at whose initiative it is being convened.

(3) The invitation must be promulgated in the State Gazette and is to be posted in the building where the governing body of the organization is located, at least one month in advance.

(4) The General Assembly shall be considered legitimate if it is attended by more than half of its members. In the absence of a quorum the assembly shall be postponed with an hour, to be held at the same place and with the same agenda, and can take place only in case of attendance of at least 40% of all members of the General Assembly. If no quorum is attained, a new assembly shall be convened in conformity with the above requirements.

Article 16

(1) Each member of the General Assembly shall have the right to one vote.

(2) No member of the General Assembly shall have voting rights when solving issues relating to:

1. him/her self, own spouse or relatives next of kin – with no exceptions, to his/her family’s collateral branch – till the fourth degree, or to his/her relatives by marriage – till the second degree inclusive;
2. legal entities of which he/she is manager or where he/she could impose or impede decision-making.

Article 17

(1) The decisions of the General Assembly under subparagraphs 1 and 13 of Art. 14 shall be taken by open vote ballot and by a two-thirds majority of the members present; the decisions under subparagraph 14 of the same article shall be taken by open vote ballot and by three-fourth majority of all members of the General Assembly.

(2) The elections provided for in subparagraphs 4 and 5 of Art. 14 shall be carried out by secret vote ballot and by a two-thirds majority of the members present. If, during the first voting, no nominee has gained the number of votes required, a second secret vote ballot shall be conducted with the participation of the two contestants having received most votes during the first round. As elected shall be considered the nominee who has polled more votes, but not less than half plus one of the members present. If none of the two contestants has gained such a majority, a new voting procedure with new nominations shall be launched.

(3) All other decisions shall be taken by the General Assembly by open vote ballot and by a simple majority of its members present.

(4) If, during the ballot for members of the National Council, the contestants having polled the majority required by para 3 turn out to exceed the previously fixed number, as elected shall be considered those who have polled most votes.

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Article 18

Between the sessions of the General Assembly, the Bulgarian Red Cross shall be governed by a National Council being its chief executive and instructive body.

Article 19

(1) The National Council shall be composed of:

1. The President and Vice-President/s of the Bulgarian Red Cross, elected by the General Assembly.
2. Members elected by the General Assembly.

(2) The National Council shall consist of at least 5 persons who are members of the organization.

Article 20

The National Council shall be empowered:

1. to ensure the fulfilment of the decisions taken by the General Assembly;
2. to prepare and submit to the General Assembly a draft budget;
3. to control the implementation of the budget adopted by the General Assembly;
4. to prepare and submit to the General Assembly a report on the activities of the organization;
5. to determine the order and organize the accomplishment of the activities of the organization and to bear the responsibility thereof;
6. to prepare the report provided for in Art. 32 (2) of this Statutes;
7. to prepare and approve Regulations on its work;
8. to take decisions on Bulgarian Red Cross participation in other organizations, and termination of such participation.
9. to take decisions on renting out the organization’s movable property, as per the provisions of the Law of Liabilities and Contracts, also on the disposal of the said movable property including funds of the organization, and to grant rights for such a disposal within specified limits to the President and to the Director General;
10. to perform liquidation or take a decision for the appointment of a liquidator;
11. to appoint the address of the organization;

12. to approve a licensed expert – auditor, for accomplishing an independent audit and certification of the annual financial report of the Bulgarian Red Cross in accordance with Art. 39 (3) of the Law on Non-Profit Legal Entities;
13. to take decisions on all matters which, by law or under the present Statutes, fall short of the competences of any other body.

Article 21

(1) The National Council shall meet in ordinary session at least 9 (nine) times a year. The sessions of the National Council shall be convened and presided over by the President. The President is obliged to convoke an extraordinary session of the National Council upon written demand from the Vice-President/s or from one third of its members, in case such a demand has been officially received and duly certified by him/her. If the President does not convene such a session within one week, it may be convened by any one of the National Council's members concerned. The Director General may submit proposals to the President for convoking the National Council. In the absence of the President, the session shall be chaired by the Vice-President/s or by any other member of the National Council, designated by the President.

