

# SWEDISH RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL SECURITY FRAMEWORK

## Q&A

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### What is an International Security Framework?

It's a document that sets out principles, approaches, and minimum standards for how we manage security internationally within SRC. From that procedures for different aspects of our work can be defined. The previous such documents were written in 2012 and our presence and our strategies have changed significantly since then.

### Who does it apply to?

It is approved by the Secretary General (on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017). As the Secretary General holds ultimate responsibility for security within SRC, it therefore applies to everyone on SRC business outside of Sweden as of now.

### Is it for the International Department?

It's for everyone on SRC business outside of Sweden. Everyone – not just the International Department.

### What is an International Security Framework? Is it a guideline, a policy, or....?

One can say it is written as an overarching framework for a set of guidelines but with an eventual security policy for SRC in mind. Yes, we know that might be a confusing answer. Try to see it as your first point of reference of all matters concerning international security.

### I used it as my first point of reference but it doesn't answer my question. What now?

If it doesn't give you the immediate answer you need that's almost certainly because the answer lies at a level of detail that will be covered by one of the Framework's seven elements.

### Why is it written in English? Where is the Swedish version?

It's written in English for two main reasons: because English is the principal working language for international operations in the Movement; and because not all of our staff understand Swedish. There is no Swedish version. If there is clear added value in producing one we can look at that, but it is not a priority for the moment.

### Who has written it?

It was prepared by the International Security Advisor for, and in close consultation with, the International Director.

### Is it based on a Federation template? Where does its format come from?

In general terms it's consistent with the Federation's approach to security; but there is no formally agreed template within the wider Movement for such a document. Therefore learning has been

applied from IFRC, ICRC, and, importantly, National Societies with a similar operational footprint to SRC: for example the British, Norwegian, Danish, German, Canadian and Finnish Red Cross, who all have similar kinds of Frameworks. However it is by no means copy/paste – it's had to be adapted to our own National Society and our own context and strategies, and this has been quite a lot of work.

#### Who was consulted about it?

It was presented to the HR Director and the International Department's managers in February 2017. Some very good comments were received and adjustments were made.

#### Why wasn't there a wider consultation process if it affects so many people?

A parallel can maybe be drawn with the recent revision of the Code of Conduct: there was not a particularly wide consultation process for that either, but it still affects all of us.

#### What about the National Department and security issues in Sweden?

There are clearly different – and in most respects greater - security risks involved in working in many of our priority countries, there is a different organizational and Movement structure (we don't have branches in other countries obviously; we don't have arrangements with the Federation or ICRC in Sweden) and there is a different legal environment also. In other words, there are some fundamental differences, and so different approaches are required.

#### But surely we should have one approach to security in SRC?

Through the Code of Conduct, through employment contracts and other such common policies and procedures, we actually do have a similar approach to security across the organization in important ways. But we are in dialogue with our new President and are beginning work toward a Security Policy for SRC as a whole that will need to be discussed and approved at Board level. It's an aim to have this discussed at Board level next year.

#### So, does this mean everything else concerning international security for SRC is now in place?

In fact the Framework reflects many of the ways in which we already work today. But we recognize that quite some aspects of how we work today need further clarification and improvement. So the seven constituent elements of the Framework all still require varying degrees of work, with the exception of the 'Movement Security' element, which is well established and has been exceptionally helpful in preparing this Framework and already is used in our daily work with security internationally. Focus is right now on bringing the rest of the elements into place.

#### Why present this document when there are so many elements of it that are not in place?

It was important to get the SG's endorsement of the direction we see it is necessary to take with international security. What you have read is now the basis for all of the other procedures and guidelines that are being worked on. There risked being a lot of wasted effort otherwise.

#### When are all elements going to be in place? What are the deadlines?

As soon as possible. We cannot and will not be more precise than that right now. In some elements there are a number of Departments/Units involved; in others there are external parties that are important; in others there are Movement partners involved; in others there are consultation processes that must be gone through internally. All of these factors make setting deadlines difficult. We have however a schedule for reporting to the SG on progress.

#### Obviously element X is this the most pressing need, are you prioritizing that?

Together with the SG we have identified priorities that most benefit the organization as a whole.

**Will I be consulted about, for example, the Security Training element of the Framework?**

This depends on your role within the organization. We do not work in isolation in these matters. In any event you are very welcome to leave (constructive!) comments and suggestions in [this](#) folder on PUFF at any time.

**There are parts of this document that I don't agree with. What do I do?**

We are fully aware that the document will need to be revised periodically. If you look at Section 8 it sets out when it should be formally revised, and also requires individuals within the organization to make their observations known. In addition, as mentioned above, it's highly likely that a formal Security Policy will be presented at Board level next year and that will involve at least a minor revision of the Framework.

In the meantime, a folder has been created [here](#) in PUFF where you can leave written comments. This will be checked periodically so that we can make sure we take your comments into account when there is a revision or the individual elements near completion.

**There are parts of this document I don't understand. What do I do?**

It's really important that you seek clarification as soon as possible, but in the interests of efficiency and in order to reinforce the role of management in security matters, we insist that you do this *through your line manager*.

**What happens now? How will the Framework be communicated and applied?**

The 'roll-out' of the Framework will mainly be through management. We will be working with Heads of Unit and Heads of Department throughout the organization to make sure the Framework is known and followed. Obviously there will be a particular focus on the International Department's management, as some key responsibilities for security are held there.

Then as each element is put in place most of them will be added to the folders here in PUFF and communicated through management channels, on Rednet, and as appropriate to specific departments and individuals.

**Can I share the Framework document with partners?**

It's not designed for general distribution. It's not a formally confidential document (though some elements of the Framework are) but it's definitely an internal document. So, please do not share it without asking us first: in that way we can assess what added value comes from sharing it and anticipate any questions. It has been shared with security advisors in ICRC, IFRC, and our closest partners among PNS in the interests of reciprocity and mutual learning, but they know well not to share it further without permission.