



Setting the resilience agenda: Showing leadership in disaster and climate policy

(Workshop 1)

Outline

Key highlight

As the world faces a future of increased risks from disasters and extreme weather, how can National Societies ensure action taken by States will effectively reach and benefit the most vulnerable people? This workshop will explore how National Societies can leverage their auxiliary role and influence national disaster and climate policy to generate results on the ground, particularly for local communities and first responders. It will be an interactive session, designed to solicit practical experiences and perspectives from all participants and shape a common vision for how we can scale up our collective influence on the resilience agenda.

Background information

The world is facing increasing risks from disasters, fuelled by climate change and exacerbated by rising vulnerability associated with uncontrolled urbanization and the persistent problem of sexual and gender-based violence.

Responding to these threats, States have made strong commitments in the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals to build resilience and strengthen domestic policy and practice in disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA).

In the context of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, States have repeatedly invited National Societies to raise their voices to support them in setting the resilience agenda. In 2007, the 30th International Conference adopted joint goals to address the humanitarian dimensions of climate change, including through well-integrated DRM and CCA policies. Subsequently, at the 32nd International Conference in 2015, a resolution was passed calling on members to review and strengthen their policy frameworks to address sexual and gender-based violence in disasters. At every International Conference since 2003, States have called for National Societies to support the development of strong and effective disaster law and policy (including, in 2015, first aid laws). National Societies have followed through, exercising increasing influence on disaster laws and policies in over 25 countries and on climate-related plans and approaches in many others.

In addition to taking stock of progress over the last decade, this session will look ahead to how National Societies can better harness their auxiliary role to influence investments, laws, policies and plans to manage disasters, tackle rising climate risks and ultimately build more resilient communities.

This workshop will provide a peer-to-peer platform for National Societies to share successes and challenges in influencing the development of effective disaster risk management laws, including supportive legal frameworks for first aid, national adaptation plans and other resilience-related policies.

In particular, it will provide the opportunity for National Societies to discuss how to further advance implementation of related commitments from the 32nd International Conference, including promoting disaster law, acting on lessons learnt from ongoing research on “Effective law and policy on gender equality in disaster risk management and protection against sexual and gender-based violence in disasters” and improving first aid laws and policy.

Objectives

- To shape a common vision among National Societies on how to strengthen their leadership on resilience by promoting the development of effective law and policy.
- To share, through National Society experiences, a broad assessment of progress so far, taking into account commitments made at the International Conference of the RCRC on climate change, disaster law, first aid and sexual and gender-based violence.
- To explore how National Societies can leverage their auxiliary role to become partners of choice in implementing key international agreements, including the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for DRR and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- To identify how National Societies can support their governments to ensure that national frameworks for gender equality and protection against sexual and gender-based violence are sufficiently disaster resilient.

Guiding questions

Guiding questions are yet to be determined, but an outline of how the session will be run is provided below.

The session will have an interactive format. It will commence with a short factual background introduction to establish the need for National Societies to scale up their work and influence to build resilience. This may include a dynamic and interactive presentation on the numbers of people affected by disaster and climate risks and future projections, the disproportionate impact on women and the difference that first responders can make.

The participants will then break out into language-based working groups (approx. 4), which will be led by National Society representatives. The National Society facilitators will open each group discussion with a brief outline of their relevant practical experience, sharing their

successes and challenges in influencing laws, plans and policies, and invite discussion among participants on a simple set of questions. The questions will be designed to solicit further information on National Society experiences and suggestions on how to advance their work and leadership in law and policy processes. The outcomes of the working group discussions will then be consolidated at a facilitated plenary session.

Reference to official working documents and previous CoD, IC resolutions, etc.

- [Resolution 3: Sexual and gender-based violence: Joint action on prevention and response](#) (32IC/15/R3)
- [Resolution 6: Strengthening legal frameworks for disaster response, risk reduction and first aid](#) (32IC/15/R6)
- [Resolution 1 Annex: Declaration: Together for Humanity](#) (30IC/07/R1)