(2) The sessions of the National Council shall be considered legitimate when attended by more than half of its members.

(3) As present shall also be considered that person with whom there is a direct telephone or other communication guaranteeing the establishment of his/her identity and allowing his/her participation in the discussion and decision-making. This member's voting shall be entered into the minutes by the chairing person.

(4) The National Council may also take decisions without holding a session, provided the minutes certifying the respective decision has been signed without comments or objections by all its members.

(5) The sessions of the National Council shall be attended by the Director General, with the right to a deliberative vote. The persons, invited for participation, shall also be entitled to this right.

(6) The decisions of the National Council shall be taken by a majority of the members present, while the decisions under items 4, 6 and 7 of Art. 20 – by a majority of all members.

Article 22

(1) The President shall represent the Bulgarian Red Cross.

(2) The President shall carry out control on the implementation of the decisions taken by the General Assembly and the National Council.

(3) The President shall execute a general control on the administration of the Bulgarian Red Cross.

(4) Should the President be prevented, for objective reasons, from performing his/her functions, the latter shall be exercised by a Vice-President upon a decision of the National Council. Decision shall be taken by a majority of two-thirds of the National Council members present at the session.

(5) Should the Vice-president be prevented, for objective reasons, from performing his/her functions as President, the National Council shall elect another of its members to perform them. The decision shall be taken by a majority of two-thirds of the National Council members present at the session.

(6) Should as President of the Bulgarian Red Cross be elected a person who is President of a Regional (respectively Metropolitan) or Municipal (respectively Territorial) Council, that Regional (respectively Metropolitan) or Municipal (respectively Territorial) Council shall be entitled to convene, within one month after the election date, an extraordinary General Assembly for discharging the person and for electing a new President supposed to fill the post until the expiry of his/her predecessor's mandate.

CHAPTER V

ADMINISTRATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BODY – SECRETARIAT

Article 23

(1) The Secretariat at the National Council is an administrative and executive body. It implements the decisions of the General Assembly and the National Council and shall be composed of:

1. Director General;
2. Deputy (Deputies) Director General ;
3. Directors of Directorates;
4. National training centres and bases of the Bulgarian Red Cross shall be established and will function at the Secretariat of the Bulgarian Red Cross National Council. They shall have their separate structures, payroll and budget.
5. Other staff members and employees.

(2) The structure, position/salary scale and unified classifier of positions/ salary scale shall be approved by the National Council.

Article 24

(1) The Director General shall manage the administration of the Bulgarian Red Cross and shall be in charge of the implementation of the decisions taken by the General Assembly and the National Council.

(2) The Director General shall administer the budget operatively upon decision of the National Council and shall render accounts to the latter.

(3) The President shall conclude, modify and terminate the labour contract with the Director General and shall approve his/her job description. The Director General shall be also vested with other powers entrusted to him/her by the President.

(4) The Director General shall perform the function of an employer to the directors within the Bulgarian Red Cross. As for the directors of Secretariats of Regional/Metropolitan councils, he shall coordinate his actions with the respective Regional/Metropolitan council, and duly inform the National Council. The Director General shall sign, modify and terminate the labour contracts with the Secretariat staff members and employees at the National Council. He shall also exercise all other rights and duties granted to the employer by the Labour Code.

CHAPTER VI

REGIONAL, RESPECTIVELY METROPOLITAN, ORGANIZATIONS

Article 25

The regional (respectively metropolitan) organizations are established on the territories which follow the regional administrative and territorial division of the country, where they perform the overall Red Cross activity.

Article 26

(1) The Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly shall be the high governing body within its territory.

(2) The Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly shall be composed of delegates elected by the Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assemblies for a four-year period on the basis of quotas determined by the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council of the Bulgarian Red Cross. The Director of the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Secretariat shall take part therein with the right to a deliberative vote. The persons, invited for participation, shall have the same right.

