



Power of humanity

Council of Delegates of the International
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

10-11 November 2017, Turkey



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

Antalya, Turkey
10–11 November 2017

**Working towards an
International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Approach to
Epidemics and Pandemics**

DRAFT RESOLUTION

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

Geneva, September 2017

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Working towards an International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement approach to epidemics and pandemics

The Council of Delegates,

deeply concerned by the urgency and scale of the threat that infectious diseases pose to local and global health security and *acknowledging* that the primary responsibility for addressing the health needs of populations rests with 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 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”, also in accordance with the aspirations of the Vision for the Movement adopted by the 2015 Council of Delegates,

recognizing with gratitude the humanitarian work undertaken by components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in response to recent epidemics and pandemics, such as the Ebola virus outbreak, cholera and polio, and *acknowledging* the wide range of health care activities that Movement components regularly undertake 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,

emphasizing the role that National Societies could play in supporting efforts to strengthen States’ public health capacities 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 impartial humanitarian response and requires a multi-sectoral response beyond clinical care, the efficient coordination of which will save lives and build health resilience,

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* that Movement components plan and implement a structured, comprehensive, predictable and coordinated approach to epidemic prevention, detection, response and recovery, within countries and across borders, in order to

- ensure the maximum impact of all investments in epidemic control and response activities;
2. *urges* the Movement components to make every effort to include hard-to-reach and underserved areas and populations in epidemic preparedness and risk management;
 3. *encourages* the Movement components to advocate for the systematic inclusion of National Societies into national disease control frameworks and multi-sectoral preparedness and response frameworks;
 4. *encourages* the Movement components to build on innovative approaches to community-centric epidemic prevention and control, promoting the further development of tools, guidance and strategy to support implementation by National Societies;
 5. *further encourages* the Movement components to closely 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;
 6. *requests* all Movement components to promote the ethical and secure management and dissemination of surveillance data and *highlights* the need for anonymous, untraceable, unique, yet revocable, authentication of personal data relating to affected people;
 7. *expresses its support and commitment* to strengthening effective community engagement in epidemic/pandemic prevention and response;
 8. *reiterates* the importance of the rapid identification and declaration of health emergencies and *encourages* Movement components to advocate to donors the need to support governments that declare health emergencies through innovative funding and support mechanisms;
 9. *calls upon* Movement components to ensure that the health and safety needs of volunteers and staff during epidemics/pandemics are adequately addressed;
 10. *strongly recommends* that the Movement consider the value of making joint commitments with States on this issue through the adoption of a resolution at the 33rd International Conference in 2019.