

**Model text for pledges related to migration**

**Reaffirming the commitment to migration and our common humanity**

*This document sets out* ***a menu of potential commitments*** *to be considered for pledges related to migration by participants of the Conference (i.e. States, National Societies and/or observer organizations).*

*Some of the commitments may be more relevant to States, and others to National Societies and other organizations.*

*We encourage bilateral pledges, in particular between National Societies and their governments, to reinforce cooperation and practical steps.*

*Generally, each individual pledge at the International Conference will be quite brief – please select only what is relevant for your context (or make up your own wording!).*

*National Societies may also wish to consider regional or cross-regional pledges on thematic issues.*

*The potential clauses of the pledge align with key documents and commitments, including Resolution 3 of the 31st International Conference – Migration: Ensuring Access, Dignity, Respect for Diversity and Social Inclusion; the 2017 Council of Delegates Call for Action on the Humanitarian Needs of Vulnerable Migrants; the IFRC Global Strategy on Migration; the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; and the Global Compact on Refugees.*

**Pledge for the period 2019–2023**

1. **Introduction**

*This pledge relates to the topic of shifting vulnerabilities and acknowledges that access to humanitarian assistance and protection is essential to strengthen the well-being of migrants, as discussed at the* *33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.*

*The objective of this pledge is to strengthen the partnership of States and their National Societies and their joint efforts to ensure that all migrants, irrespective of their legal status, have access to humanitarian assistance and protection, in line with the respective mandates of the components of the Movement and its Fundamental Principles.*

We, the [Government/National Society] / The Government[s] and National Society[ies] of [COUNTRY/REGION] jointly pledge to undertake measures to uphold the rights of all migrants [States and National Societies can tailor this pledge further to their context by selecting the objectives they will focus on from among the following or including others not listed below]:

* Work to uphold the safety, dignity and rights of all migrants, irrespective of their legal status, and to recognize our common humanity in all related action.
* Reduce the suffering and vulnerability of all migrants and their exposure to risks, irrespective of their legal status, along migration routes, through coordinated and cross-regional support.
* Ensure access to essential services for all migrants, irrespective of their legal status, including by ensuring the provision of humanitarian assistance and protection is never criminalized or politicized.
* Take all necessary measures to protect migrants from harm, including abuse, violence and discrimination, and to ensure respect for international and domestic law.
* Support National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) in gaining effective access to migrants, irrespective of their legal status, and in providing humanitarian assistance and protection in accordance with the Fundamental Principles.
* Enhance cooperation between public authorities, at all levels, and National Societies to pursue practical actions that promote respect for diversity, non-violence and the social inclusion of all migrants.
* Ensure sustained financing of the humanitarian work of National Societies to support the most at-risk migrants in accordance with the Fundamental Principles.
* Prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable migrants – including separated or unaccompanied children, individuals exposed to terrifying and life-threatening events and/or torture and other forms of ill-treatment, women and girls, the elderly, people with disabilities and those suffering from serious health conditions – and uphold the best interests of the child at all times.
* Reaffirm that the participation, voices and perspectives of migrants are central to decisions that affect their lives and that efforts to ensure the direct engagement of migrants must be prioritized.
* Promote and support locally led action and responses, ensuring the direct participation and involvement of migrants and the communities that host them in the planning and provision of humanitarian assistance and protection.
* Recognize that migrants and their families can make a significant contribution to local communities as well as to communities in their countries of origin.
* Work together to contribute to the humanitarian objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
  + (*potential addition to the above:* and to national, regional and global implementation plans that prioritize the humanitarian needs of migrants, irrespective of their legal status, and promote migrants’ safety, dignity, rights and resilience).
* Work together to contribute to the humanitarian objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees
  + (*potential additions:* including
    - support for responsibility-sharing, including promoting resettlement
    - support for the economic and social inclusion of refugees, ensuring that the needs of host communities are also met
    - a comprehensive approach to durable solutions that not only promotes voluntary, safe and dignified repatriation, but also integration and resettlement
    - support for locally led action
    - promotion of respect for refugees’ rights
    - promotion of the principle of *non-refoulement* and refugees’ safety, dignity and resilience.)
* Renew and implement the commitments made in 2011 through *Resolution 3 – Migration: Ensuring Access, Dignity, Respect for Diversity and Social Inclusion*, adopted by the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