(3) The Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly shall meet in ordinary session at least once a year. Extraordinary sessions may be convened upon proposal of the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council, or of one third of its members. It is considered legitimate if attended by more than half of its members.

(4) The Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly shall be empowered:

1. To elect, among the delegates to the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly, a President on a public service basis, and to discharge him/her.
 2. To determine the number of and elect, among the delegates to the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly, deputy president/s on a public service basis, and to discharge them.
 3. To determine the number of and elect, among the delegates to the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly, members of the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council on a public service basis, and to discharge them.
 4. To determine the number of and elect, among the delegates to the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly, members of the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Control Commission on a public service basis, and to discharge them.
 5. To elect, among the delegates to the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly, delegates and one sub-delegate to the General Assembly of the Bulgarian Red Cross on a public service basis.
 6. To approve the reports of the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council and Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Control Commission as well as guidelines for the activities of the regional (respectively metropolitan) organization during the next period.
 7. To approve a draft budget of the regional (respectively metropolitan) organization.
- (5) The President and Deputy President/s shall be elected by secret vote ballot and by a two-thirds majority of the attending members of the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly. If, during the first voting, no nominee has gained the number of votes required, a second secret vote ballot shall be conducted with the participation of the two contestants having received most votes during the first round. As elected shall be considered the nominee who has polled more votes, but not less than half plus one of the members present. If none of the two contestants has gained such a majority, a new voting procedure with new nominations shall be launched. All other decisions shall be taken by open vote ballot and by a simple majority of the members present.
- (6) Between the sessions of the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly, the activity of the organization shall be governed by the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council being the chief executive and instructive body of the regional (respectively metropolitan) organization.
- (7) The Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council shall be empowered:
1. to ensure the fulfilment of the decisions taken by the General Assembly, the National Council and the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly;
 2. to prepare and submit to the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly a draft budget of the regional (respectively metropolitan) organization;
 3. to prepare and approve Regulations on its work;
 4. to prepare and submit to the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly a report on the activities of the regional (respectively metropolitan) organization.
- (8) The Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council determines the number of its sessions, but it shall meet at least six times a year.
- (9) The President of the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council shall convene and chair the sessions of the Council. He shall be in charge of the enforcement of the general policy in the region and of the implementation of the decisions taken by the General Assembly, the National Council, the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly and the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council, exercising as well a general control on the administration of the regional (respectively metropolitan) organization and bearing the responsibility thereof.
- (10) Should the President be prevented from performing his/her functions, the latter shall be exercised by a/the Vice-President. Should the Vice-President be unable to do so, his/her functions shall be performed by any other member of the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council, designated by the President.
- (11) Should as President of a Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council be elected a person who is President of a Municipal (respectively Territorial) Council, that Municipal (respectively

Territorial) Council shall convene, within one month after the election date, an extraordinary General Assembly for discharging the person from office and electing a new President.

(12) The President of a Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council shall be entitled, upon decision of the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council, to submit a well-grounded written proposal to the Director General for discharging from office of the Director of the Secretariat of that Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council. The Director General shall take a decision on each specific case, and duly inform the National Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BODY AT REGIONAL, RESPECTIVELY METROPOLITAN, LEVEL – SECRETARIAT

Article 27

The Director of the Secretariat of the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council shall manage the administration of the Bulgarian Red Cross in the region and the budget upon decision of the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council. The Director shall report to the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council. He shall perform the functions of an employer to the staff members and employees from the Secretariat of the Regional / Metropolitan Council. The structure, position/salary scale and the unified classifier of job positions/ salary scale shall be approved by the Regional/Metropolitan Council.

MUNICIPAL, RESPECTIVELY TERRITORIAL, ORGANIZATIONS AND CHAPTERS

Article 28

(1) The municipal (respectively territorial) organization is the major structural unit on the territory of a municipality. It shall carry out the overall Red Cross activity on this territory, being a component of the relevant regional (respectively metropolitan) organization.

