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**Original: English
For decision**

**COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Antalya, Turkey
10–11 November 2017

**International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement approach to
epidemics and pandemics**

Draft “0” Resolution

**Document prepared by the International Federation of
Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

Antalya, **xxx** 2017

DRAFT “0” RESOLUTION**INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT APPROACH TO EPIDEMICS AND PANDEMICS**

The Council of Delegates,

acknowledging with concern the urgency and scale of the threat that infectious diseases pose to local and global health security and that the primary responsibility for addressing the health needs of the population rests with the respective States,

recalling Resolution 2 of the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent whereby States and National Societies, the latter as auxiliaries to their public authorities in the humanitarian field, enjoy a specific and distinctive partnership at all levels, entailing mutual responsibilities and benefits, and based on international and national laws, in which the State and the National Society agree on the areas in which the latter supplements or substitutes for public humanitarian services,

recalling the commitment undertaken by all members of the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Resolution 1 “to strengthen health systems and develop national health plans with the involvement of National Societies, and to include the empowerment of volunteers and affected groups”,

recognizing with gratitude the humanitarian work undertaken by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement components in response to recent epidemics and pandemics, such as the Ebola virus outbreak, cholera and polio, and *mindful of* the multitude of health care activities that Movement components are regularly undertaking to prepare for and respond to the needs of communities vulnerable to epidemics and pandemics,

acknowledging the commitment of States, under the International Health Regulations (IHR), to build their capacities to detect, assess and report public health events, reinforced at the 2017 World Health Assembly,

acknowledging the role that National Societies could play in supporting efforts to strengthen States’ public health capacities, set out in national IHR implementation plans, in specific areas including, but not limited to: surveillance, immunization, risk communication, health workforce development and emergency response operations,

acknowledging that epidemic response is a core part of humanitarian response and requires a multi-sectoral response beyond clinical care,

taking into account that epidemics most often occur in areas where health systems are weak and response is often delayed or limited due to insecurity or lack of access,

acknowledging the centrality of communities in securing their own health,

resolves as follows:

1. *requests* the Movement components to plan and implement a structured, comprehensive, predictable and coordinated approach to epidemic prevention, detection, response and recovery within countries and across borders to ensure the maximum impact of all epidemic control investments and successful control and response activities, ultimately saving lives and building resilience with the most vulnerable people;

2. *encourages* the components of the Movement to make every effort to include hard-to-reach and underserved areas and populations in epidemic preparedness and risk management;
3. *commits* the Movement components to advocating for the systematic inclusion of National Societies into national disease control frameworks and multi-sectoral preparedness and response frameworks, including the Global Health Security Road Maps and Country Plans for Joint External Evaluations aimed at improving IHR capacity at country level;
4. *encourages* Movement components to cooperate with States and support them in intensifying their efforts to implement the IHR, focusing in particular on building early alert and rapid response capacity in high-risk communities;
5. *requests* all Movement components to ensure the ethical and secure management of surveillance data and *highlights* the need for anonymous, untraceable, unique, yet revocable, authentication of personal data relating to affected people;
6. *expresses its commitment to* effective community engagement in epidemic/pandemic prevention and response;
7. *reiterates* the importance of the rapid identification and declaration of health emergencies and *encourages* Movement components to advocate to donors the need to support national governments who declare health emergencies through innovative funding and support mechanisms;
8. *requests* Movement components to ensure that the health and safety needs of volunteers and staff during epidemics/pandemics are adequately addressed;
9. *strongly recommends* the Movement to consider a resolution on this issue at the 33rd International Conference in 2019.