

## CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Article 1

#### Constitution

The Barbados Red Cross was founded on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1960 as a branch of the British Red Cross and became independent of the British Red Cross Society on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1969. Its constitution is based on the Geneva Conventions of 1949 (and their additional Protocols of 1977), to which Barbados is a party. The Barbados Red Cross Society is committed to the resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IC), resolutions of the Council of Delegates (COD) and decisions of the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and in particular the constitution of the IFRC. The Barbados Red Cross Society shall be guided in its work by the principles of international humanitarian law and shall respect the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Code of Conduct of the Barbados Red Cross Society, which are set out below:

#### **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 peoples.

#### **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 and 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.

## Article 2

### National legal status

The Barbados Red Cross is officially recognised by the Government, in the Barbados Red Cross Society Act 1969 No. 35, as a voluntary relief society, auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, and particularly to the Medical Services of the Armed Forces in accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and as the only Red Cross Society which may carry out its activities in Barbadian territory.

In relation to the public authorities the Barbados Red Cross Society maintains an autonomy, which allows it to act at all times in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

The public authorities shall at all times respect the adherence by the Barbados Red Cross to the Fundamental Principles.

The Barbados Red Cross Society is a legally constituted association. It possesses legal status. Its term of existence is unlimited. Its headquarters are located at Red Cross Building, Warrens Medical Complex, Warrens, St. Michael.

## Article 3

### Relations with other components of the Movement

The Barbados Red Cross Society was recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1984. It became a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It became a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) by admission on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1984.

The Barbados Red Cross Society 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 be in conformity with Article 3 of the Statutes of the Movement.

The Barbados Red Cross Society shall also be bound by the obligations laid down in Article 8 of the Constitution of the International Federation.

## Article 4

### Agreements

Agreements concluded with other organisations or entities, in particular with the public authorities regarding the execution of a public service, shall be in writing and shall not in any way constitute an obligation for the Society to act against the Fundamental Principles.

## Article 5

### Emblem

The Barbados Red Cross Society has as an emblem the heraldic sign of the Red Cross on a white background.

The National Society also makes use of a logo and seal composed of the heraldic sign of the Red Cross on a white background, accompanied by the name "Barbados Red Cross Society" or its abbreviated designation. The use of the emblem of the Red Cross and of the logo of the National Society shall at all times conform to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the additional protocols of 1977, the Geneva Convention Act, 1980, No. 40, the 1991 regulations on the use of the emblem by the National Societies, and to the Barbados Red Cross Society Act 1969 No. 35 whose provisions shall be binding upon the Barbados Red Cross Society.

## CHAPTER II GENERAL OBJECTIVE AND SPECIFIC TASKS

### Article 6

#### Objective

The principal objective of the Barbados Red Cross Society is to prevent and alleviate suffering with complete impartiality, making no discrimination as to nationality, race, sex, religious beliefs, language, class or political opinions.

For this purpose, its tasks are in particular:

- 1- to render assistance to persons and communities affected by armed conflict, other situations of violence and other emergencies, and in peace prepared to act in all the fields covered by the Geneva Conventions and on behalf of all war victims, both civilian and military;
- 2- to contribute to the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering;
- 3- to organise, within the scope of the national plan, emergency relief services for the victims of disasters, howsoever caused;
- 4- to educate the population on how to respond to disasters, howsoever caused, and undertake in collaboration with local authorities and other agencies disaster preparedness activities;
- 5- to promote the participation of children and young people in the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent;
- 6- to promote the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and those of International Humanitarian Law in order to develop humanitarian ideals among the population, and in particular children and youth;
- 7- to recruit, train and assign such personnel as is necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities;
- 8- to co-operate with the public authorities to ensure respect for and protection of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems and designations, as well as of other names, emblems and designations protected under International Humanitarian Law; and
- 9- to act in the field of restoring family links.

## CHAPTER III MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

### Article 7

#### Code of Conduct

All persons seeking membership of the Barbados Red Cross will be required to sign a copy of the Code of Conduct before being accepted as a member. Failure to or refusing to sign the Code of Conduct will disqualify that person from becoming a member.