1. **Suggested action plans**

*States and/or National Societies can develop their own action plans, depending on the objectives selected, as a focus of work for their context, and also tailor the timeframe and the list of measurable actions that they intend to implement by 2023. Among the measures that States and/or National Societies may take as part of the implementation of the above objectives are the following.*

**Rescue efforts and access to essential services for all migrants, irrespective of their legal status**

* Support and cooperate in initiatives to prevent migrants dying or going missing along dangerous routes and to bring assistance and protection when required.
* Research, identify and take action to address both formal and informal barriers to obtaining essential services and protection faced by migrants, including support for restoring family links.
* Establish/scale up “Humanitarian Service Points” where [National Society] can provide essential services (including information) to migrants, irrespective of their legal status, ensuring migrants have access to those services, in accordance with international human rights law and without fear of being arrested or reported to the authorities for accessing them.
* Provide migrants with information through information points along migratory routes, consistent with Objective 3 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

**Prioritize the most vulnerable**

* Review relevant domestic legal frameworks, policies and practices to ensure they do not unintentionally create, exacerbate or increase the vulnerabilities of migrants, in line with international legal commitments and with Objective 7 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.
* Adopt new laws, regulations, policies and practices, as needed, to ensure the protection and assistance of migrants, in accordance with international law.
* Set up early identification and referral mechanisms to guarantee that, at all stages of the migratory journey, the most vulnerable individuals are assisted and protected, including unaccompanied children, individuals exposed to terrifying and life-threatening events or torture, women and girls, the elderly, people with disabilities, those suffering from serious health conditions and other individuals in vulnerable circumstances.
* Establish specialized procedures for the identification, referral, care and family reunification of unaccompanied and separated children and provide access to health-care services, including mental health, education and legal assistance.

**Use detention only as a measure of last resort and commit to ending the detention of migrant children**

* Progress Objective 13 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: “Use immigration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives”, always recalling that liberty should be the norm.
* Support and provide access to people held in immigration detention to facilitate the delivery of appropriate humanitarian support and services, including Restoring Family Links, and resolve protection concerns as they arise.
* Support independent humanitarian monitoring visits and provide access to detention facilities for this purpose.
* Ensure regular and effective dialogue with National Societies to address issues of humanitarian concern arising from detention monitoring visits and to consider [National Society] advice.
* Draw on the expertise of [National Society], as appropriate, when formulating and reviewing policies and procedures regarding persons held in immigration detention.
* Explore and share alternatives to detention, with the aim of reducing the population in detention, recalling that liberty remains the default option.
* Contribute to building a comprehensive national repository to disseminate good practices on diversion from detention and alternatives to detention in the context of migration, including by facilitating regular exchanges and the development and implementation of initiatives based on successful practices.
* Engage in dialogue on the humanitarian consequences of immigration detention, in particular on children and other individuals in vulnerable circumstances, as relevant.
* Protect and respect the best interests of children at all times, irrespective of their migration status, by ensuring the availability and accessibility of a viable range of measures for diversion from detention, favouring community-based care arrangements that ensure access to education and health care and respect their right to family life and family unity, and by working to end the practice of child detention and family separation in the context of international migration.
* Review national legislation and practices to promote liberty and ensure that decisions to detain migrants are always made on the basis of an individual assessment and that detention is determined to be necessary, reasonable, and proportionate to a legitimate purpose. If there are grounds to detain, consider alternatives to detention first.