(2) The municipal (respectively territorial) organization shall be governed by a Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assembly and a Municipal (respectively Territorial) Council.

(3) The Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assembly shall meet in ordinary session once a year. Extraordinary sessions may be held upon proposal of the Municipal (respectively Territorial) Council or of one third of its members. It is considered legitimate if attended by more than half of its members.

(4) The Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assembly shall be composed of delegates elected by the chapters of the Bulgarian Red Cross for a four-year period on the basis of quotas determined by the Municipal (respectively Territorial) Council.

(5) The Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assembly shall be empowered:

1. To elect, among the delegates to the Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assembly, a President on a public service basis, and to discharge him/her.
2. To determine the number of and elect, among the delegates to the Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assembly, Vice-President/s on a public service basis, and to discharge them.
3. To determine the number of and elect, among the delegates to the Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assembly, members of the Municipal (respectively Territorial) Council on a public service basis, and to discharge them.
4. To determine the number of and elect, among the delegates to the Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assembly, members of the Municipal (respectively Territorial) Control Commission on a public service basis, and to discharge them.
5. To elect, among the delegates to the Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assembly, delegates and sub-delegates to the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) General Assembly on a public service basis.
6. To approve the annual reports of the Municipal (respectively Territorial) Council and of the Municipal (respectively Territorial) Control Commission as well as guidelines for the activities during the next period.

(6) The President and Vice-President/s shall be elected by open vote ballot and by a two-thirds majority of the attending members of the Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assembly. If, during the first voting, no nominee has gained the number of votes required, a second secret vote ballot shall be conducted with the participation of the two contestants having received most votes during the first round. As elected shall be considered the nominee who has polled more votes, but not less than half plus one of the members present. If none of the two contestants has gained such a majority, a new voting procedure with new nominations shall be launched. All other decisions shall be taken by open vote ballot and by a simple majority of the members present.

(7) Between the sessions of the Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assembly, the activity shall be governed by the Municipal (respectively Territorial) Council being the chief executive and instructive body of the municipal organization. The Council determines the number of its sessions, but it shall meet at least four times a year, taking decisions by a simple majority of the members present.

Article 29

(1) The Chapter is the basic organizational unit of the Bulgarian Red Cross. It is set up on a territorial and employment-related principle and shall consist of not less than five members.

(2) The Chapter Assembly is the highest governing body of the Chapter.

(3) The Chapter Assembly shall meet at least once a year. It shall be considered legitimate if attended by more than half of its members.

(4) The members of the Chapter Assembly are to discuss issues related to the activities of the Bulgarian Red Cross and to the report of the chapter management.

(5) The Chapter Assembly shall elect once in four years President, chapter management and delegates and a sub-delegate to the Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assembly. The election and decision-making procedures shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Art. 28 (6) of this Statutes.

CHAPTER VII

BULGARIAN RED CROSS YOUTH

Article 30

(1) The Bulgarian Red Cross Youth (BRCY) is an integral part of the Bulgarian Red Cross. BRCY organizes and performs its activities and tasks in conformity with its own Statutes approved by the General Assembly of the Bulgarian Red Cross.

(2) The President of the Bulgarian Red Cross, the members of the National Council of the Bulgarian Red Cross, the Director General, the directors from the Secretariat at the national headquarters and the staff members of Directorate "BRCY" may take part, with the right to a deliberative vote, in the sessions of the Operative Board and the National Convention of the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth.

Article 31

The Bulgarian Red Cross Youth carries out its activities in concurrence with the International Red Cross Youth Movement of which it is an integral component.

CHAPTER VIII

BOOKKEEPING

Article 32

(1) The Bulgarian Red Cross shall perform bookkeeping with records of the proceedings during the sessions of its collective bodies. The chairman of the session and the person having taken the minutes are to certify the respective record, bearing responsibility for the correctness of its content.

