## Model text for pledges to

## strengthen climate-smart disaster risk management and scale up climate action

**Objective of this document**

The climate crisis has been identified by International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) network members as a top priority for action. We have been working to raise the profile of the humanitarian consequences of climate change and have made commitments to climate action that we want to take.

This document therefore sets out a menu of **potential commitments** that might be used in pledges related to climate-smart disaster risk management (DRM). National Societies and States may wish to make pledges in support of one or a number of the following areas, using the sample commitments provided:

* strengthening of regulatory frameworks on disaster risk management
* expansion of early warning and early action
* preparedness for heatwaves
* ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction
* urban community resilience.

We have focused on potential actions where there is a clear and important role for National Societies to work with States to support some of the relevant commitments made at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019.

**Background**

At the Climate Action Summit, the IFRC joined the following initiatives: the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), which we co-designed with partners, the Nature-Based Solutions Coalition and the Building the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor initiative.

Interested International Conference participants are encouraged to take this opportunity to formally join REAP and other initiatives, although this is not required to commit to individual activities.

**How to use this document**

It is not expected that every element suggested here will be included in every pledge. It is up to each National Society and government making a pledge to decide what makes most sense for their context.

It is recommended that National Societies and governments make joint rather than individual pledges on these issues to reinforce their commitment to work together. This might be on a bilateral basis or in some other grouping (such as a regional group).

Note that there is also a plan to develop an open pledge for Movement actors on climate and the environment. This is being developed separately and focuses on commitments by the IFRC, the ICRC and interested National Societies with regard to their own ways of working. While National Societies are invited to join the open pledge too, it should not replace joint initiatives with their governments.

**Menu of potential pledge commitments**

1. Join the Risk-informed Early-Action Partnership (REAP)

* Express [our joint] intention to join the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership which seeks to make one billion people safer from disasters by greatly expanding early action financing and improving early warning systems and the capacity to act on the risks they identify.
* Commit to contributing to the following REAP targets (please choose one or more commitments from points 2 to 5) listed below.

*Please select the following keywords for your pledge: Climate change, DRR, Early action partnership*

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) are integrated into relevant laws, policies, strategies and/or plans at the local and national level (REAP target 1)

* [Jointly] conduct a legislative review and assess whether domestic laws, policies, strategies and plans address the evolving risks of weather-related disasters, ensure an integrated approach to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, protect the most vulnerable faced with crisis, promote gender-responsive approaches and foster community leadership in risk analysis, planning and decision-making [include the following as relevant]:
  + use the new “Checklist on law and disaster preparedness and response”/the “Checklist on law and disaster risk reduction” and the “Handbook on law and disaster risk reduction”/the “Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance” and/or the “Checklist on the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance” to review domestic legal frameworks for disaster preparedness
  + ensure coherence between the national adaptation plans of the Paris Agreement and the DRR strategies of the Sendai Framework.
* Establish/support interdepartmental working groups and/or round tables together with a range of stakeholders from all sectors of society, including ministries/departments concerned with infrastructure, health, disaster risk management, environment, water, migration, social welfare, etc., as well as civil society actors, including the National Society, and communities to collectively ensure initiatives are climate-smart and risk-informed.
* Strengthen our workforce’s [including staff and volunteers] understanding of existing law and policy on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation [include the following as relevant]:
  + develop joint training opportunities at the national, regional and local level
  + promote the sharing of experiences, techniques and best practices between countries
  + support the development of tools, models, guidelines, advocacy and research.
* Strengthen public understanding of the rights, roles and responsibilities of different actors under existing law and policy on disaster risk management and/or climate change adaptation [include the following as relevant]:
  + by including information in relevant training on disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, first aid and humanitarian education [for both the public and volunteers].

*Please select the following keywords for your pledge: Climate change, DRR, Disaster law*

1. Increase the coverage and effectiveness of climate services and early warning systems to enable early action in “last-/first-mile” communities (REAP target 3)

* Ensure that, whenever there is investment in hydrometeorological infrastructure and technology, investment is also made in mechanisms to ensure that the information reaches at-risk communities in a form they can understand, trust and use to take anticipatory action.
* Increase the number of communities that have community-based/-led early warning systems by [xx percent] and ensure they are connected to national-level early warning early action systems.
* Establish or strengthen the partnership between the [xx] National Red Cross/Red Crescent Society and the national hydrometeorological agency/department with the ambition to better serve the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities.
* Tailor [xx’s] public awareness and public education (PAPE) messages to local contexts, in consultation with communities, and ensure that early warning messages are paired with messages on how to reduce risks and prepare for and respond to crises/disasters.
* Regularly review early warning and early action systems and procedures in high-risk areas [include the following as relevant]:
  + ensure early warning messages shared with communities are user-friendly and clear
  + include impact-based information to the extent possible
  + test new approaches and tools for collecting and disseminating local risk information to enable better decision-making and planning at the community level (including participatory approaches) and adapt systems and procedures according to community feedback.
  + Update/undertake community risk assessments (using the [enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment (EVCA)](https://ifrcvca.org) methodology) and contingency plans in [xx] at-risk communities (using scientific climate predictions) and bring results into local and national level planning.