**Restoring Family Links (RFL) and missing migrants**

* Work together to progress Objective 8 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: “Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants”.
* Scale up efforts to protect migrants from death, disappearance, violence, abuse and violations of their rights at all stages of their journey.
* Develop technical guidance and standards on missing migrants – notably on standardizing the collection and exchange of relevant information, in accordance with international law and internationally recognized data protection and privacy standards – through an expert consultation process.
* Review and, if need be, adopt or adapt domestic legal frameworks, practices and policies to prevent family separation and migrants going missing. Provide and/or improve access to tools and services to prevent separation along migratory routes and at destination and restore and maintain contact between family members, if they wish to do so, including in places of detention.
* Ensure the registration of unaccompanied children and focus on reducing risks of neglect and exploitation, notably by making a proper individual assessment of their situation and needs.
* Seek to identify those who have gone missing and provide families with answers on the fate and whereabouts of their missing family members.
* Ensure that the remains of dead migrants are handled with dignity and take all possible measures to facilitate their immediate or future identification and the provision of information to families.
* Encourage and contribute to the emergence of transregional channels for coordination and the communication of information about missing people to their families, in compliance with basic data protection rules, and improve coordination between forensic services to identify migrants who have died along the way.

**Human trafficking and other forms of exploitation**

* Work together to address the humanitarian needs of trafficked persons in line with relevant aspects of Objective 10 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: “Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration”.
* Scale up direct appropriate, long-term and survivor-centred protection and assistance to people who have experienced human trafficking and other forms of exploitation, including psychosocial support, to assist in the recovery process.
* Develop safe and effective referral pathways to ensure persons who have experienced or are at risk of human trafficking can seek help from the authorities without fear of being criminally pursued, detained or immediately deported.
* Review and revise or adopt domestic legal frameworks and policies to avoid the criminalization of migrants who have experienced human trafficking for trafficking-related offences.

**Social inclusion and cohesion**

* Work together to progress Objective 16 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: “Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion”.
* Deliver and promote access to services that facilitate migrants’ social inclusion and cohesion, such as language courses, vocational training and initiatives to enhance cultural awareness between migrants and local communities.
* Develop and deliver programmes to increase access to education, livelihood and employment opportunities for vulnerable migrants that facilitate resilience, self-reliance and contributions to host communities.
* Undertake public awareness campaigns to highlight the positive contributions of migrants to local communities and mobilize community respect for diversity and action against racism, discrimination, xenophobia, marginalization and other forms of exclusion faced by vulnerable migrants.

**Climate and disaster-related migration and displacement**

* Work together to progress Objective 2 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: “Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin”.
* Strengthen analysis, including community level assessments, to better understand and address humanitarian needs resulting from migration and displacement linked to disasters and the effects of climate change.
* Develop adaptation and resilience strategies for communities affected by disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, taking into account the potential implications on migration and displacement.
* Integrate cross-border displacement considerations into disaster preparedness strategies and promote cooperation with neighbouring and other relevant countries and National Societies to increase preparedness through early warning, contingency planning, coordination mechanisms and public information.
* Work together to harmonize and develop approaches to address the vulnerabilities of persons affected by disasters, by ensuring they have access to essential humanitarian assistance wherever they are and by promoting resilience and self-reliance.
* Effectively include migrants, irrespective of their legal status, in emergency preparedness, response and recovery activities and plans.

1. **Indicators for measuring progress**

* New laws, regulations, policies, procedures and guidelines are adopted to ensure respect for migrants’ rights and dignity, in compliance with international law.
* National implementation plans for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration include specific humanitarian objectives.
* National Societies and relevant authorities have agreements on Humanitarian Service Points, and these points have been established and are operational.
* Collaboration and cooperation between components of the Movement, within a country and/or regionally, is enhanced.
* Partnerships are developed between public authorities and the Movement and/or other relevant actors, according to the respective mandates of the components of the Movement and its Fundamental Principles, and also with migrant/host communities, to ensure an effective and appropriate response to the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants.

1. **Resource implications**

States and/or National Societies to determine the resources that may be required to support the implementation of this pledge based on the selected objectives and actions to be taken in a specific context*.*

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