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

Geneva, Switzerland  
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**Climate-Smart Disaster Laws and Policies That Leave No One  
Behind**

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENT**

Document prepared by  
the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The rising frequency and intensity of disasters is well documented as climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and brings greater risks to those already exposed to disaster risk, urbanization and poverty. To address this, a well-functioning disaster risk management (DRM)<sup>1</sup> system requires a strong legal basis at the domestic level to ensure clarity in responsibilities, prioritization of activities, assignment of resources and coordination. This is critical not only in the midst of an emergency, but also for longer-term projects aimed at disaster risk reduction and resilience building, climate change adaptation, preparedness and recovery.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, have a strong record in assisting States in improving their disaster-related legal and policy frameworks and ensuring they are well understood and implemented.

The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference) has recognized the importance of strong disaster laws at its last four meetings and has consistently tasked all States party to the Geneva Conventions and all Movement components to contribute to progress in this area through the adoption of various resolutions (2003, 2007, 2011, 2015), looking particularly at issues related to the facilitation and regulation of international disaster response, regulatory barriers to post-disaster shelter, and effective legislation for disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, resolutions adopted in 2011 and 2015 affirmed the role of the International Conference itself as a “key international forum for continued dialogue on the strengthening of disaster laws and on recovery action in synergy with actions conducted by States and international organisations”.<sup>2</sup>

The 33rd International Conference will take note of progress on these past themes and build on what has been achieved to move the agenda forward, with a focus on domestic preparedness and response. The proposed resolution “Climate-smart disaster laws and policies that leave no one behind” will propose, among other things, that States:

- strengthen domestic legislation and policy to ensure an effective and climate-smart approach to disasters, including by recognizing the new “Checklist on law and disaster preparedness and response” as an important and useful tool,
- recognize the importance of integrating the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups into relevant disaster laws and policies in order to ensure that no one is left behind in disaster risk management activities,
- recognize the ongoing leadership provided by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the area of disaster law, including in the development, dissemination and implementation of effective legal and policy frameworks relevant to climate-smart disaster risk management and the development of high-quality research and state-of-the-art recommendations.

## 1) INTRODUCTION

In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimated that global warming is likely to reach at least 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels between 2030 and 2052 if climate change trends continue at the current rate.<sup>3</sup> It identified a high risk of severe and widespread impacts from extreme weather events after that level is reached.<sup>4</sup> For many, however, these impacts are already very obvious. For example, in 2018, the number of tropical cyclones was above average in all four northern hemisphere basins; rainfall for March–May was at least double the average over Kenya and northern parts of Tanzania, leading to at least 87 deaths; and wildfires reached unprecedented levels in Sweden, with over 25,000 hectares burned – just to name a few.<sup>5</sup> Weather-related hazards are on the rise and are also becoming

more volatile. Moreover, while climate change multiplies the impacts of weather-related hazards, unplanned urbanization in many parts of the world is placing many more people in harm's way.

Already, on average, more than 25 million people are displaced every year by sudden-onset disasters,<sup>6</sup> and millions more are at risk of displacement from slow-onset hazards. As noted by a recent World Bank study, up to 90 million people are at risk of displacement as a result of sea level rise in East Asia and the Pacific alone.<sup>7</sup> It is also widely expected that the effects of climate change will continue to increase the numbers of those displaced, particularly in developing countries.<sup>8</sup>

In this context, research completed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) thus far in the area of disaster law has highlighted that legal preparedness is critical to continuing to build resilience.<sup>9</sup> Having strong, inclusive and well-implemented disaster laws underpins a well-functioning DRM system. They provide the legal and institutional basis on which to undertake all aspects of DRM, from risk reduction and preparedness to response and recovery, and contribute to strengthening the resilience and protection of vulnerable and disaster-affected populations. A clear first step in promoting stronger governance for DRM is improving relevant laws and regulations and strengthening their implementation.

Strengthening disaster laws and their implementation, particularly at the local level, has been identified as a key priority in global and regional multilateral commitments, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>10</sup>

The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent has recognized the importance of strong disaster laws since 2003 and has tasked the IFRC and National Societies with providing advice and support to their governments for the development and implementation of effective legal and policy frameworks relevant to disaster and emergency management through the adoption of various resolutions (2003, 2007, 2011, 2015). Past themes have included the facilitation and regulation of international disaster response, legislation for disaster risk reduction and resolving regulatory barriers to post-disaster shelter, among others.