(2) The Bulgarian Red Cross shall prepare an annual report on its work, including information on:

1. the major activities, the funds spent thereon, their relevance to the objectives and programmes of the organization and the results achieved;

2. the amount of gratuitously received property and of revenues from other income-generating activities;
 3. the financial balance.
- (3) The report provided for in para 2 shall be made public. The announcement on its accomplishment, as well as on the place, time and way of its becoming publicly available, shall be published in the bulletin of the central register.

CHAPTER IX COMMISSIONS

Article 33

- (1) The governing bodies can set up commissions within the various sectors of Bulgarian Red Cross' activities.
- (2) These commissions shall be established on a public or institutional basis and shall have auxiliary and consultative role.
- (3) The regulations on their work shall be approved by the relevant council on a national, regional (respectively metropolitan) or municipal (respectively territorial) level.

CHAPTER X PROPERTY

Article 34

The Bulgarian Red Cross acquires movable and immovable property through:

- (1) Voluntary contributions, donations, wills, sale-trade and contributions of any kind from physical persons and legal entities.
- (2) Subsidies and support from the state.
- (3) Revenues from income-generating activities of the Bulgarian Red Cross in conformity with the national legislation.
- (4) Membership dues.
- (5) Funds provided for in Art. 6, para 2, of the Law on the Bulgarian Red Cross.
- (6) Other sources in compliance with the national legislation and Bulgarian Red Cross' Statutes.

Article 35

The financial strategy of the organization shall be defined by the General Assembly.

Article 36

- (1) The Bulgarian Red Cross shall draw up a budget for each financial year.
- (2) The entire financial activity of the Bulgarian Red Cross shall be performed in congruence with the current national legislation and the internal normative base.
- (3) The budget of the Bulgarian Red Cross, the report on its implementation and the Annual Financial Report shall be approved by the General Assembly upon their submission by the National Council.
- (4) Upon decision of the National Council, the administration of the Bulgarian Red Cross' budget shall be entrusted to the Director General and the latter shall duly render the relevant accounts to the National Council.

Article 37

The control on the implementation of the budget of the Bulgarian Red Cross shall be executed by the National Council, the National Control Commission and the General Assembly of the organization.

Article 38

- (1) The Bulgarian Red Cross may, for the purposes of performing its community beneficial duties, gratuitously utilize property and accomplish the requisite activities aimed at achieving its goals.
- (2) The selection of beneficiaries and of mode for supporting them shall be subject to the specific goal pursued and to the availability of financial resources, in accordance with the internal normative

acts of the Bulgarian Red Cross and the relevant rules of procedure. The information on these selection procedures shall be publicly available and entered into the central register.

(3) With a view to gratuitously utilizing the property of the organization, a well-grounded decision shall be required, due to be taken by the National Society's General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of all its members, if such a handling of property would benefit:

1. members of its other bodies and their spouses and next of kin relatives – with no exceptions, their families' collateral branches – till the fourth degree, or relatives by marriage – till the second degree inclusive;
2. persons having been members of its governing bodies until two years before the date of taking the decision;
3. legal entities having financed the organization until three years before the date of taking the decision;
4. legal entities of which the persons mentioned in subparagraphs 1 and 2 are managers or where they could impose or impede decision-making.

(4) The Bulgarian Red Cross may not conclude transactions with persons such as those mentioned in para 3.1, as well as with legal entities of which these persons are managers or where they could impose or impede decision-making, unless such transactions would obviously benefit the organization or are concluded on generally equal terms having been made public.

CHAPTER XI ADDITIONAL INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES

Article 39

(1) The Bulgarian Red Cross may carry out additional income-generating activities in conformity with its general object, using the revenues from such activities for achieving the goals provided for by this Statutes and without sharing out any profit.

(2) Such additional income-generating activities could represent: publishing, advertizing and information activities; organizing and holding congresses, symposia, conferences, seminars, training courses and other similar regional, national and international events; sale of new and second-hand clothing; production and sale of goods; hotel/restaurant-keeping; travel agency operating; renting property, transportation services; motor-car repair and service activities as well as other undertakings and services not prohibited by law and in conformity with the provisions of Art. 3, para 3 of the Law on Non-Profit Legal Entities.

