

**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**

**Resolution**

## 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,

*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 of women being represented at the decision-making level, in the spirit of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement,

*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 relevant global non-Movement commitments,

*recognizing* women as agents in risk reduction and first responders in humanitarian crises, including armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies, 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’s groups and women from different backgrounds being involved in decision-making, so as to ensure that the humanitarian needs and priorities 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 of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference),

*expressing appreciation also* for the work carried out and efforts made so far by the components of the Movement to address gender inequalities and achieve gender 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 gender 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, involving women to identify good practices and how to remove the barriers to women's participation, in particular in leadership and decision-making in humanitarian responses;
5. *urges* States, National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC to support women's full, equal and meaningful 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 back on the progress on the implementation of this resolution to the 34th International Conference.

**Resolution co-sponsors**

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