The 33rd International Conference proposes to discuss the importance of legal preparedness for disasters, with a focus on climate-smart approaches to domestic preparedness and response as well as ways that domestic disaster laws and policies can ensure that no one is left behind in disaster risk management activities.

## 2) BACKGROUND

### i. Existing guidance and tools

In 2007, the IFRC released the *Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance* (the **IDRL Guidelines**), based on extensive research and consultations.<sup>11</sup> The IDRL Guidelines are a set of recommendations to governments on how to prepare their disaster laws and plans for the common regulatory problems in international disaster relief operations. The IDRL Guidelines were unanimously adopted by the States party to the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 2007 at the 30th International Conference.

In 2008, the UN General Assembly adopted three resolutions encouraging States to make use of the IDRL Guidelines.<sup>12</sup> In the subsequent decade, the IDRL Guidelines have been frequently referred to in UN General Assembly resolutions and have been used extensively in domestic disaster law- and policy-making processes.<sup>13</sup> The IDRL Guidelines have been supplemented with a Model Act (developed together with UN OCHA and the Inter-Parliamentary Union), a

Model Emergency Decree and a Checklist, all designed to ease the task of implementing the IDRL Guidelines at the domestic level.<sup>14</sup> Since 2007, 37 countries have adopted new laws, policies or procedures drawing on the IDRL Guidelines, and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies provided their advice and support to implement the recommendations of the IDRL Guidelines in over 95 countries.<sup>15</sup>

In 2012, the IFRC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) embarked on a joint initiative to research and develop guidance on law relating to disaster risk reduction (DRR). In October 2015, they released the final version of *The Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction* (the **DRR Law Checklist**).<sup>16</sup> The IFRC and UNDP also released a more detailed *Handbook on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction* to provide detailed guidance on how to answer the Checklist questions.<sup>17</sup> The *DRR Law Checklist* was informed by a multi-country report on the DRR-related legislation of 31 countries and extensive consultations on a pilot version.<sup>18</sup> The 32nd International Conference in 2015 recognized the *DRR Law Checklist* as a useful, non-binding assessment tool to help States, when applicable, to review domestic legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction at the national, provincial and local level and noted its utility to States in carrying out related commitments set out in the Sendai Framework.

In addition, for the last few years, the Disaster Law Programme (DLP) has been researching issues related to the **regulatory barriers to post-disaster shelter**. Country-level research has been carried out in a dozen countries in Asia and the Americas (including in-depth studies on Haiti and Nepal and as part of the 2016 earthquake response in Ecuador), and support provided to the IFRC's Shelter Department for the development of products for practitioners, including a harmonized methodology for post-disaster community-based land mapping. Recommendations in this area were adopted in Resolution 7 at the 31st International Conference in 2011.

Furthermore, the IFRC, supported by the Global First Aid Reference Centre which is hosted by the French Red Cross, published several reports setting out the evidentiary argument for wider public **first aid** training and signalling gaps in legal and policy support for this approach in many countries, in particular with regard to mandatory training, standards and liability protection. Recommendations on this subject were adopted by Resolution 6 of the 32nd International Conference in 2015.

## ii. Progress to date

With over 95 technical assistance projects since 2007, National Societies, with IFRC support, have assisted their public authorities in multiple areas related to disaster law, including in the analysis, drafting and implementation of effective disaster laws. Indeed, National Societies are in a unique position as an interlocutor between government and community to strengthen the development and implementation of laws and policies.

On the one hand, with regard to efforts aimed at governments in this area, National Societies and the IFRC have been involved in providing input to update laws and regulations so that they incorporate international best practice recommendations. This assistance has ranged from training, legal research and stakeholder consultations to drafting assistance with new bills, rules or procedures. In many cases, it has involved multiyear consultation, technical advice and support processes. At the time of writing this background report, a total of 37 countries<sup>19</sup> had adopted new laws, rules or procedures based on Red Cross or Red Crescent recommendations in regard to disaster law. Ten more countries have bills or draft rules incorporating this advice that are currently pending.<sup>20</sup> Further, the IDRL Guidelines have influenced many intergovernmental strategies and resolutions and several treaties, namely the 2015 Trans-border Agreement between Panama and Costa Rica, and the 2017 SICA Special Customs Procedures for Relief Goods, in addition to the International Law Commission's "Draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters" of 2016. A progress report will be published in July 2019 to update the members of the International Conference on global

progress in the implementation of Red Cross and Red Crescent recommendations in the area of disaster law. National Societies have also been active in building the capacity of the legislature in order to enhance appreciation of the need for DRM laws in their countries. Through these engagements, National Societies have been able to inform parliamentarians in special committees on community-level needs related to DRM.

