



Power of humanity

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REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP

Setting the Resilience Agenda: Showing Leadership in Disaster and Climate Policy

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(A) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As National Societies, we are encouraged by our successes but have much greater ambitions when it comes to promoting smart and effective law and policy on disasters, climate change adaptation and first aid. We see climate change, in particular, as among the most pressing humanitarian issues with which the Movement must grapple across sectors, and a key driver for the resilience agenda.

Being leaders in disaster and climate policy requires time and resources, but as an auxiliary to government it is our responsibility to use this avenue to affect change that will have life-saving results. To be successful, we need to strengthen our auxiliary role, hone our advocacy skills, invest in developing the data and evidence we need to be persuasive, forge new partnerships and make full use of global conferences and commitments, in particular the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

(B) GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND KEY HIGHLIGHTS

There was a strong sense, throughout the workshop, of the importance and urgency National Societies place on the resilience agenda, especially given the impacts of climate change that we are already experiencing. There was also a recognition of our responsibility to exercise strong leadership, both in our own programmes and in promoting better laws and policies. Many challenges are shared across National Societies in different contexts – there is therefore a strong opportunity for peer-to-peer exchanges.

(C) KEY POINTS RAISED ON GUIDING QUESTIONS

Guiding question 1: *Imagine we are now in 2030. Over the last ten years, in countries all around the world, governments have adopted well-designed and effective laws and policies in support of resilience. National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have played an absolutely pivotal role. How did we get here? What did we do right?*

Participants felt that achieving this dream would require:

Strong National Societies deploying a holistic programming approach to resilience, with leadership committed to policy goals, with an auxiliary role strongly reflected in multiple laws, policies and MOUs and with the skills to undertake effective humanitarian diplomacy.

Strong efforts at **data collection**, from the branch level up to the global level, to generate the evidence needed to support our advocacy, as well as strong **community engagement** in order to identify the most pressing issues.

A willingness to go beyond law-making to supporting **implementation** and dissemination and to develop a more diversified array of **partnerships** and alliances, including with governmental actors and also with academic and research institutions, the private sector (i.e. insurance companies) and community-based organizations.

Guiding question 2: *What are our greatest challenges in making progress on law and policy related to resilience and how can we address them?*

For **disaster law and policy**, some of the most important challenges are turf issues between ministries/levels of government, a lack of awareness about existing laws and policies (including within National Societies ourselves) and a lack of political will to tackle future risks. There is still very little understanding about the risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in disasters and the need to address it in policy.

For **climate change law and policy**, the challenges are a high degree of politicization, the scientific nature of key information and an overriding focus on disasters rather than other climate impacts (such as health emergencies caused by rising temperatures, water and sanitation, etc.).

For **first aid law and policy**, the main issue is persuading policy-makers to see it as a priority, challenges around a perception of a conflict of interests (i.e. when National Societies receive fees for first aid training) and a lack of global first aid standards.

Overcoming these problems will require strong political and social mobilization, awareness raising and advocacy approaches that draw on the specific comparative advantages of our brand and community reach.

Guiding question 3: *What action is needed: (1) at national level, (2) at the global level, and (3) at the next International Conference?*

At the **national** level, National Societies should foster our reputation as technical experts in disaster law (drawing on the many IFRC tools), develop internal multi-disciplinary committees on legislative advocacy and the NS auxiliary role and forge diverse partnerships i.e. involving the private sector in the law-making process.

At the **global** level, the Movement should work to be part of the implementation, and not just the formulation, of laws, training on disaster/climate law and advocacy should be provided to National Societies at all levels, and peer-to-peer approaches should be intensified.

At the **next International Conference**, we should promote a stronger expectation of progress reports, ensure that relevant experts from States and National Societies attend, and promote

national and regional pledges on these issues. Since climate change is one of the most critical humanitarian challenges we face, the next Conference should place it high on the agenda.

(D) CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the words of the Chair, “building resilience to disasters and climate change is not just a priority – it’s the only path ahead.” We need to stay the course to reach our goals to strengthen law and policy on disasters, climate change and first aid, since these are some of the most effective tools for changing how our societies address these issues. Our International Conference must continue to support this process.