### Article 8

#### Membership

Membership of the Barbados Red Cross Society is open to everyone without any discrimination based on nationality, race, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, language, class or political opinions.

Members can register with the National Headquarters or through a local branch where applicable.

Membership expires on 31<sup>st</sup> December and becomes due on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Members may be active, youth, subscribing, corporate or honorary members or patrons.

## Article 9

### Active members

Active members are those persons eighteen (18) years and older who have agreed to give service to the Barbados Red Cross Society and are registered as such.

### **Rights and duties of active members**

Active members have the following duties:

- to adhere to and disseminate the Fundamental Principles;
- to sign and adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- to promote the work of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- to recognise and obey the Constitution;
- to pay the annual subscription;
- to participate actively in the work of the Barbados Red Cross Society

Active members have the following rights:

- to elect and be elected to the governing bodies if qualified;
- to participate and vote in the meetings of the local assembly and in the General Assembly of the Barbados Red Cross Society, once the criteria of Article 17 have been met;
- to present proposals and raise issues with any authority in the Barbados Red Cross Society.

## Article 10

### Subscribing members

Subscribing members are those persons who pay the annual subscription determined by the General Assembly.

### **Rights and duties of subscribing members**

Subscribing members have the following duties:

- to adhere to and disseminate the Fundamental Principles;
- to sign and adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- to promote the work of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- to recognise and obey the Constitution;
- to pay the annual subscription.
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Subscribing members have the following rights:

- to elect and be elected to the governing bodies;
- to participate and vote in the meetings of the local assembly and in the General Assembly of the Barbados Red Cross Society, once the criteria of Article 17 have been met;
- to present proposals and raise issues with any authority in the Barbados Red Cross Society.

## Article 11

### Corporate members

Corporate Members are those corporate bodies that have agreed to assist and give service to the Barbados Red Cross Society and have paid a Corporate Membership fee determined by the Governing Board and are registered as such with the Society.

## Rights and duties of corporate members

Corporate members have the following duties:

- to adhere to and disseminate the Fundamental Principles;
- to adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Barbados Red Cross Society
- to promote the work of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- to recognise and obey the Constitution;
- to pay the annual subscription.
- to participate actively in the work of the Barbados Red Cross Society

Corporate members have the following rights:

- to delegate one person to represent the corporation at members' meetings of the Society;
- to participate and vote in the meetings of the General Assembly of the Barbados Red Cross Society once the criteria of Article 17 are met;
- to present proposals and raise issues with any authority in the Barbados Red Cross Society.

## Article 12

### Honorary members

Honorary members are those persons who have been so designated by the General Assembly on recommendation of the Governing Board in recognition of exceptional services to the Barbados Red Cross Society.

## Rights and duties of honorary members

Honorary members have the following duties:

- to adhere to and disseminate the Fundamental Principles;
- to sign and adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- to promote the work of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- to recognise and obey the Constitution.

Honorary members have the following rights:

- to elect and be elected to the governing bodies;
- to participate and vote in the meetings of the local assembly and in the General Assembly of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- to present proposals and raise issues with any authority in the Barbados Red Cross Society.

## Article 13

### Patron

A patron is a public figure designated by the General Assembly, on recommendation of the Governing Board, who permanently supports the Barbados Red Cross Society. A patron shall have the right to speak (but not vote) at any general meeting of the Barbados Red Cross Society and to be given notice of such meetings as if a member. A patron should adhere to and disseminate the Fundamental Principles, adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Barbados Red Cross Society, to promote the work of the National Society and to recognise and obey the Constitution.

## Article 14

### Loss of the status of member

Any member may give notice of resignation in writing at any time. Membership expires on 31<sup>st</sup> December unless the subscription is renewed. Local branches may expel members for serious cause, of which the member shall be informed promptly and in writing. Any member so expelled shall have the right to appeal to the Governing Board, whose decision shall be final and binding.

