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

Antalya, Turkey  
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**EDUCATION AS A HUMANITARIAN NEED**

**Draft “0” Resolution**

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

Geneva, July 2017

**DRAFT “0” RESOLUTION****EDUCATION AS A HUMANITARIAN NEED**

The Council of Delegates,

*noting with deep concern* the high number of people, including and in particular children, adolescents and young adults, whose education opportunities are denied, disrupted and/or limited as a result of situations in which components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) work, including armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies,

*aware* of the humanitarian repercussions this can have, including children becoming associated with armed forces or armed groups, displacement, and a significant negative impact on economic and social prospects,

*acknowledging* the important role education plays in safeguarding human dignity, developing individuals' capacities, fortifying economic development and social cohesion, and building resilience and peace,

*recognizing* the importance of access to the best possible quality of education in the circumstances,

*aware* that factors including age, sex/gender, disability, health, legal status, deprivation of liberty and displacement can further increase the risk and impact of education disruption,

*acknowledging* that damage to, destruction or takeover of education facilities can render education inaccessible and/or disrupt it,

*stressing* the importance of upholding the rules of international law at all times, as applicable,

*noting with particular concern* the occurrence of acts contrary to the applicable rules of international humanitarian law that specifically address education or otherwise seek to ensure continued access to or protection of education, including obligations concerning the protection of civilians and civilian objects in the conduct of hostilities,

*recalling* all efforts and initiatives aimed at ensuring access to and continuity of education, as well as the safety and protection of students, education personnel and education facilities,

*reaffirming* commitments made by components of the Movement to contribute to these efforts and initiatives,

*recalling* all relevant events, statutory decisions and pledges made by the components of the Movement, especially Resolution 2 of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference), “4-year action plan for the implementation of international humanitarian law”, and the pledges “Strengthening the protection of education during armed conflict” and “Changing minds, saving lives and building resilience through values-based education for all” made at the 32nd International Conference,

*appreciating* the current work and efforts of States, the Movement and all other relevant actors in addressing education-related matters,

*recalling* the basic mission of the Movement to prevent and alleviate human suffering, wherever it may be found, to protect life and health, and to ensure respect for the human being, while promoting mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples,

*emphasizing* the importance of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement in any involvement by the components of the Movement, in accordance with their mandates, in the area of education,

1. *emphasizes* the importance of the rules of international law, as applicable, in ensuring access to and protecting education;
2. *recalls*, in the context of international and non-international armed conflict, all existing IHL obligations that specifically address education or otherwise seek to ensure continued access to or protection of education;
3. *calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to respect their obligations under IHL in this regard;
4. *encourages* the components of the Movement, as appropriate to their contexts and in accordance with their respective mandates and institutional focuses, to:
  - a. intensify their efforts to assess, analyse and respond to education-related humanitarian needs – especially to ensure access to, safety in, protection and continuity of education – including by systematically incorporating them into their risk-reduction, emergency-preparedness, management, response and recovery plans and activities;
  - b. meaningfully engage those affected – especially the education community, including children, adolescents and young adults – in decision-making processes and activities, and increase evidence-based research, data collection and analysis in order to guide and strengthen their multidisciplinary approaches and the effectiveness of their work in this regard;
  - c. take such measures as appropriate with States and other relevant stakeholders to secure their support for the continuation or, as necessary, the resumption of education provision;
  - d. support, as appropriate, States and other relevant actors with the development or strengthening of adequate preparedness, response and recovery measures in the education sector – including the assessment and review of relevant domestic legal frameworks, procedures, policies and contingency plans, as well as investment in capacity-building for national and local institutions and in community-based initiatives – so as to ensure that students and education personnel can continuously access education, understand the risks and adopt adequate behaviour to react appropriately and stay safe;
  - e. identify and support the provision of vocational or professional education, where appropriate, to members of affected communities to increase their capacity to cope with and respond to humanitarian concerns;
  - f. commit to supporting efforts to identify emergency shelter alternatives to the use of schools, where such accommodation is necessary, or to limit the time schools are used for this purpose; as far as possible, to avoid soliciting the support of education personnel as first responders in sectors other than education; and, when any of these measures cannot be avoided, to endeavour to provide alternative solutions to enable education activities to take place;
  - g. exert their influence in multilateral and bilateral forums to raise awareness about the humanitarian consequences of the disruption of education, and offer their support, as appropriate, for any measures to strengthen the resilience of the education sector, especially regarding access, safety, protection and continuity as well as risk reduction and management;

- h. increase their efforts to promote, disseminate and foster compliance with IHL provisions related to education, as appropriate;
  - i. promote and contribute to achieving globally harmonized approaches to strengthening risk reduction and management in the education sector by using evidence-based, standardized and coherent methodologies and tools, adapted to the national context;
  - j. raise awareness about the need for and/or assist with the incorporation and provision of humanitarian education (including disaster management, risk reduction, resilience and protection from all forms of violence) in formal and non-formal education systems and curricula, from the earliest age, alongside the development of related teaching skills at all educational levels;
  - k. raise awareness about the need for and/or support the further integration of inclusive and accountable approaches in the education sector, including with respect to infrastructure, to ensure that adequate attention is paid to people with specific needs, in particular children, adolescents and young adults living with disabilities, in humanitarian settings where individual Movement components work;
  - l. coordinate and cooperate with each other – including through established mechanisms like the SMCC – and with other relevant stakeholders, including, as appropriate, States and local actors, international and regional intergovernmental organizations, humanitarian organizations, representatives of relevant sectors, networks and clusters, to promote further involvement in the education field by humanitarian actors, to share good practices, tools and experience related to access to, safety in, protection and continuity of education as a humanitarian need, and to ensure complementarity, relevance and effectiveness in the response;
5. *invites* National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to raise awareness about the need for and/or support the elaboration of special curricula for times of disaster and other emergencies;
6. *also invites* the National Societies and the IFRC to outline and develop an education framework to further inform the scope and nature of their activities in this sector;
7. *requests* the components of the Movement to report to the next Council of Delegates on the progress they have made, sharing data collected and lessons learned.