On the other hand, with roots at the community level, National Societies are extremely well placed to promote awareness and understanding of the legal environment with communities, encouraging both compliance with and awareness of rights and responsibilities. As an example, the IFRC has supported the development of an inclusive, systematic and practical disaster law dissemination module “Know your 3Rs – Rights, Roles and Responsibilities”, and an increasing number of National Societies have joined efforts with their governments to roll out this new tool, such as those in Cambodia, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

National Societies have indicated their willingness and determination to continue to offer their advice and support to their authorities in this area, and the International Conference will encourage States to engage in dialogue with their National Society for further collaboration in strengthening legal frameworks and their implementation and in promoting stronger governance for DRM.

### 3) ANALYSIS

#### i. The importance of effective disaster laws

Effective governance has been identified as the cornerstone of DRM. Efficient laws not only create an enabling environment to support the efforts of civil society organizations such as National Societies, they shape relevant government capacities, create incentives for safer development practices and ensure that the rights and dignity of vulnerable populations are protected. Conversely, outdated or poorly conceived laws can undermine preparedness, foster ambiguity and in-fighting at critical moments and render disaster response more expensive and less effective. They can also negatively impact on the ability of National Societies and civil society to carry out their humanitarian mission effectively.

In recent years, the IFRC’s Disaster Law Programme has received many requests from National Societies to aid them in providing technical assistance to their authorities to develop legislative provisions relating to disaster preparedness and response. Despite the fact that many countries have undertaken legislative review processes and adopted new laws for DRM in the last decade, little guidance exists in the literature on effective laws and regulations for preparedness and response.

Furthermore, research completed by the IFRC in recent years has revealed that, in many countries, the legal frameworks for DRM tend to focus on establishing institutional systems, roles and responsibilities, without very much specific language about the affected populations themselves. Likewise, the IFRC’s 2018 World Disasters Report revealed that many people with significant humanitarian needs are systematically left behind in humanitarian action, particularly persons with disabilities, older persons, irregular migrants and those living in informal and unmapped settlements. Yet ensuring the protection and security of the most vulnerable, at-risk and disaster-affected populations is crucial to effective DRM. Therefore, innovative guidance and recommendations are needed to provide support to States to address the main protection gaps and challenges in disaster law and policies.

With the adoption of the Sendai Framework for DRR in 2015 and in view of the pending entry into force of the Paris Agreement in 2020, the IFRC’s Disaster Law Programme has also received an increasing number of requests from States<sup>21</sup> to provide recommendations to facilitate integration between wider governance arrangements in normative frameworks, e.g.

the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes of the Paris Agreement and the risk reduction strategy process of the Sendai Framework (Target E).

In this regard, it is proposed that the International Conference adopt a resolution on climate-smart disaster laws and policies that leave no one behind. The resolution will encourage States to strengthen legal and policy frameworks for disaster preparedness and response with support from their National Societies, as appropriate. It will also call for recognition of:

- the importance of integrating the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups into relevant disaster laws and policies in order to ensure that no one is left behind,
- the advantages of a joined-up approach in policy and institutional arrangements for DRM and climate change adaptation,
- the new “Checklist on law and disaster preparedness and response” as a useful non-binding tool for analysis.

## ii. New recommendations on domestic law for climate-smart disaster risk management

### ***Checklist on law and disaster preparedness and response***

In 2017, in order to address the significant gap referred to above, the IFRC embarked on a project to develop a *Checklist on law and disaster preparedness and response*. To inform the proposed Checklist, the IFRC developed a *Global synthesis report on law and disaster preparedness and response* (the *Global Synthesis Report*) based on the analysis of two inputs: first, a literature review on key topics that are integral to disaster preparedness and response (the *Literature Review*); and second, 20 country desktop reviews of domestic laws relevant to disaster preparedness and response (the *Desktop Reviews*). The Literature Review, the Desktop Reviews and the Global Synthesis Report will soon be published on the IFRC's website.