The Governing Board shall make regulations for the hearing of appeals so as to ensure that no member is unjustly treated, and the procedure is fair and in accordance with national law in Barbados. It shall furthermore specify such grounds as may constitute serious cause. Serious cause for the purpose of expulsion is defined as the display of character or morality incompatible with the seven Fundamental Principles or engagement in activities, which are detrimental to the reputation of the Barbados Red Cross Society

## Article 15

### Volunteers

The Fundamental Principle of voluntary service is at the core of the Red Cross Movement. It is through the services rendered by volunteers that we are able to assist vulnerable people. A volunteer gives of his time freely not prompted in any manner by desire for material or financial gain or by external social, economic or political affiliation.

Volunteers should first be equipped with knowledge on the World of the Red Cross, its Code of Conduct and Safety Issues whilst deployed on behalf of the Red Cross. Potential volunteers must satisfactorily complete the required training in this regard.

The Barbados Red Cross Society shall encourage volunteers from all sections of the community to participate in its activities, including young people who are part of the youth division.

All volunteers shall have the right to choose to become members of the Barbados Red Cross Society.

### **Rights, Obligations and Duties of Volunteers.**

- Act in accordance with the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and promote their dissemination. Respect the regulation on the use of the emblem and to prevent its misuse and abuse.
- Strive and work for the highest standards of quality.
- Sign and behave in accordance with Barbados Red Cross Society code of conduct for volunteers and fundamentals of voluntary services.
- Be available in an emergency, as agreed with the branch or headquarters and according to skills and abilities.
- Respond to the needs of beneficiaries and strengthen their capacity for self-help and active volunteering.
- Choose to become a member of the Barbados Red Cross Society as defined by the constitution and membership policy. Have appropriate training or personal development to be able to undertake their agreed tasks or role. Accept or refuse any task or role in accordance with the Code of Ethics and fundamentals of voluntary service.

## CHAPTER IV GOVERNING BODIES

### Article 16

The Governing Bodies of the Barbados Red Cross Society are:

1. The General Assembly
2. The Governing Board

### Article 17

#### General Assembly

#### Composition of the General Assembly

The General Assembly represents the paid membership of the Barbados Red Cross Society as a whole. Each member of the National Society who has attained their eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) birthday and is in good standing seventy-two (72) hours before the time of the General Assembly has the right to a single vote.

### Article 18

#### Powers of the General Assembly

Subject to the present Statutes, the General Assembly is the highest authority of the Barbados Red Cross Society.

- A) It formulates the mission and policies that govern the Barbados Red Cross Society
- B) It approves the plans and budgets including the National Development Plan and the activity and financial reports of the Barbados Red Cross Society
- C) It keeps a broad perspective with regard to the effectiveness of the Barbados Red Cross Society
- D) It determines the amount of subscriptions;
- E) It approves amendments in the statutes and ensures that the statutes and internal regulations are up-to-date, and monitor the compatibility of relevant national laws with the objectives of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
- F) It decides on the setting up and dissolution of local branches;
- G) It elects the President of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- H) It elects the members of the Governing Board.
- I) It designates a Patron on the recommendation of the Governing Board
- J) All elections are for a period of four (4) years.

### Article 19

#### Sessions of the General Assembly

The General Assembly meets biennially in ordinary session at a time and place determined by previous General Assembly, or by the Governing Board acting under the authority delegated to it by the General Assembly. It meets in extraordinary session on the initiative of the President in agreement with the Governing Board or at the request of one-third of the members of the General Assembly. Notice of a meeting of the General Assembly should be given with no less than twenty-eight (28) days notice.

### Article 20

#### Procedures for the General Assembly

The General Assembly is presided over by the President of the Barbados Red Cross Society. Unless otherwise provided for in these Statutes, the General Assembly takes all its decisions with a quorum of one-half of its members and by a majority of those present and voting.

Each member of the National Society who has attained their eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) birthday and is in good standing seventy-two (72) hours before the time of the General Assembly has the right to a single vote. In the event of a tie, the President has a second casting vote.

After one (1) hour has elapsed following the time given in the notice for the start of a meeting of the General Assembly and a quorum has not been ascertained, the meeting should be adjourned and a new notice of such a meeting should be served with no less than seven (7) days notice. After thirty (30) minutes has elapsed following the time given in the second notice for the start of the meeting, those present and attending the meeting should constitute a quorum of the General Assembly.

