

Power of humanity

33rd International Conference
of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

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OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

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**Responding to shifting vulnerabilities and achieving
the Sustainable Development Goals:
How National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies contribute**

Draft zero resolution

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DRAFT ZERO RESOLUTION

Responding to shifting vulnerabilities and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: How National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies contribute

The 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

- *recalling* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 as a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, setting out a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative goals and targets and pledging that no one will be left behind,
- *recalling further* that the 2030 Agenda recognized that States would not be able to achieve the ambitious goals and targets without a revitalized and enhanced global partnership bringing together governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors,
- *recalling* Final Goal 3.1 of the Agenda for Humanitarian Action of the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Resolution 6 of the 32nd International Conference with regard to joint commitments on disaster risk reduction, and the Declaration, Together for Humanity, of Resolution 1 of the 30th International Conference with regard to joint commitments on environmental degradation and climate change, humanitarian concerns generated by international migration, violence, in particular in urban settings, and emergent and recurrent diseases and other public-health challenges, such as access to health care,
- *recalling* the specific and distinctive partnership between National Societies and the public authorities at the national and local level, pursuant to National Societies' auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, entailing mutual responsibilities and benefits and requiring a permanent dialogue, as set out in Resolution 2 of the 30th International Conference,
- *welcoming* the willingness of National Societies to provide support, as appropriate to their mandates and capacities and within the limits of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and *further welcoming* the interest of States in cooperating with them to achieve the collective ambitions set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- *acknowledging* that the National Societies' mission to independently and neutrally serve humanity can contribute to the success of the SDGs but should not be diminished or diverted by them,
- *underlining* that it is the intention of the Conference to clarify how the work of National Societies already contributes to relevant aspects of the SDGs and to promote opportunities for further coordination and cooperation in this regard but not to alter or create any duties or rights under the 2030 Agenda or the SDGs,

Shifting vulnerabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals

1. *recognizes* that communities around the world face important challenges in responding to shifting vulnerabilities, including, among others, those related to public

health, armed conflicts and other situations of violence, disasters and the humanitarian impacts of climate change and large-scale movements of migrants and displaced persons;

2. *affirms* that responses to these vulnerabilities must take account of the rapid transformations in the ways of life of many communities, for example, with regard to population growth in urban centres and the evolution of technology and data use;
3. *recognizes* the important collaboration between all components of the Movement during armed conflict and in other emergencies, in particular their role in mitigating the impact of armed conflict and violence on affected communities and supporting essential services and systems, and stressing that strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus, while fully respecting humanitarian principles, can contribute to achieving the SDGs in these challenging environments
4. *recognizes* that achieving the SDGs will bring the world much closer to solutions to the challenges posed by these vulnerabilities and that strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus, while fully respecting humanitarian principles, will contribute to this outcome;
5. *reaffirms* the importance of efforts to ensure that no one is left behind when addressing these challenges, in particular vulnerable groups, such as women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, people living with chronic diseases including HIV/AIDS, people with mental health conditions and survivors of sexual violence, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants;

Promoting resilience, reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change

6. *welcomes* the National Societies' contributions to SDGs 1, 2, 11 and 13 through their volunteers' work to foster resilience and climate-smart action at the community level as well as efforts in many countries in relation to reforestation and anti-desertification initiatives, which contribute to SDG 15;
7. *welcomes*, in particular, the National Societies' support to States in translating national risk reduction objectives into community-level action, strengthening local preparedness planning and, where needed, developing and implementing effective disaster risk management law and policy and *further welcomes* the efforts of National Societies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in promoting partnerships through the One Billion Coalition for Resilience;
8. *further welcomes* the National Societies' efforts to promote climate change adaptation action at the community level and nature-based solutions, strengthen early warning and early action, ensure that disaster recovery is informed by the best available information on changing climate risks, incubate creative solutions such as forecast-based financing and address the needs of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change;
9. *calls* for National Societies and relevant authorities to continue to scale up their efforts in light of the evolving risks of weather-related disasters due to climate change, enhance their cooperation including with the private sector as relevant and integrate the National Societies' efforts into national and local disaster risk management and climate change adaptation plans, laws and policies;