(3) The accomplishment of these income-generating activities shall be subject to the terms and order stipulated by the relevant laws regulating such economic activities.

(4) The National Council shall take decisions on the administrative channels, conditions, mode of management and rules for performing the respective categories of income-generating activities.

CHAPTER XII CONTROL BODIES

Article 40

Control commissions shall be elected on national, regional (respectively metropolitan) and municipal (respectively territorial) levels.

Article 41

(1) The National Control Commission shall be elected by the General Assembly of the Bulgarian Red Cross for a four-year period.

(2) The members of the National Control Commission may not be staff members of the Bulgarian Red Cross and may not obtain contractual remunerations or any other form of material benefit from the Bulgarian Red Cross.

(3) The National Control Commission shall be empowered:

1. To exercise control over the funds and the movable and immovable property of the organization;
 2. To check up the overall activities of the organization, and of economic establishments of the Bulgarian Red Cross;
 3. To control the decisions of the National Council and the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth governing structures with regard to their conformity with the present Statutes, with the decisions of the General Assembly and with the operative normative acts.
 4. To prepare and approve Regulations on its work.
- (4) The National Control Commission shall check up, at its discretion, the activities of the regional (respectively metropolitan) and municipal (respectively territorial) control commissions, and issue instructions with a view to an improvement of their work.
- (5) The number of members of the National Control Commission shall be determined by the General Assembly of the Bulgarian Red Cross.
- (6) The National Control Commission shall elect, among its members, a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, due to take part in the National Council's sessions with the right to a deliberative vote.
- (7) The National Control Commission shall have the right to draw in and consult external experts, when solving specific problems.

Article 42

(1) The Regional (respectively Metropolitan) and Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assemblies shall elect Regional (respectively Metropolitan) and Municipal (respectively Territorial) Control Commissions for a four-year period.

(2) The number of members of the commissions shall be determined by the relevant Regional (respectively Metropolitan) and Municipal (respectively Territorial) General Assemblies. Each commission shall elect a chairman to be taking part in the sessions of the Regional (respectively Metropolitan) Council and Municipal (respectively Territorial) Council with the right to a deliberative vote.

(3) The regional (respectively metropolitan) and municipal (respectively territorial) control commissions shall perform the functions, provided for in para 3 of the preceding Article, for their regions (respectively the city of Sofia) or municipalities (respectively territories). The text of Art. 41 (2) applies to them as well.

CHAPTER XIII INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Article 43

The Bulgarian Red Cross shares the solidarity which unites all members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in particular the National Societies and international organizations of the Red Cross /Red Crescent, and shall maintain continual relations with them.

Article 44

Within its current availability of resources, the Bulgarian Red Cross shall participate in the international campaigns of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Article 45

The Bulgarian Red Cross shall have the rights and duties ensuing from its membership of the Movement in accordance with its own Statutes, the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Constitution of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

CHAPTER XIV DISSOLUTION, LIQUIDATION

Article 46

(1) The Bulgarian Red Cross can be dissolved:

1. by decision of the General Assembly;
 2. by judgement of the respective locally competent District Court of Law, if:
 - a) it has not been constituted through the proper legal order;
 - b) it performs activities being contrary to the laws in force, the public order or good morals;
 - c) it has been adjudged insolvent.
- (2) The Court's judgement under para 1.2 is to be enacted upon claim lodged by any party concerned or by a public prosecutor.
- (3) The Court may grant an appropriate term for obviation of the grounds for dissolution and its consequences.
- (4) In the cases under para 2, the dissolution shall be entered ex officio and the Court shall appoint a liquidator.