## Article 21

### Governing Board

#### Composition of the Governing Board

The Governing Board is the body governing the Barbados Red Cross Society in between meetings of the General Assembly. It is composed of;

- A) the President;
- B) the Vice-President;
- C) the Treasurer;
- D) the chairmen of established local branches, where applicable.
- E) four other members elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years. Half of all elected members shall retire every two years coinciding with the General Assembly.
- F) one Youth representative duly elected from within the Youth Commission

The Director-General (DG) acts ex-officio in the role of Secretary to the Governing Board without the right to vote.

The Governing Board can from time to time, co-opt persons to serve on the Governing Board in a technical advisory capacity. They should have no right to vote.

## Article 22

### Powers of the Governing Board

The Governing Board is vested with the following powers or whatever powers are delegated to it by the General Assembly:

- A) It prepares the recommendation for the General Assembly for the setting up and dissolution of local branches;
- B) It elects a Vice-President and the Treasurer from amongst themselves;
- C) It monitors membership;
- D) It sets policies on staff and members;
- E) It ensures long term viability and makes decisions about priorities
- F) It sets goals
- G) It establishes a structure and promotes a culture to achieve defined goals;
- H) It takes decisions on any important matter which may arise;
- I) It defines the outcomes of performance and sets standards arising there from;
- J) It determines criteria for beneficiaries, clients and vulnerable groups;
- K) On the recommendation of the President, it appoints the Director-General (DG), evaluates his or her performance and dismisses him or her, if necessary
- L) It prepares the recommendation for the General Assembly to designate a patron;
- M) It draws up, approves or amends all regulations, which are necessary in order to give effect to the present Statutes;



- N) It sets up the committees or commissions, which it deems desirable or necessary for carrying out these tasks.
- O) It appoints the chairman and members of the Finance Commission
- P) It appoints the chairman and members of the Election Committee

## Article 23

### Sessions of the Governing Board

The Governing Board meets in ordinary sessions every two (2) months. Extraordinary sessions of the Governing Board are held on the initiative of the President or at the request of one-third of its members. The CEO may request the President to convene an extraordinary session.

## Article 24

### Procedures for the Governing Board

The Governing Board is presided over by the President of the Barbados Red Cross Society. It takes all its decisions with a quorum of one-half of its members and by a majority of those present and voting. Each of its members has a single vote. In the event of a tie, the President has a second casting vote.

After one (1) hour has elapsed following the time given in the notice for the start of a meeting of the Governing Board and a quorum has not been ascertained, the meeting should be adjourned and a new notice of such a meeting should be served with no less than seven (7) days' notice. After thirty (30) minutes has elapsed following the time given in the second notice for the start of the meeting, those present and attending the meeting should constitute a quorum of the Governing Board.

Members of the Governing Board should submit excuses for non-attendance at meetings. The Governing Board shall determine, where a member has been absent for three (3) consecutive ordinary meetings, whether or not to remove him/her from that body. The member will be informed in writing of the Board's intention to consider their removal. On the next convocation of the Governing Board and the member is not in attendance, the Governing Board may proceed with the removal of the member and elect a new member to act in that position until the next meeting of the General Assembly. Such decisions must be taken by the Governing Board with a quorum of one-half of its members and by a majority of those present and voting.

## Article 25

### President

The President is the highest office bearer of the Barbados Red Cross Society. The President is responsible to the General Assembly for ensuring that the Barbados Red Cross Society pursues its principal objectives and exercises its functions as defined in Art.18 of the Statutes. The President acts under the authority of the General Assembly and the Governing Board to guide the affairs of the Barbados Red Cross Society in conformity with their decisions and to ensure the smooth functioning of the Barbados Red Cross Society.

## Article 26

### Functions of the President

The functions of the President are:

- A) To convoke and preside over the sessions of the General Assembly and the Governing Board;
- B) To present to the General Assembly a review of the state of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- C) To co-ordinate the work of the governing bodies of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- D) To represent the Barbados Red Cross Society, both nationally and internationally;
- E) To submit recommendations to the Governing Board for the appointment or dismissal of the Director-General (DG);
- F) To carry out any other functions entrusted by the General Assembly and the Governing Board.

