

Power of humanity

33rd International Conference
of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

9-12 December 2019, Geneva



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**33rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

Geneva, Switzerland
9–12 December 2019

**Women and leadership in the humanitarian action of the
International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

Draft resolution

**Document prepared by
the Swedish Red Cross in cooperation with National Societies**

Stockholm, October 2019

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Women and leadership in the humanitarian action of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

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

recalling the mission of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found, to protect life and health and ensure respect for the human being,

affirming the importance, from the perspective of the Fundamental Principles – particularly the Fundamental Principle of impartiality – of women being represented at the decision-making level,

recognizing and recalling previous relevant resolutions of the statutory meetings of the Movement, including Resolution 12 of the 2017 Council of Delegates, "Reinforcing gender equality and equal opportunities in the leadership and work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement", calling upon the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) and the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to take concrete measures to address the question of gender equality and equal opportunities at all levels of their own leadership, and *recognizing and recalling* as well global non-Movement commitments,

recognizing women as agents in risk reduction and first responders in humanitarian crises, including armed conflicts, internal strife and natural disasters, and the importance of their perspectives always being heard and included from the outset in humanitarian responses, particularly in those countries most affected by humanitarian crises,

recognizing that the empowerment and inclusion of women and girls should extend not only to their essential contributions to crisis prevention, mitigation and response, but also to development assistance, peacebuilding, mediation, reconciliation and reconstruction, and conflict prevention, and that the inclusion of and leadership from women from different backgrounds are crucial to the success of these efforts and should be promoted, facilitated and enabled,

recognizing the importance of women from different backgrounds being involved in decision-making, so as to ensure that the humanitarian needs in the community are met and the diversity of everyone in the society that they belong to is represented,

remaining deeply concerned about the under-representation of women in governing bodies and senior management positions across all Movement components and in humanitarian organizations in general,

expressing deep concern about the under-representation of women in processes and bodies related to humanitarian work, including in senior positions in national, regional and international institutions, and about the lack of support for women assuming leadership roles in these settings,

expressing appreciation for the work being done and initiatives being carried out by the United Nations, regional organizations, States, humanitarian organizations and others aiming to enhance the role and responsibilities of women in the humanitarian sector, and *underlining* the complementary character of that work and those initiatives with the work of the Movement and of the International Conference,

also expressing appreciation for the work carried out and efforts made so far by the components of the Movement to address inequalities and achieve parity, in accordance with their respective mandates and institutional focuses,

1. *urges* National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC to increase the representation of women from different backgrounds at all decision-making levels, including in governing bodies and management positions;
2. *requests* that National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC actively seek out and identify women leaders, particularly women in those countries most affected by humanitarian crises, and invest in them, and support and strengthen the pipeline of future women leaders through various means, such as career-path development and leadership programmes targeting women;
3. *urges* National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC to reach parity by 2030 at all levels, including in governing bodies and management, and *calls on* them to develop a more uniform, reliable and rigorous approach to gathering accurate, reliable, timely and sex-disaggregated information to be able to monitor and ensure progress;
4. *encourages* States, National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC to invest in research to provide evidence of the value of women's leadership and decision-making in humanitarian responses;
5. *urges* States, National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC to support women's participation, leadership and decision-making in international humanitarian forums at the global, regional and national levels;
6. *requests* that National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC report to the 34th International Conference.

Draft resolution co-sponsors as at 21 October 2019:

Swedish Red Cross

Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society
Bahamas Red Cross Society
Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society
Barbados Red Cross Society
Belgium Red Cross
Belize Red Cross Society
Bolivian Red Cross
Botswana Red Cross
Burundi Red Cross
Canadian Red Cross
Colombian Red Cross
Costa Rica Red Cross
Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire
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Dominica Red Cross Society
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Finnish Red Cross
Grenada Red Cross Society
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Other co-sponsors may be added.