*Please select the following keywords for your pledge: Climate change, DRR, Early warning*

1. Scale up access to predictable financing for early action (REAP target 2)
   * Develop collaborative planning and financial mechanisms for humanitarian and government actors to take early/forecast-based action together in the most at-risk communities [include the following as relevant]:
   * identify locally appropriate thresholds/triggers for action and early actions
   * develop early action plans/protocols informed by quality risk analysis and involving relevant partners, including meteorological services.
   * Increase investments in anticipatory financing, such as forecast-based financing, by [include the following as relevant]:
     + committing [xx amount and currency] to the IFRC’s Forecast-based Action by the DREF and towards the development of early action protocols
     + matching investments made in early warning systems with investments towards early action in last-mile communities
     + integrating early action funding into disaster risk management budgets at the national, sub-national and community levels.
   * Allocate [xx] additional [domestic] funds to the sub-national and local level for activities to reduce disaster risks and adapt to climate change, with a focus on the most vulnerable and at-risk communities.
   * Jointly design disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation projects and funding proposals with the [xx] National Society and local communities.

*Please select the following keywords for your pledge: Climate change, DRR, Anticipatory financing*

1. Establish new or improved heatwave early warning systems connected to longer-term risk management systems (REAP target 4)

* Commit to establishing heat early warning systems and implementing heat guidance in [xx] cities.
* Expand the number of heat action plans [include the following as relevant]:
  + on the basis of research to identify appropriate local heat health thresholds
  + which include finance to cover early actions in municipal budgeting processes.
* Ensure urban planning processes in cities consider heat risk reduction strategies.
* Strengthen health systems so that they are able to absorb and respond to increased demand as a result of extreme weather events, including heatwaves, by training volunteers, community health workers and frontline health providers to recognize and respond to symptoms of heat stress.

*Please select the following keywords for your pledge: Climate change, DRR, Heatwave*

1. Scale up community-based ecosystem- and nature-based solutions which can contribute to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and climate mitigation (note that these activities are relevant to the objectives of the Nature-Based Solutions Coalition)

* Integrate ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and nature-based solutions in relevant laws, policies and plans.
* Increase advocacy and awareness-raising around nature-based solutions, promoting increased action within the [xx] National Society, government and beyond.
* Expand ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and adaptation activities in [xx] vulnerable and at-risk communities.

*Please select the following keywords for your pledge: Climate change, DRR, Nature-based solutions*

1. Enhance the climate resilience of the urban poor (note that these activities are relevant to the Building the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor initiative)

* Share technical expertise on disaster risk management with municipal counterparts at a local level.
* Support inclusive, community-led mapping processes in [xx] towns and cities to support risk-informed planning.
* Help build the climate and disaster resilience of urban small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in [xx] towns and cities via awareness campaigns.
* Promote climate-resilient urban planning processes to help reduce the impact of weather-related disasters by [include the following as relevant]:
  + promoting participatory urban planning processes to ensure that the voice of the urban poor is heard and that inclusive legislative measures and planning decisions are made
  + collaborating with city authorities and providing technical advice to reduce the impact of weather-related disaster risks on the urban poor
  + promoting the adoption of ecosystem-based solutions in the planning and development of city infrastructure.

*Please select the following keywords for your pledge: Climate change, DRR, Urban resilience*

**MENU OF POTENTIAL INDICATORS AND MILESTONES**

***(please pick the ones relevant to your commitments)***

* Drafting, adoption, revision or updating of new legislation/regulations/policies/rules integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation
* Development of an integrated national adaptation plan and DRR strategy at the national level and within [xx] local branches every year
* Existence of a governmental forum where CCA, DRR and humanitarian response are discussed, including all relevant government departments and the National Society
* Number of communities where community-led early warning systems are established or improved
* Number of early action plans/protocols developed outlining clear triggers for action and appropriate early actions
* Number of new or strengthened partnerships with hydrometeorological agencies and scientific institutions
* % of investment in CCA/DRR that goes to the community level
* Climate financing proposals developed jointly between the National Society and government
* Establishment or improvement of heat early warning systems and heat plans in [xx] towns and cities
* Number of vulnerable and at-risk communities where relevant ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and adaptation activities are ongoing

**For regional/sub-regional pledges:**

* Regularly review together progress in implementing the commitments in this pledge.
* Organize an annual meeting of signatories to this pledge with their governments to discuss achievements, best practices and challenges in implementing commitments.

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