The 20 countries selected for the Desktop Reviews were: Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mexico, Palestine, Paraguay, the Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam. The selected countries represent the full spectrum of disaster risk levels, including 8 of the top 30 countries most at risk from disasters.<sup>22</sup> They also represent most of the world's geographic regions and the full range of human development levels, from low through to very high rankings on the human development index.<sup>23</sup>

The Global Synthesis Report contains ten thematic chapters, each of which addresses a cluster of related issues in disaster preparedness and response and, using the 20 Desktop Reviews, provides examples of good practice in the selected countries. The Report also includes and consolidates existing high-quality guidance in relation to a particular topic, where available. Each chapter concludes with a “recommendations” section that provides domestic decision-makers with guidance about how to develop domestic disaster law and policy.

The Global Synthesis Report provides concrete guidance to law- and policy-makers as well as National Societies and other interested stakeholders in regard to: 1. institutional arrangements; 2. disaster risk budgets and financing; 3. contingency planning, education and drills; 4. early warning early action; 5. state of emergency and state of disaster; 6. legal facilities to undertake preparedness and response activities; 7. disaster-related human mobility; 8. emergency shelter and housing, and land and property rights in disasters; 9. protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups; 10. quality, accountability and prevention of fraud and corruption.

Likewise, findings and recommendations in the area of regulatory barriers to post-disaster shelter brought to the attention of the 31st International Conference in 2011 and

recommendations in the area of first aid brought to the attention of the 32nd International Conference in 2015 have been integrated into the Global Synthesis Report.

The recommendations of the Global Synthesis Report have been consolidated in a pilot version of the new *Checklist on law and disaster preparedness and response*.<sup>24</sup> This pilot version will be discussed in a series of consultations to be conducted in 2019. The final Checklist will be made available to the International Conference for its recognition as a useful, non-binding tool to strengthen domestic disaster laws.

### ***SGBV Global Report***

Furthermore, in 2017, the IFRC released a global report on “The role of law and policy in addressing gender inequality in DRM and protection against sexual and gender-based violence in disasters” (the *SGBV Global Report*). The report fills a knowledge gap in this area and contributes to the implementation of two resolutions of the 2015 International Conference. These were Resolution 3 on “Sexual and gender-based violence: Joint action on prevention and response” and Resolution 6 on “Strengthening legal frameworks for disaster response, risk reduction and first aid”. The report is based on global research and three country case studies, namely Ecuador, Nepal and Zimbabwe. It considers the experiences of disaster-affected communities and the effectiveness of national laws in protecting against SGBV and ensuring gender equality in humanitarian response.

Key recommendations of the research included changing national disaster systems, laws and policies to include policy objectives aimed at achieving gender equality and SGBV protection in all aspects of DRM. This includes specific mandates to require gender-sensitive disaster risk assessments, risk reduction, response, recovery and reconstruction. It also recommends the inclusion of a requirement for women to have a minimum representation of 30% in DRM institutions. Additionally, it suggests that laws should provide regulations on post-disaster shelter, with clear considerations for SGBV prevention, mitigation and response. Further, noting that protection concerns relating to SGBV arise at the point of access to essential services in disasters, the research recommended that sound contingency plans, with adequate resource allocations, should be developed to ensure continuity of services during disasters.

The findings and recommendations of the SGBV Global Report have been consolidated into the above-named Global Synthesis Report and are also mentioned in the draft resolution.

### ***Effective integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation***

Finally, the draft resolution will propose mandating the IFRC to continue to develop high-quality research in the area of disaster law, including on how best to ensure that disaster laws and policies are “climate-smart” – meaning that they have adequate flexibility and clarity to address the rising threats and volatility due to climate change and that they are well-integrated with climate adaptation mechanisms.

In 2018, the IFRC commenced a global research project for the effective integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation laws and policies into a single coherent approach. As highlighted above, climate change has been identified as one of the world’s greatest threats. In this context, strengthening disaster and climate risk frameworks, including their implementation at the local level, has been identified as a key priority in global and regional multilateral commitments, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals, in addition to regional intergovernmental instruments. Therefore, innovative research and recommendations are needed to ensure climate change and environmental institutions work together with disaster risk management institutions at the local, national, regional and global level to effectively address rising climate and disaster risks and develop effective laws and policies regarding these interconnected issues and frameworks. To promote this effective integration, the IFRC’s Disaster Law Programme proposes to join efforts with partners, such

as UN agencies and universities, and develop non-binding guidance for law- and policy-makers in order to ensure the strengthening of disaster laws and policies is risk-informed.