The President may delegate part of the functions under this article to the Vice-President or to the Director-General (DG). In the event of a vacancy arising in the office of the President or should the President be unable to carry out her/his functions, the Governing Board shall at its next ordinary session designate the Vice-President who shall serve as Acting President until the next session of the General Assembly. At this session the General Assembly shall elect a President to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the current term of office.

## CHAPTER V MANAGEMENT

## Article 27

### Director-General

The Director-General (DG) shall be appointed by the Governing Board on the recommendation of the President under the conditions previously laid down by the Governing Board. The contract of appointment between the Barbados Red Cross Society and the Director-General (DG) shall be drawn up by the Governing Board in accordance with the relevant provisions in the Rules of Procedure of the Barbados Red Cross Society.

## Article 28

### Functions of the Director-General

The Director-General is the full-time senior manager and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Barbados Red Cross Society. The Director-General, who will carry out his/her functions under the authority of the Governing Board and the President, has the following functions:

- A) To implement the decisions and policies of the General Assembly and the Governing Board and the mandates assigned to her/him by other bodies of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- B) To direct the Secretariat and be responsible for the execution of the work entrusted to it;
- C) To draft the budgets and financial reports in consultation with the Treasurer;
- D) To organise the different services of the Secretariat in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Governing Board, appoint competent staff to the Secretariat, and when necessary terminate the appointment of such staff;
- E) To be the authorised representative of the Barbados Red Cross Society in relation to third parties and courts of law for all transactions whatsoever, including transactions executed in notarial form relating to the acquisition, administration and expenditure of the resources of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- F) To direct the actions decided upon by the General Assembly or the Governing Board. In exceptional or urgent circumstances, the Director-General shall take all appropriate measures which should be confirmed by the Governing Board and/or the General Assembly in the first next session.

- G) To carry out any other function assigned to her/him by the present statutes or entrusted to her/him by the Governing Board or the President;
- H) To report on the activities of the Barbados Red Cross Society to the General Assembly and the Governing Board keeping the President closely informed, at all times.

In carrying out her/his functions the Director-General (DG) shall keep the President closely informed. The Director-General (DG) shall ex officio be Secretary of the General Assembly and the Governing Board. The Director-General (DG) may delegate these functions to other officials of the Secretariat. The Director-General (DG) shall participate in the sessions of the General Assembly and the Governing Board in an advisory capacity with no right to vote or be elected. The Director-General (DG) shall establish the structure of the Secretariat, the general outline of which shall be subject to the approval of the Governing Board. The Secretariat assists the DG in the implementation of her/his executive task.

## CHAPTER VI BRANCH STRUCTURE

### Article 29

#### Local Branches/Assemblies

With the object of ensuring that the Barbados Red Cross Society's activities extend throughout the whole of the country the Governing Board shall facilitate the establishing of local branches governed by a local Committee, defining the territory allotted to each and delegating such responsibility as it thinks fit for the organisation of the Barbados Red Cross Society and its activities in that area.

Each local Committee shall be responsible to the Governing Board. The Governing Board shall lay down regulations for the organisation of local branches and the conduct of their meetings.

Each local branch shall convene, not less than once a year, an assembly at which all members shall have the opportunity of meeting to discuss the business of the Barbados Red Cross Society and when required, electing the local branch Committee for the following two (2) years. At least one (1) meeting of the local branch should be held after 31<sup>st</sup> December but before 28<sup>th</sup> February to consider the activities of the local branch during the previous year and approve all financial information to be incorporated into the financial statements of the national society.

### Article 30

#### Branch composition

Each local assembly shall elect every two years a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Branch Treasurer, a Branch Secretary and other officers as it deems necessary for the proper discharge of its functions.

The staff appointed by local assemblies shall report to their local branch committees, except on activities of national relevance, for which they shall report directly to the Director-General (DG) at headquarters.

The right of terminating these appointments is also vested in the local assembly, subject to the right of appeal to the Governing Board by any officer of a local branch Committee who considers that she/he has been unjustly treated. In case of such an appeal, the decision of the Governing Board shall be final and binding on all parties.

