

Power of humanity

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

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

Geneva, Switzerland
8 December 2019

**Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on
Internal Displacement: Ten years on**

RESOLUTION

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

Geneva, December 2019

RESOLUTION

Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement: Ten years on

The Council of Delegates,

expressing its deep concern about the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other persons and communities affected by internal displacement, including as a result of armed conflict, violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, disasters, the effects of climate change and other emergencies, and *acknowledging* the inadequacy of current responses to this issue,

taking into consideration the complex and interrelated nature of the various causes of displacement and its effects,

stressing the value of the complementary mandates and expertise of the different components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) in helping address displacement-related challenges and of the role of National Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field,

emphasizing the importance of a holistic response that considers the specific needs and vulnerabilities of IDPs, the impact of their displacement on host communities and the needs of those who are at risk of displacement and those who stay behind,

recognizing that a people-centric approach, fostered by the Movement's access and proximity to communities, is key to achieving greater humanitarian impact,

recalling that IDPs are not a faceless group and that their specific needs, vulnerabilities, capacities and coping mechanisms may differ according to their gender, age, physical and mental health and personal circumstances,

recognizing that internal displacement can sometimes be a first step towards cross-border movements into neighbouring countries and beyond and that such situations require comprehensive and coordinated responses to maximize protection and assistance for all those in need,

stressing the importance of respect for international humanitarian law, which applies in situations of armed conflict, and for international human rights law, which applies at all times, in preventing displacement, and *recalling* that these bodies of law, within their respective spheres of application, protect all persons affected by displacement, such as IDPs and resident and host communities,

underlining the relevance of international disaster law and environmental law in mitigating displacement induced by disasters or the effects of climate change,

recognizing the protection that national laws and policies can provide to people at risk of displacement and during displacement, and *emphasizing* the importance of the efforts of all the components of the Movement, in accordance with their mandates, to support States in incorporating international humanitarian law, human rights law, international disaster and environmental law and relevant regional legal frameworks into their national laws, regulations and policies applicable to IDPs,

emphasizing the need to take effective measures to address the root causes of internal displacement, and prevent actions that may aggravate the humanitarian situation of IDPs,

welcoming the efforts of the United Nations in developing the GP20 Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced People 2018–2020 to mark the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and the continuing efforts of the African Union in promoting the ratification and implementation, by its member States, of the Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year,

recalling and reaffirming the commitment of the components of the Movement to improving protection of and assistance to IDPs, as expressed in Resolution 5 on the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement, adopted by the Council of Delegates ten years ago, and based on previous resolutions adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Resolution XXI, Manila 1981; Resolution XVII, Geneva 1986; Resolution 4A, Geneva 1995; and Goal 2.3 of the Plan of Action of the 27th International Conference, Geneva 1999) and by the Council of Delegates (Resolution 9, Budapest 1991; Resolution 7, Birmingham 1993; Resolution 4, Geneva 2001; and Resolution 10, Geneva 2003), and *recognizing* the linkages with the 2009 Policy on Migration of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC),

recognizing the continuing relevance of the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement in providing clarity, focus and guidance to the Movement's response and *reiterating* the need to ensure it is better known and implemented by all the components of the Movement,