The International Conference will come at a pivotal time, just a month prior to the Paris Agreement becoming fully operational, when States will be legally bound by their commitments and turning to partners to help scale up collective climate action. It is proposed that the Conference mandate the IFRC to undertake further research in this area, encourage peer-to-peer learning on emerging good practices in developing and implementing climate-smart DRM laws and policies and highlight the role of National Societies as auxiliaries to their government in the humanitarian field in supporting their authorities in this area.

#### **4) RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The recommendations developed by the IFRC in the area of disaster law provide guidance to States in order to translate international and regional commitments, such as the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, into national and local-level policy and law to support and strengthen institutional resilience and climate change adaptation.

In terms of what more can be done, the IFRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies remain committed to promoting the implementation of the *IDRL Guidelines*, the *DRR Law Checklist* and the new *Checklist on law and disaster preparedness and response* as well as any future recommendations to support the integration of climate change adaptation and DRM into domestic law and policy. The IFRC network is fully committed to contributing to this work into the next decade so that legal frameworks for disasters become more efficient and better coordinated, protect more people and save more lives.

Dedicated resources should be allocated for this work by the members of the International Conference in the coming years, with increased funding and capacity strengthening to enable disaster law programmes to be successfully implemented in domestic contexts.

#### **5) IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

The IFRC employs evidenced-based research, monitoring and evaluation procedures to inform programming and planning. The monitoring of projects is conducted on a continuous basis by the heads of programmes in the various regions, which includes through continuous contact with the National Societies and occasional field visits. Monitoring is also done as part of systematic reporting against the IFRC Operational Plans at the country, regional and global level. With this continuous effort, the IFRC will provide the members of the International Conference with progress updates through its global reporting platforms and the Annual Disaster Law Programme Report. The IFRC will also provide a progress report on the resolution ahead of the 34th International Conference in 2023.

#### **6) CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Despite the increased attention at the global and regional level, many common regulatory issues continue to undermine the effectiveness of climate-smart DRM systems domestically. For example, in order to future-proof the systems, a climate lens needs to be applied to ensure that climate change adaptation and DRM are well integrated, protect the most vulnerable groups and have positive engagement and impact at the local level.

As highlighted above, the IFRC has spearheaded innovative research and the development of state-of-the-art recommendations on key issues related to climate-smart DRM, including preparedness and response, that must be considered in disaster laws. As for National



Societies, they have taken a leading role in supporting governments to strengthen their national disaster laws in the last decade and have also gone one step further, working with their governments to roll out dissemination and implementation programmes at government and community level.

It is proposed that the International Conference highlight the urgency and importance of strengthening domestic legislation and policy for disasters. This will include recognizing the importance of integrating the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups into relevant disaster laws and policies in order to ensure that no one is left behind in disaster risk management activities and highlighting the importance of integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk management efforts for effective DRM laws. The disaster law resolution will also propose recognizing the new “Checklist on law and disaster preparedness and response” as an important and useful tool to strengthen relevant disaster laws, welcoming innovative recommendations by the IFRC and National Societies and continuous support to States in the strengthening and implementation of these laws, and encouraging the development of high-quality research and state-of-the-art recommendations in this area.

Finally, the International Conference has recognized the issue of disaster law at its last four regular meetings, as seen in the adoption of resolutions in this area (2003, 2007, 2011, 2015). It is proposed that the International Conference reiterate its role as a key international forum for continued dialogue on the strengthening of disaster laws.

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this document, the term “disaster risk management” (DRM) is used to refer to the full cycle of interventions to reduce disaster risk, prepare and respond to disasters and ensure recovery from their impacts.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 7, Strengthening normative frameworks and addressing regulatory barriers concerning disaster mitigation, response and recovery, 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Geneva, 2011; Resolution 6, Strengthening legal frameworks for disaster response, risk reduction and first aid, 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Geneva, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> IPCC Special Report *Global Warming of 1.5 °C* (2018).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 13.

<sup>5</sup> WMO Statement on the State of Global Climate in 2018 (2019).

<sup>6</sup> *Global Report on International Displacement 2018*, <http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2018/>.

<sup>7</sup> Risk of sea-level rise: high stakes for East Asia & Pacific region countries, <http://blogs.worldbank.org/eastasiapacific/risk-of-sea-level-rise-high-stakes-for-east-asia-pacific-region-countries>.

