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# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## ICRC APPOINTS NEW MEMBER

Geneva (ICRC) - At its latest meeting on 26 and 27 June 1991, the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appointed a new member, Ms. Francesca Pometta. Her appointment brings the membership of the Committee, which is composed exclusively of Swiss citizens, to 22.

Ms. Pometta is originally from Broglio in the Canton of Ticino. After receiving an arts degree from the University of Lausanne, she entered the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern in 1957 and subsequently held diplomatic posts in Paris, Washington, New York, Bern and Rome. In 1975, she returned to Bern to take up

the position of Deputy Director at the Directorate for International Organizations, and in 1977 was appointed Ambassador in charge of the Directorate's Political Division III (UN and international organizations, scientific and environmental matters, cultural affairs and UNESCO). From 1982 to 1987, she was Switzerland's Permanent Observer at the UN in New York and then Ambassador to Rome from 1987 to 30 June 1991, when she retired from government service.

Mrs Pometta was Switzerland's Head of Delegation at the International Conferences of the Red Cross in Bucharest in 1977 and in Manila in 1981. She was also a member of the Swiss delegation at the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts, held in Geneva from 1974 to 1977.

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The **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, together with the League of the Red Cross Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross.  
An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.