## CHAPTER VII FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

### Article 31

#### Financial resources

Within the limits laid down by its objects the Barbados Red Cross Society acquires, owns, alienates and administers any property as may deem fit.

It may accept unrestricted contributions and assistance in any form from individuals, from the public authorities and from private bodies.

It shall not accept donations directly stemming from revenues of activities contrary to the Fundamental Principles.

It may accept as agent or trustee funds or property in trust or earmarked for particular use, provided that such use is within the general scope of its objectives and does not violate the Fundamental Principles.

It may accept any conveyance of real estate to its issue or benefit.

It may constitute and administer any reserve, insurance or other funds for its staff or any of its activities.

It may only dispose of real estate by a decision of the General Assembly in a meeting called for this purpose taken with a quorum of half of its members and by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

### Article 32

#### Financial year/External audits

The financial year begins on 1<sup>st</sup> January and closes on 31<sup>st</sup> December of each year.

At the close of each financial year, and not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March of the following year the accounts of said year:

1. are made the subject of a report by the Director General (CEO) made based on advices given from the NS's Treasurer and the Finance Commission
2. are audited and reported on by a company of chartered accountants and delivered at the Governing Board through the President.

### Article 33

#### Treasurer

The Treasurer is a member of the Governing Board of the Barbados Red Cross Society. The Treasurer acts under the authority of the General Assembly in conformity with their decisions and aligned to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

### Article 34

#### Functions of the Treasurer

The functions of the Treasurer are to provide advice and guidance to the Director-General, the Governing Board, the General Assembly and Commissions of the National Society on:

- A) the management and control of all funds and property held by the Barbados Red Cross Society delegated by the General Assembly;
- B) the decisions to be taken by the Governing Board as to the handling and investments of available funds;
- C) the production of updated statements of the accounts of the Barbados Red Cross Society at each General Assembly and at the ordinary sessions of Governing Board meetings;
- D) the submission of the annual financial report and statements of the accounts, drafted with the Director-General, to the General Assembly who will then discharge the Treasurer.

## Article 35

### Composition of the Finance Commission

The Finance Commission is an advisory commission to the Director-General, Governing Board and General Assembly and shall be composed of a Chairman and three (3) members, appointed by the Governing Board for a term of four (4) years at the first session after their election. One of these elected members shall retire every two (2) years.

## Article 36

### Functions of the Finance Commission

The Finance Commission functions in conjunction with the Treasurer;

- A) to give advice on all financial and property matters affecting the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- B) to give advice and to submit proposals in regard to Resource Mobilization and income-generating activities of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- C) to give advice in observing the rules relating to financial administration;
- D) to comment on the financial report and on the budget drawn up by the Director-General (DG) and Treasurer before approval by the Governing Board;
- E) to comment on the handling and investment of the available funds and to make recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governing Board.
- F) to make recommendations to the Governing Board in applying and implementing the decisions of the General Assembly on the financial management of the Barbados Red Cross Society;
- G) to report on its work to each session of the Governing Board.

## Article 37

### Procedure and Sessions of the Finance Commission

The procedure and sessions of the Finance Commission shall be laid down in the Rules of Procedure of the Barbados Red Cross Society

## Article 38

### Composition of the Elections Committee

The Elections Committee shall be composed of a Chairman and two (2) members who are not currently seeking election. They are appointed by the Governing Board to adjudicate specific elections. The Director-General (DG) acts ex-officio in the role of Secretary to the Elections Committee without the right to vote.

## Article 39

### Functions of the Elections Committee

The functions of the Elections Committee:

- A) to ensure a smooth and fair elections;
- B) to ensure that all members nominated are in good standing and have satisfied the criteria set forth in the constitution;
- C) to ensure that the list of members who are eligible to vote are in good standing and have satisfied the criteria set out in constitution;
- D) to ensure that the elections are conducted by secret ballots;
- E) to declare the members duly elected to the various posts.
- F) to make recommendations to the Governing Board for enhancing the electoral process.