<sup>8</sup> IPCC Special Report *Global Warming of 1.5 °C*,

[https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2018/07/SR15\\_SPM\\_version\\_stand\\_alone\\_LR.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2018/07/SR15_SPM_version_stand_alone_LR.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> The IFRC has completed over 120 research projects in the area of disaster law since 2003. All reports can be found here: <https://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-law/research-tools-and-publications/disaster-law-publications/>.

<sup>10</sup> Priority 2 of the Sendai Framework concerning risk governance. In addition, among the numerous references to climate-related disasters contained in the 17 SDGs, SDG 1.5 stresses the need to “build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and [...] environmental shocks and disasters”, and SDG 13.2 stipulates that laws which address the root causes of disasters should be integrated “into national policies, strategies and planning”.

<sup>11</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, *Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance*, [https://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/41203/1205600-IDRL%20Guidelines-EN-LR%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/41203/1205600-IDRL%20Guidelines-EN-LR%20(2).pdf).

<sup>12</sup> *Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations*, GA Res 63/139, UN GAOR, 63rd sess, 68th plen mtg, Agenda Item 65(a), UN Doc A/RES/63/139 (11 December 2008); *International Cooperation on Humanitarian Assistance in the Field of Natural Disasters, from Relief to Development*, GA Res 63/141, UN GAOR, 63rd sess, 68th plen mtg, Agenda Item 65(a), A/RES/63/141 (11 December 2008); *Strengthening Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention in the Aftermath of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Disaster*, GA Res 63/137, UN GAOR, 63rd sess, 68th plen mtg, Agenda Item 65(a), A/RES/63/137 (11 December 2008).

<sup>13</sup> See International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, “UN General Assembly Resolutions mentioning the IDRL Guidelines”, <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/idrl/research-tools-and-publications/key-resolutions/un-general-assembly-resolutions-on-the-idrl-guidelines/>.

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<sup>14</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Union, "Model Act for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance (with commentary)" (March 2013), <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/IDRL/MODEL%20ACT%20ENGLISH.pdf>; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, "Checklist on the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance" (2017), <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/document/checklist-facilitation-regulation-international-disaster-relief-initial-recovery-assistance/>; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Model Emergency Decree for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance" (2017), [https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/12/Model-Decree\\_EN-LR.pdf](https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/12/Model-Decree_EN-LR.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> Details of where the IDRL Guidelines have been used and examples of good practice can be found on the Disaster Law website: [www.ifrc.org/dl](http://www.ifrc.org/dl).

<sup>16</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and United Nations Development Programme, *The Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction: An annotated outline* (October 2015), <http://drr-law.org/resources/The-Checklist-on-law-and-DRR-Oct2015-EN-FINAL.pdf>.

<sup>17</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and United Nations Development Programme, *The Handbook on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction* (2015), <https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Photos/Secretariat/201511/Handbook%20on%20law%20and%20DRR%20LR.pdf>.

<sup>18</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, *Effective Law and Regulation for Disaster Risk Reduction: A Multi-Country Report* (June 2014), [http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Publications/IDRL/country%20studies/summary\\_report\\_final\\_single\\_page.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Publications/IDRL/country%20studies/summary_report_final_single_page.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> They are Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, Seychelles, Tajikistan, Thailand, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

<sup>20</sup> They are Bangladesh, Dominica, Fiji, Laos, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Tonga, Tuvalu and Uganda (and the Tokelau Islands of New Zealand).

<sup>21</sup> These calls were voiced at two regional conferences held on the theme "Legislating for Climate-Smart Disaster Risk Management" in the Pacific and in Latin America, which took place in 2018. The events brought together National Societies and government representatives from national disaster management agencies and regional intergovernmental organizations.

<sup>22</sup> See Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft, *WorldRiskReport: Analysis and Prospects 2017* (2017), [http://weltrisikobericht.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/WRR\\_2017\\_E2.pdf](http://weltrisikobericht.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/WRR_2017_E2.pdf).

<sup>23</sup> See United Nations Development Programme, "Table 1. Human Development Index and its components" (2017), <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/HDI>.

<sup>24</sup> The new Checklist is attached to this document. Comments on the draft *Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response* are sought from disaster risk management experts by 31 August 2019. Please send your comments to [disaster.law@ifrc.org](mailto:disaster.law@ifrc.org).