Promoting public health, including by improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene

10. *welcomes* the National Societies' contributions to SDGs 3 and 6, encompassing the provision of a broad range of health, social care, and water, sanitation and hygiene services and *calls* for National Societies and the relevant authorities to cooperate in integrating efforts in these areas into national and local public health plans, laws and policies;
11. *further welcomes* the National Societies' contribution to universal health coverage in relation to SDG Target 3.8 by ensuring access to a wide spectrum of health services, including promotion, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, mental health, psychosocial support and palliative care, including for populations that are difficult for others to reach, such as those affected by armed conflicts, protracted crises and disasters and those who cannot otherwise access formal health systems, and *calls* on them to continue strengthening their coverage;
12. *underlines* the contributions of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers in this regard and *encourages* States and National Societies to intensify their dialogue as to how their efforts may be best reflected in national and local public health strategies, quality assurance measures and efforts to ensure the safety of health personnel and volunteers;
13. *further recognizes* the role of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers in contributing to SDG 3 in connection with the community-level surveillance, monitoring and control of contagious and infectious disease, in particular in hard-to-reach areas, and *invites* National Societies to support national efforts to strengthen whole-of-society systems for managing the threat of disease and outbreaks;

Promoting safer migration, sustainable cities, accessible education and peaceful and inclusive societies

14. *welcomes* the National Societies' contributions to SDG Target 10.7 concerning the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people and *calls* on National Societies and relevant authorities to strengthen cooperation with regard to the provision of principled humanitarian assistance and protection to migrants in need, whatever their legal status;
15. *welcomes* the National Societies' contributions to SDG 11, including mobilizing local resources and promoting inclusive and sustainable urban development, supporting community engagement and participation in urban resilience programming, enhancing urban volunteering and youth engagement, supporting disaster and pandemic preparedness and addressing the humanitarian needs of migrants, refugees and displaced persons in urban contexts as well as people living in slums and informal settlements, and *calls* for stronger links to be made between the National Societies' urban branches and municipal authorities in these areas;
16. *welcomes* the National Societies' contributions to SDG 4, in particular with regard to helping to make it possible for children to safely attend school in the midst of conflict, violence and disaster, facilitating vulnerable communities' access to education and building understanding of humanitarian values and international humanitarian law, and *calls* for National Societies and the relevant authorities to cooperate in integrating their efforts in these areas into education plans, curricula and/or policy;

17. *welcomes* the National Societies' contributions to SDG 16 through community-based violence prevention programming and support to States in developing laws and policies consistent with international humanitarian law and other international law related to humanitarian crises and to SDG 5, through reducing gender inequalities and sexual and gender based violence that may be exacerbated in crisis settings, and *invites* National Societies to continue to support youth in their important role in building peaceful and inclusive societies;

Implementing steps

18. *acknowledges* that National Societies face resource and other constraints but *calls* for collective action through collaboration with States, donors and other partners to strengthen efforts in strategic areas related to the SDGs, as described in this resolution, including with regard to the gathering and analysis of community-level data;
19. *encourages* National Societies and States to continue their dialogue to clarify and consolidate how National Societies, as auxiliaries, cooperate with the authorities in the areas of concern described in this resolution;
20. *invites* the IFRC and the ICRC to offer their support to National Societies, as relevant, in carrying out the ambitions of this resolution;
21. *encourages* National Societies to promote wide-ranging partnerships in carrying out this resolution with States, within the Movement and with community service organizations, the private sector, regional organizations, the United Nations and international financial institutions, among others;
22. *invites* States, and the components of the Movement to disseminate this resolution to appropriate stakeholders, including by bringing it to the attention of relevant officials in each country;
23. *requests* the IFRC, in consultation with National Societies and the ICRC, to submit a progress report on the implementation of this resolution to the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.