

Power of humanity

Council of Delegates of the International
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

8 December 2019, Geneva



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**COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Geneva, Switzerland
8 December 2019

**Movement approach to strengthening National Society statutory
and constitutional base and complementary frameworks such
as the Volunteer Charter**

RESOLUTION

**Document prepared by
the Joint ICRC/International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes**

Geneva, December 2019

RESOLUTION

Movement approach to strengthening National Society statutory and constitutional base and complementary frameworks such as the Volunteer Charter

The Council of Delegates,

acknowledging the crucial contribution of sound and comprehensive statutory base and complementary legal, regulatory and policy frameworks (hereinafter referred to as “Statutes”) to preserving a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society’s ability to deliver effective, relevant, sustainable and principled humanitarian services to vulnerable people and communities and to being accountable to its constituency at all times, and *recalling* the importance of National Societies periodically reviewing their Statutes so as to ensure and maintain their relevance in line with changing needs in the community,

recalling past resolutions adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent requesting National Societies to collaborate with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as well as with the ICRC/International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes (Joint Statutes Commission) in the strengthening of their Statutes, beginning with Resolution VI of the [22nd International Conference in 1973](#), and *welcoming* the continued commitment of National Societies to doing so,

reaffirming commitments undertaken by National Societies under past resolutions adopted by the Council of Delegates to work closely with the ICRC and the IFRC as well as with the Joint Statutes Commission on the revision of their Statutes, including the Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement adopted by the 2001 Council of Delegates and Resolution 4 adopted by the 2011 Council of Delegates, which calls on National Societies to:

- periodically review their Statutes in line with evolving humanitarian needs in domestic contexts and to share their Statutes and any revisions thereto with the Joint Statutes Commission at the drafting stage
- take the latter’s recommendations into account,

recalling that strong and sound legal, statutory and policy base frameworks are key contributors to a National Society’s development and to its ability to act in accordance with the Fundamental Principles at all times,

recalling that it is crucially important for a National Society’s Statutes to define its commitment to a culture of inclusion and diversity, including through the promotion of gender equality and the representation of minorities at all levels,

expressing its appreciation of the work and consultations conducted under the auspices of the Core Group on the revision of the 1999 Guidance for National Societies Statutes, composed of National Societies, the ICRC and the IFRC,

welcoming the innovations of the new Guidance for National Society Statutes (Guidance document), including its more flexible approach and its attention to the wide variety of organizational models adopted by National Societies from different legal traditions and operational contexts, *welcoming* the Guidance document’s new or strengthened standards on *Members*, on *Volunteers*, on *Leadership* and on *Compliance, Integrity and Dispute Resolution*, including its standards on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, and

encouraging National Societies to pay special attention to these innovations in the revision of their Statutes,

welcoming the adoption of the new Guidance document by the Governing Board of the IFRC at its 38th session held in October 2018, *recalling* the 2017 IFRC General Assembly decision relating to the Guidance document, recommending that the Joint Statutes Commission submit the new Guidance document to the 2019 Council of Delegates for adoption, and *expressing* its appreciation to those National Societies that have already revised their Statutes in line with the standards set out in the new Guidance document,

welcoming the adoption of the Volunteer Charter by the 21st session of the General Assembly of the IFRC (Antalya, Turkey, 6–8 November 2017) and *encouraging* National Societies to take inspiration from the Charter in developing their Statutes; the Volunteer Charter aims to clarify volunteers' rights and responsibilities, including the right to a safe working environment, the right to protection, the right to information about the risks they face, the right to participate, to be heard and to be recognized for their contribution and the right to insurance.

welcoming the steps undertaken by the IFRC and the ICRC as well as by the Joint Statutes Commission towards the effective promotion and implementation of the new Guidance document,

1. *adopts* the new Guidance document for National Society Statutes at the level of the Movement;
2. *calls upon* National Societies, in accordance with their past commitments, to conduct a regular and periodic review of their statutory base instruments and complementary frameworks and, in line with the decisions of the IFRC General Assembly (2017) and Governing Board (October 2018), to review their Statutes in accordance with the new Guidance document within the next five years from the time of adoption of the present resolution and to continue with regular reviews at least once every ten years;
3. *encourages* National Societies to include the review of their Statutes as a key commitment in their own development processes, plans and strategies;
4. *calls upon* the ICRC and the IFRC, at the level of their respective headquarters, regions and field representations at the request of National Societies, as well as the Joint Statutes Commission to:
 - continue their active support to strengthen National Societies' Statutes
 - engage, jointly with National Societies, in eliciting the support of relevant public authorities in strengthening National Society legal and, as appropriate, statutory base frameworks
 - formulate a specific and tailored National Society development offer to National Societies for the strengthening of their Statutes (e.g. in such areas as integrity risk prevention and management on the basis of Chapter 6 of the Guidance document)
 - monitor the progress of National Societies and assess the compliance of their Statutes with the new Guidance document;
5. *encourages* the development by the IFRC, the ICRC and the Joint Statutes Commission of new and strengthened approaches for effective and contextualized advice and recommendations to National Societies on their Statutes, taking into consideration:
 - the wide variety of approaches and different traditions and contexts, including through the development of concrete illustrations of the implementation of the various standards set out in the Guidance document
 - strengthened peer-to-peer approaches, including *inter alia* through relevant National Society governance or technical networks established at regional or sub-regional

levels

- the support provided by National Societies working internationally and, more generally,
- a more direct, concrete and contextualized dialogue with National Societies on the basis of the new Guidance document;

6. *requests* the Joint Statutes Commission to report to the Council of Delegates in 2021 on the progress made by National Societies in revising and strengthening their Statutes in line with the new Guidance document and the other operative paragraphs of the present resolution;

7. *adopts* the Volunteer Charter at the level of the Movement and invites the Movement components to apply it at all times.

Annexes

- Guidance for National Society Statutes 2018
- Volunteer Charter