Article 47

- (1) In case of dissolution of the Bulgarian Red Cross, a liquidation shall be performed.
- (2) The liquidation shall be carried out by the National Council or by a person designated by this Council.
- (3) If no liquidator has been designated as provided for in para 2, as well as in the case of Art. 46 (1.1), such a liquidator shall be appointed by the respective District Court of Law with jurisdiction conditioned by the location of the non-profit legal entity's seat.
- (4) The liquidator is obliged, as far as possible, to satisfy the creditors through the available pecuniary resources, and in the event of impossibility – through cashing firstly the movable, and then the immovable property.
- (5) No property whatsoever may be transferred in any manner to:
1. the constitutors and present or former members;
 2. the persons having been members of its bodies or staff;
 3. the liquidators, except for the remuneration amount due;
 4. the spouses of the persons under subparagraphs 1-3;
 5. the next of kin relatives of the persons under subparagraphs 1-3 – with no exceptions, their families' collateral branches – till the fourth degree, or relatives by marriage – till the second degree inclusive;
 6. the legal entities of which the persons enlisted in subparagraphs 1-5 are managers or where they could impose or impede decision-making.
- (6) With regard to the insolvency, liquidation procedural order and liquidator's powers, the provisions of the Law on Commerce shall be applied accordingly.

Article 48

- (1) The property having remained after satisfying the creditors shall be granted to a non-profit legal entity with socially beneficial activities of similar kind.
- (2) If the property has not been granted as provided for in para 1, it shall be transferred to the municipality where the seat of the Bulgarian Red Cross is located. The municipality is obliged to grant this property for the accomplishment of socially beneficial undertakings being as similar as possible to the nature of the Bulgarian Red Cross' activities.

Article 49

After sharing out the property, the liquidator must demand effacement of the organization from the entries of the locally competent District Court of Law.

CHAPTER XV PROCEDURE

Article 50

The mandate of each General Assembly (National, Regional, Metropolitan, Municipal, Territorial) commences after a check-up of the credentials of its delegates by the antecedent General Assembly, and expires by adopting the Report on the activities of the organization and the Report of the

respective Control Commission as well as by checking up the credentials of the newly elected delegates to the next General Assembly.

Article 51

(1) Upon electing a person, who is employed by means of a labour contract with the Bulgarian Red Cross, as member of a statutory eligible body of the organization, he/she is to submit, within one month after being elected, an application for termination of the labour contract.

(2) Otherwise, the respective chapter governing body or council shall, within another one month's period, convoke an extraordinary General Assembly for discharging the person under para 1 and for electing a new member thereof.

(3) Should a member of a statutory eligible body conclude a labour contract with the Bulgarian Red Cross, the respective chapter governing body or council shall, within one month after the date of this conclusion, convoke an extraordinary General Assembly for discharging the person and for electing a new member thereof.

Article 52

(1) The provisions of Art. 2, para 2, adopted by the General Assembly on 27 April 2002, shall also apply to the already sitting eligible bodies with a commenced mandate.

(2) The one-month period under Art. 22 (5) and Art. 51 relating to the status quo cases shall commence as from the date of adoption of the amendments and additions to the Statutes of 27 April 2002.

(3) This Statutes, as amended by the 62nd General Assembly on 16-17 May 2003, is considered effective as from the date of its entry, in accordance with the Law on Non-Profit Legal Entities.

Article 53

The General Assembly and the National Council shall adopt and amend all acts as may be necessary for the implementation of this Statutes.

Article 54

To all issues, unsettled in this Statutes, shall apply the provisions of the laws in force.

Article 55

The Statutes of the Bulgarian Red Cross was adopted by the 58th Congress of the Bulgarian Red Cross at its session of 28-29 April 1992 and came into force as from the date of its adoption. The Statutes was amended and supplemented at the ordinary sessions of the 59th General Assembly on 6 March 1993 and 18 March 1994, the 60th General Assembly on 13 May 1995, 30 March 1996 and 29 March 1997, the 61st General Assembly on 25 April 1998 and 22 April 2000, and the 62nd General Assembly on 28 April 2001, 27 April 2002, 16-17 May 2003 and 23-24 April 2004, the 63rd General Assembly on 12-13 May 2006.