

**DRAFT ELEMENTS FOR THE 2017 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM ON
HEALTH AND WELLBEING¹**

Introduction

Ten years following the commitment included in Resolution 1 of the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent “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”, the 2017 Council of Delegates provides an opportunity to review the role of the Movement components in light of current and emerging global health trends and threats. The proposed item on health and wellbeing will examine two of these emerging health issues and the corresponding role of Movement actors.

How we prevent and respond to epidemics and pandemics is of growing concern to the movement, given the Ebola and Zika pandemics, increased urbanization and risk of epidemics, as well as the decline in vaccination rates globally. A proposed resolution will therefore propose the development of a plan of action for how the movement will work with governments to improve national preparedness and response to epidemics and pandemics and strengthening the core capacities within the International Health Regulations. This will contribute to the adoption of an approach to health security and risk management at the 33rd International Conference in 2019.

A second issue of importance to the Movement is one of mental health. This has become a significant part of our work, yet we currently lack coherent movement wide guidance on how this should be done. A proposed resolution will therefore address the issue of Mental Health and Psychosocial Needs, with a view to proposing that a Movement policy be adopted at the 2019 Council of Delegates.

¹ This title is subject to change in line with envisaged changes of the CoD Agenda.

PROPOSED ELEMENTS OF A RESOLUTION ADDRESSING HEALTH SECURITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT:

- 1) agree on a common narrative; what we are talking about, the urgency of the problem, the need to increase effort to prepare for epidemics/pandemics, that epidemics response is core part of humanitarian response;
- 2) acknowledge the importance of the International Health Regulations (IHR) and the role that National Societies could play as auxiliary to government to support strengthening of core capacities,
- 3) acknowledge the important work that is currently carried out by the components of the Movement and call on States to embed NS into national disease control frameworks/ multi-sectoral preparedness and response frameworks,
- 4) encourage States to intensify their efforts to [meet capacities of] implement the IHR, in particular focusing on building early alert and rapid response capacity in high risk communities and to cooperate with NS and other components of the Movement;
- 5) encourage the components of the Movement and States to make every effort to include hard-to-reach and underserved areas in epidemic risk management so that people are not left behind.
- 6) Highlight the importance of ethical and secure management of surveillance data and the need of anonymous, untraceable, unique, yet revocable authentication of personal data.
- 7) highlight the importance of community level engagement in epidemic/pandemic prevention and response (including but not limited to NS)
- 8) reiterate the importance of a quick identification of a health emergency and encourage donors to support national governments who declare a health emergency
- 9) highlight the safety needs of our own volunteers and staff during times of epidemics/pandemics
- 10) strongly recommend the Movement to consider a resolution on this issue at the 33rd International Conference in 2019.

PROPOSED ELEMENTS OF A RESOLUTION ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL NEEDS

Preambular Paragraphs

The introductory preambular paragraph could express concern about mental health and psychosocial needs that arise in a variety of situations where components of the Movement work, including in armed conflict, natural disasters and other emergencies, and recognize the need to increase efforts to address them.

A preambular paragraph could recall the Statutes of the Movement, which set out the mission of the Movement and the role of its individual components in this regard.

A preambular paragraph could recognize that the mental health of volunteers and staff of the Movement is often affected in the course of their work.

A preambular paragraph could acknowledge the important work that is currently carried out by the components of the Movement to address mental health and psychosocial needs.

A preambular paragraph could recognize the need for the Movement to address these consequences in a coherent manner, mindful of the respective roles of the various components of the Movement.

A preambular paragraph could acknowledge the existing normative frameworks protecting mental health, including International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

A preambular paragraph could recognize and reiterate previous relevant Movement decisions relating to mental health and psychosocial needs.

Operational Paragraphs

The first operational paragraph could encourage National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC, in carrying out the roles entrusted to them, to address the mental health and psychosocial needs of the affected population through their prevention, assistance and protection work.

A second operational paragraph could request National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC to specifically address the mental health and psychosocial needs of volunteers and staff.

A third paragraph could call on the Movement to contribute to mobilizing greater global attention to the mental health and psychosocial needs of affected populations.

A fourth paragraph could request the development of a Movement Policy on Addressing Mental Health and Psychosocial Needs that builds on common approaches and contributes

to the harmonization of different Movement responses. The policy would be developed through a collaborative process actively engaging National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC, and submitted for adoption at the next Council of Delegates in 2019.

A fifth paragraph could request the ICRC, the IFRC and National Societies to explore including the issue in the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.