Tadateru Konoé
President, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
P.O. Box 303, CH-1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland

CC: Mr. Bekele Geleta, Secretary-General IFRC
Peter Mauer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross
Presidents of National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Dear Mr Konoé,

On behalf of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), a cross-party network of legislators from around the world, we congratulate you on the adoption by the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement of the resolution on November 17, 2013 entitled Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: Four-year action plan.

PNND has had the privilege and honour to cooperate with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in various ways over the past two years in the implementation of the resolution adopted by the Council of Delegates on 26 November 2011 entitled Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. Both resolutions note the irreconcilability of nuclear weapons with international humanitarian law, and call for States to undertake negotiations to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate nuclear weapons through a legally binding international agreement.

PNND publicised the 2011 resolution to our membership, co-hosted events on the nuclear weapons issue in parliamentships with national societies, invited speakers from ICRC and national societies to speak at other events, and included the 2011 resolution (and discussion of it) in other publications including the PNND/Inter Parliamentary Union Handbook for Parliamentarians on Supporting Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament that has been distributed to every parliament in the world.

We appreciate that the Four-year action plan adopted with the resolution notes the importance of national societies working with parliamentarians and encourages them to advise parliamentarians of the resolution and activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement in this regard.
As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon notes in his introduction to the PNND/IPU Handbook:

The rule of law is coming to nuclear disarmament, and parliamentarians have important contributions to make in advancing this historic process... Parliaments represent the people, and across the world we are seeing a groundswell of opinion amongst diverse sectors of civil society – demanding concrete steps to control and eliminate these deadly, costly, wasteful weapons. The core role of parliamentarians in ratifying treaties and adopting implementing legislation gives them tremendous potential to extend the rule of law even more deeply into the domain of disarmament.

PNND thus looks forward to the possibility of strengthening and extending our cooperation with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the national societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and with the International Committee of the Red Cross, to inform and engage parliaments, governments and civil society in the important goal of achieving a nuclear weapon free world through the prohibition and verified elimination of nuclear weapons.

We remain ready to meet with you and/or other representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in order to facilitate such cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Alyn Ware
PNND Global Coordinator

Saber H Chowdhury MP, Bangladesh
PNND Co-President
President, First Standing Committee (Peace & International Security)
Inter Parliamentary Union

Bill Kidd MSP
PNND Co-President
Co-convener, Cross-party group in the Scottish Parliament on Nuclear Disarmament

Baroness Sue Miller, United Kingdom
PNND Co-President
Board Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
UK Group

Senator David Coltart
PNND Co-President
Former Minister for Education, Sport, Arts and Culture (Zimbabwe)

Mi-Kyung Lee MP, Republic of Korea
PNND Co-President
Secretary-General of the Democratic Party of the Republic of Korea

Uta Zapf MP, Germany
PNND Co-President
Chair of the German Parliament Sub-committee on Disarmament and Arms Control