1. *urges* all the components of the Movement, acting in line with their respective mandates and the Fundamental Principles, to ensure that their responses to the protection and assistance needs of IDPs and host communities, including the support provided to other components of the Movement and responses undertaken in cooperation with other entities, are informed by the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement, thereby strengthening its implementation;
2. *calls upon* all the components of the Movement to enhance their responses to internal displacement, especially in the following areas: urban internal displacement, where relevant;¹ prevention of displacement and protection during displacement; and durable solutions;
3. *requests*, in the context of internal displacement in urban settings, that all the components of the Movement integrate both the short- and longer-term needs of urban IDPs outside camps and those of their host communities into their analysis and responses, which can be done by combining structural interventions at the level of urban services and domestic legal and policy frameworks with tailored responses to help IDPs rebuild their lives, such as cash-based assistance among other approaches, and by integrating IDP-related issues into tools and approaches specific to urban settings;
4. *requests*, while reaffirming that States have the primary responsibility with regard to preventing displacement and providing protection and assistance during displacement, that all the components of the Movement intensify efforts to help prevent the conditions leading to displacement and, where not possible, to ensure people's safety, dignity and physical and psychological integrity throughout their displacement, keeping in mind that women, men, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities may have specific vulnerabilities based on interrelated factors, such as their gender, age, physical and mental health, ethnicity, religion or indigenous culture, that need to be considered, including, for example, the risk of sexual violence;

¹ In the resolution and related documents, "urban settings/areas" and "cities" are used interchangeably to refer to socially complex and densely built and populated areas that have an influence over a larger area. This includes urban centres of various sizes and their outskirts. "Urban displacement" refers to internal displacement to and within cities, i.e. rural to urban, inter-urban and intra-urban.

5. *recommends* strengthening National Society capacity to assess and respond to IDP protection needs by implementing the “minimum protection approach”,² as described in the Protection within the Movement Framework,³ when engaging with IDPs and that all the components of the Movement pay specific attention to the prevention of family separation during displacement, engage with the authorities to increase awareness of and access to restoring family links (RFL) services for affected people and provide RFL services in line with the [Movement’s RFL Strategy 2020–2025](#);
6. *requests*, with regard to durable solutions, that all the components of the Movement improve their coordinated response in support of voluntary, safe and dignified choices for IDPs by engaging with the authorities on the full spectrum of durable solutions (return, local integration and resettlement in another part of the country), in line with IDPs’ rights and driven by their priorities and intentions, taking into account the perspectives of host communities and residents of potential areas of integration, return or resettlement, and by increasing the Movement’s capacity to support people’s efforts to rebuild their lives, including through more effective coordination and cooperation with development organizations;
7. *calls upon* all the components of the Movement to engage with IDPs and other people and communities affected by displacement in a more structured and systematic way, providing them with useful and protection-relevant information and ensuring their meaningful participation in the analysis of needs and the design of adequate responses as well as in the implementation and evaluation of those responses, in line with the [Movement’s wide Commitments on Community Engagement and Accountability](#), and *encourages* National Societies to implement the [IFRC’s Minimum Standards for Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Emergencies](#) to this end;
8. *encourages* all the components of the Movement, according to their respective mandates and with a view to preventing displacement and protecting IDPs, to step up their efforts to support authorities in the development and implementation of domestic laws, regulations and policies that uphold States’ obligations and the rights of IDPs as well as the protections that should be afforded to them and in the integration of IDP protection into broader legislative and policy efforts, including those aimed at the domestic implementation of obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law and those aimed at comprehensive disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, informed by an evidence-based analysis of the context;
9. *calls upon* all the components of the Movement to dedicate more resources to strengthening the capacity of National Societies to respond to internal displacement and, to this end, *requests* the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the IFRC to collaborate in developing common training tools on the Movement’s approach to internal displacement, applicable legal frameworks and relevant standards and to create a Movement Reference Group on Internal Displacement to serve as a community of practice to foster exchanges of experience and lessons learned and to promote and monitor implementation of this resolution;
10. *requests* the ICRC, in close coordination with the IFRC, to report to the Council of Delegates in 2021 on the implementation of this resolution;

² The “minimum protection approach” describes how National Societies can increase their capacity to analyse, prioritize and react to violations of the rights of the individuals they are assisting, either through direct representations to the authorities or by referring cases to another protection actor.

³ Protection Advisory Board, “*Protection within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*”, 2018, available on the Protection in the Movement CoP Platform.

CD/19/R7

11. *invites* the ICRC and the IFRC to give due consideration to making this topic the subject of a resolution at the 2023 International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.