Members have the right to appeal the decisions of the Elections Committee to the Governing Board. In case of such an appeal, the decision of the Governing Board shall be final and binding on all parties.

## CHAPTER VIII PROCEDURES

### Article 40

#### Election/rotation

Nominations to any post should be sent in the prescribed format accompanied by the curricula vitae of the candidate, to the Director General as Secretary of the Elections Committee at least ten (10) working days prior to the schedule start of the General Assembly.

The members elected for the following posts may not be eligible to stand for election for the same post again after having served two (2) consecutive terms (maximum eight years) in that post until a period of two (2) years has elapsed:

- A) President
- B) Vice-President
- C) member of the Governing Board
- D) Chairman or member of the local branch Committee
- E) Treasurer (at central or local level)

Elections of these posts are conducted by secret ballot.

### Article 41

#### Profiles

The curricula vitae of the candidates should be circulated before the elections for the above-mentioned posts take place. The candidates are selected based on the following criteria:

- A) level of education
- B) relevant experience
- C) no conflicting interest between candidates profession/or close family relations and his/her freedom to execute his/her tasks in compliance with the Fundamental Principles;
- D) a profile that adds to the diversity of the group (professional and personal background).

### Article 42

#### Conflict of interest

Members of the governing bodies shall act solely in the interest of the Barbados Red Cross Society. In the event that a member of the Governing Board obtains a high-ranking position in the public service or a political party, he or she should resign from his or her functions with the Barbados Red Cross Society.

Pending such resignation, and in the interim, the member shall do his or her utmost to ensure that his or her new functions do not give rise to a conflict of interest. In the event of a conflict of interest, the member shall abstain from taking part in decision-making and resolve the said conflict in the sole interest of the Barbados Red Cross Society.

**Article 43**  
**Indemnity**

Every officer or member of the Society shall be indemnified by the Society against cost, and it shall be the duty of the Governing Board out of the funds of the Society to pay all costs, losses, and expenses which any such officer or member may incur or become liable to by reason of any contract entered into, or act or thing done by him as such officer or member in the discharge of the duties he was duly authorized to conduct, including travelling expenses; and the amount for which such indemnity is provided shall have priority over all other claims.

No officer of the Society shall be liable for the acts, receipts, neglects or defaults of any other officer or for joining in any receipt or other act for conformity, or for any loss or expense happening to the Society through the insufficiency or deficiency of title to any property acquired by order of the Governing Board for or on behalf of the Society.

No officer of the Society shall be liable for the insufficiency or deficiency of any security in or upon which any of the monies of the Society shall be invested, or for pay loss or damage arising from the bankruptcy, insolvency, or tortuous act of any person with whom any monies, securities or effects shall be deposited, or for any loss occasioned by an error of judgment, omission, default or oversight on his part, or for any other loss, damage or misfortune whatever which shall happen in the execution of his office or in relation thereto, unless the same happen through his own dishonesty or gross neglect.

**Article 44**  
**Rules and Regulations**

The Governing board draws up and amends all such Rules and Regulations as are necessary for the implementation of these statutes.

**Article 45**  
**Amendment of Statutes**

Any proposed amendment to the present statutes shall be submitted to the Joint ICRC/Federation Commission for National Society Statutes and the recommendations of the Commission if any, shall be taken into account before the suggested amendments may be adopted by the General Assembly. The amendment of the statutes may be adopted by a decision of the General Assembly taken with a quorum of one-half of its members and by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

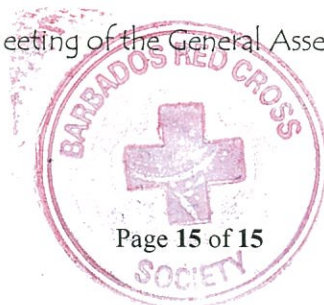
**Article 46**  
**Dissolution**

The Barbados Red Cross Society can only be dissolved by a decision of the General Assembly in a meeting called for this purpose taken with a quorum of two-thirds of its members and by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

All property held by the National Society at the time of its dissolution should be handed over to one or more organisations with similar objectives of the Red Cross.

This constitution was adopted by a meeting of the General Assembly on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.

  
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President



  
.....  
Secretary