

Power of humanity

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

8 December 2019, Geneva



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

Geneva, Switzerland
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**Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on
Internal Displacement: Ten years on**

DRAFT ZERO RESOLUTION

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the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

Geneva, July 2019

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Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement: Ten years on

The Council of Delegates,

expressing its deep concern about the plight of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other persons and communities affected by internal displacement, typically host communities, as a result of armed conflict, disasters, including those due to climate change, and other emergencies, and *acknowledging* the inadequacy of current responses to this issue,

taking into consideration the complexity and intersectionality of the various causes of displacement and its effects, and thereby *underlining* the mandates and expertise the different components of the Movement can bring forward in addressing displacement-related challenges,

emphasizing the value of a holistic response that takes into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of IDPs, the impact of their displacement on host communities and the needs of those who are at risk of displacement and those who stay behind, and *recognizing* that a people-centric approach, fostered by the Movement's access and proximity to communities, is key to achieving greater humanitarian impact,

recalling that IDPs are not a faceless group and that their specific needs, vulnerabilities, capacities and coping mechanisms may be different according to their gender, age, physical and mental abilities and other personal circumstances,

recognizing that internal displacement can sometimes be a first step towards cross-border movements into neighbouring countries and beyond and that such situations require comprehensive and coordinated responses to maximize protection and assistance for all those in need,

stressing the importance of respect for international humanitarian law, which applies in situations of armed conflict, and for international human rights law, which applies at all times, in preventing displacement, and *recalling* that these bodies of law, within their respective spheres of application, protect all persons affected by displacement, such as IDPs and resident and host communities,

noting the relevance of international disaster law and environmental law in mitigating disaster- and climate-induced displacement,

recognizing the protection that national laws and policies can provide to people at risk of displacement and during displacement, and *emphasizing* the importance of all the components of the Movement supporting States, in accordance with their mandates, to incorporate international humanitarian law, human rights law, international disaster law and relevant regional legal frameworks into their national laws, regulations and policies applicable to IDPs,

welcoming the efforts of the United Nations in developing the GP20 Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced People 2018–2020 to mark the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and the continuing efforts of the African Union in encouraging its member States to ratify and

implement the Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year,

recalling and reaffirming the commitment of the components of the Movement to improving protection of and assistance to IDPs, as expressed in Resolution 5 on the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement adopted by the Council of Delegates ten years ago, based on previous resolutions adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Resolution XXI, Manila 1981; Resolution XVII, Geneva 1986; Resolution 4A, Geneva 1995; and Goal 2.3 of the Plan of Action of the 27th International Conference, Geneva 1999) and by the Council of Delegates (Resolution 9, Budapest 1991; Resolution 7, Birmingham 1993; Resolution 4, Geneva 2001; and Resolution 10, Geneva 2003), and *recognizing* the linkages with the 2009 IFRC Policy on Migration,

recognizing the continuing relevance of the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement in providing clarity, focus and guidance to the Movement's response, and *reiterating* the need to ensure it is better known and implemented by all the components of the Movement,

1. *urges* all the components of the Movement to ensure that their responses to the protection and assistance needs of IDPs and host communities, based on their respective mandates and in conformity with the Fundamental Principles, and the support provided to other components of the Movement involved in the response are informed by the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement, thereby strengthening its implementation;
2. *calls upon* all the components of the Movement to commit to enhancing their responses to internal displacement, especially in the following three areas: urban internal displacement;¹ protection from displacement and during displacement; and durable solutions;
3. *requests*, in the context of internal displacement in urban settings, that all the components of the Movement integrate both the short- and longer-term needs of urban IDPs outside camps and those of host communities into their analyses and responses, by combining structural interventions at the level of urban services and domestic legal and policy frameworks with tailored responses to help IDPs rebuild their lives, such as cash-based assistance among other approaches, and by integrating IDP-related issues into city-specific tools and approaches;
4. *requests*, with regard to protection from displacement and during displacement, that all the components of the Movement intensify efforts to help people avoid becoming displaced, where possible, and to ensure their safety, dignity and physical and psychological integrity throughout the displacement cycle, keeping in mind that women, men, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities may have specific concerns according to the circumstances, and to this end, *recommends* strengthening National Society capacity to assess and respond to IDP protection needs by implementing the "minimum protection approach", as described in the Protection within the Movement framework, when engaging with IDPs;
5. *requests*, with regard to durable solutions, that all the components of the Movement improve their coordinated response in support of informed, voluntary, safe and dignified choices for IDPs, by engaging with the authorities on the full spectrum of durable solutions (return, local integration and resettlement in another part of the country), driven by IDPs' rights, priorities and intentions, taking into account the perspectives of

¹ In the resolution and related documents, "urban settings/areas" and "cities" are used interchangeably to refer to socially complex and densely built and populated areas that have an influence over a larger area. This includes urban centres of various sizes and their outskirts. "Urban displacement" refers to internal displacement to and within cities, i.e. rural to urban, inter-urban and intra-urban.

- host communities and residents of potential areas of integration, return or resettlement, and by increasing the Movement's capacity to support recovery efforts;
6. *calls upon* all the components of the Movement to engage with IDPs and other persons and communities affected by displacement in a more structured and systematic way, enabling them to participate in the analysis of needs and the design of adequate responses as well as in the implementation and evaluation of those responses, in line with the Movement's Minimum Standards on Community Engagement and Accountability,² and *encourages* National Societies to implement the IFRC 2018 Minimum Standards on Protection, Gender and Inclusion to this end;
 7. *encourages* all the components of the Movement, according to their respective mandates, to step up their efforts to strengthen the full implementation of international humanitarian law during armed conflict, to further support the development and implementation of domestic laws, regulations and policies that uphold States' obligations and the rights of IDPs and to promote the integration of IDP protection into broader legislative and policy efforts, including those aimed at comprehensive disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, informed by an evidence-based analysis of the context;
 8. *calls upon* all the components of the Movement to dedicate more resources to strengthening the capacity of National Societies to respond to internal displacement and, to this end, *requests* the ICRC and the IFRC to collaborate in developing common training tools on the Movement's approach to internal displacement, applicable legal frameworks and relevant standards and to create a Movement Reference Group on Internal Displacement to serve as a community of practice to foster exchanges of experience and lessons learned and to promote and monitor implementation of this resolution;
 9. *requests* the ICRC, in close coordination with the IFRC, to report to the Council of Delegates in 2021 on the implementation of this resolution;
 10. *invites* the ICRC and the IFRC to give due consideration to making this topic the subject of a resolution at the 2023 International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

² To be adopted at the 2019 Council of Delegates.