

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

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Towards a Movement Strategy on Migration

Draft zero resolution

Document prepared by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross in cooperation with the other members of the Migration Leadership Group (23 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) and in consultation with the Global Migration Task Force (including 43 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)

Geneva, September 2021

DRAFT ZERO RESOLUTION

Towards a Movement Strategy on Migration

The Council of Delegates,

acknowledging the benefits of migration and the positive contributions of migrants to countries of origin, transit and destination,

expressing deep concern about the suffering of many migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, along migratory routes across the world and the threats to which they are increasingly exposed during their journey, on land or at sea, in countries of transit and destination, notably as a consequence of restrictive migration policies, which affects their physical and mental well-being and their ability to be resilient and integrate in the host country,

recognizing the new challenges faced in relation to disasters and the effects of climate change as well as those faced in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic in ensuring protection and respect for the rights of migrants, including refugees, not only in terms of their access to health, psychosocial and socio-economic support and other essential services, but also in terms of ensuring access to asylum,

recalling that, although it is within the sovereign prerogative of States to regulate the presence of non-nationals within their territory and to decide on the criteria for their admission and expulsion, this is not absolute and must comply with international obligations,

further recalling in this regard that all migrants – including those in an irregular situation – enjoy protection under international human rights law and other bodies of international law, including international humanitarian law when they are in situations of armed conflict, as well as under domestic law, and that, in addition to this, refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons are also entitled to special protection under international and regional law,

stressing that the vulnerabilities of migrants can be reduced when States uphold their obligations and adopt and implement policies that take into account the protection and assistance needs of migrants, including children, women, victims of trafficking, persons with disabilities and persons in need of international protection,

bearing in mind that there are situations where a continuum exists between internal displacement and cross-border movements and that such situations require comprehensive and coordinated responses to maximize protection and assistance for all those in need, based on the participation of the affected people,

recalling and reaffirming past resolutions on topics relating to migration adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (including Resolution 21, 24th International Conference, Manila, 1981; Resolution 17, 25th International Conference, Geneva, 1986; Resolution 4, 26th International Conference, Geneva, 1995; Resolution 1, Annex, Declaration “Together for Humanity”, 30th International Conference, Geneva, 2007; Resolution 3, 31st International Conference, Geneva, 2011; Resolution 4, 33rd International Conference, Geneva, 2019) and by the Council of Delegates (including Resolution 9, Budapest, 1991; Resolution 7, Birmingham, 1993; Resolution 4, Geneva, 2001; Resolution 10, Geneva, 2003; Resolution 5, Geneva, 2007; Resolution 4, Nairobi, 2009; and, in particular, the “Movement Call for Action on the Humanitarian Needs of Vulnerable Migrants”, adopted by Resolution 3, Antalya, 2017, and the “Movement Statement on Migrants and our

Common Humanity”, adopted by Resolution 8, Geneva, 2019) as well as the Policy on Migration adopted by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 2009 (which was also welcomed by the whole Movement in Resolution 4 of the Council of Delegates, Nairobi, 2009) and the IFRC’s current Global Strategy on Migration 2018–2022,

acknowledging the important work carried out by the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies), the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), collectively comprising the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement), to address the protection and assistance needs of migrants in vulnerable situations along migratory routes and its work with host communities and those who stay behind in the country of origin and *underlining* the unique position and added value of the Movement in carrying out this work, based on its Fundamental Principles and its people-centred, vulnerability-based and purely humanitarian approach,

recognizing the crucial role of local actors, including National Societies working with affected communities, in responding to the pandemic,

recalling the respective and complementary mandates, roles and responsibilities of the components of the Movement, based notably on the Statutes of the Movement and resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, including the role of National Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, the IFRC’s broad humanitarian mission to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, and the ICRC’s key areas of activity in the field of migration which include protecting and assisting migrants, notably in contexts of armed conflict and other situations of violence, and its role in restoring family links, detention and other protection matters,

highlighting the role of the Movement in contributing to the implementation of the humanitarian objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, as recognized in paragraph 44 of the Compact, and of the Global Compact on Refugees, in line with the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals,

taking note of the results of the survey conducted in early 2020 to capture National Society views on emerging migration-related trends and challenges and *recognizing* the development of a Movement strategy on migration as the most important priority in which the Movement should invest moving forward in order to foster a coherent approach, cooperation and complementarity in the field of migration, especially on topics where divergence exists,

welcoming the establishment in 2020 of the Movement Migration Leadership Model, consisting of the Migration Leadership Group, the pre-existing Global Migration Task Force, whose work is closely connected to regional migration networks (Asia Pacific National Society Migration Network, Sahel+ Migration Network, Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants, and Middle East and North Africa Migration Network), and the Global Migration Lab, and *emphasizing* the critical role of this model in fostering effective and inclusive leadership, strong engagement, long-term commitment and capacity and ensuring that the Movement’s evidence-based work and advocacy on migration are “fit for purpose” so that it is ready to take on future challenges,

Operative paragraphs

1. *agrees* on the need for and importance of a Movement strategy on migration that focuses on the most pressing migration-related challenges while considering the link with internal displacement where relevant in order to ensure a strong and coherent positioning for the Movement and coordinated, multi-sectoral and inclusive action in

support of migrants in vulnerable situations along migratory routes, in conjunction with its work to address root causes, capitalizing on the complementary mandates, roles and responsibilities of the different Movement components, which must be performed in full conformity with the Fundamental Principles;

2. *formally endorses* the Migration Leadership Group's role of developing a Movement strategy on migration as the centrepiece of their workplan and the work it has undertaken so far in this regard and *welcomes* the supporting role and work of the Global Migration Task Force and the Migration Lab and the involvement of regional migration networks in supporting the development of the future strategy;
3. *mandates* the Migration Leadership Group to continue its work and to submit the finalized Movement strategy on migration for adoption at the 2023 Council of Delegates;
4. *recommends* that the development of the future Movement strategy on migration be informed by the experience and expertise of regional migration networks, including the Asia Pacific National Society Migration Network, Sahel+ Migration Network, the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants and the Middle East and North Africa Migration Network, in order to ensure the broad participation of National Societies, so that the lived experience of their staff and volunteers is duly represented throughout the process, and by migrants' priorities and lived experience, and draw on learning from the IFRC Global Strategy on Migration and other similar Movement-led processes, and *further highlights* the need to ensure coordination between the future strategy and the Movement's Restoring Family Links Strategy 2020–2025;
5. *calls upon* all components of the Movement to continue and strengthen the implementation of existing commitments in this area, including the current IFRC Global Strategy on Migration, while the Movement strategy on migration is being developed, in the interest of migrants in vulnerable situations, recognizing their different humanitarian needs, capacities and status, and to dedicate adequate human, financial and technical resources to that end.