

**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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**Strengthening the resilience of urban communities:  
Our way forward**

**Draft zero resolution**

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of the Red Cross**

Geneva, December 2021

## DRAFT ZERO RESOLUTION

### Strengthening the resilience of urban communities: Our way forward

The Council of Delegates,

#### THE PROBLEM

**PP1.** *recognizing* that 56% of the estimated world population, which currently stands at 7.8 billion people, live in urban areas and that this percentage is projected to increase to nearly 70% by 2050, with transformative opportunities and challenges for communities and stakeholders at all levels, including for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement),

**PP2.** *recognizing* the serious and specific impacts of natural hazards, multiple hazards, man-made disasters, public health emergencies (epidemics and pandemics) and other crises on urban areas, including the most recent health and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and *expressing deep concern* that the effects of climate change and rapid and unplanned urbanization further aggravate these impacts, increasing vulnerabilities and affecting the resilience of communities, institutions and systems,

**PP3.** *further recognizing* that urban violence, civil unrest and conflicts threaten the safety and well-being of urban communities and their future prospects,

**PP4.** *acknowledging* the specific vulnerabilities of the urban poor, people living in informal settlements, marginalized, underserved or otherwise vulnerable persons, migrant and displaced communities, older persons, youth and children, and persons with disabilities, and identities based on gender and diversity,

**PP5.** *reiterating* the Movement's commitment to "leave no one behind" and to put **communities at the centre** of our action in order to contribute to building safe, resilient, inclusive and **sustainable** cities, notably by prioritizing the most vulnerable and underserved communities and groups, and *emphasizing* the need for a joined-up approach and greatly increased efforts by the Movement and its partners to ensure that collectively we can reach the most vulnerable communities within cities and reduce the impacts of disasters and crises in urban areas,

#### COMMITMENTS WE HAVE MADE AND ACTIONS WE HAVE TAKEN TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM

**PP6.** *recalling* the resolution entitled "Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement: Ten years on" (CD/19/R7) adopted by the Council of Delegates in 2019, and *recalling further* the previous commitments of the components of the Movement toward building a stronger, more flexible urban response, including the Climate and Environmental Charter, and the commitments of more than 100 National Societies in the Beijing Call for Innovation, the Manila Action Plan, the Buenos Aires Action Plan and the Pan African Conference,

**PP6bis.** *welcoming* the upcoming adoption by the Council of Delegates of the “War in Cities” resolution and the accompanying Movement Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to the Humanitarian Impacts of War in Cities,

**PP7.** *noting* the commitments of the components of the Movement to contribute to global frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, the Global Compact for Migration, the New Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, according to their mandates, strategies, capacities and the specific needs they encounter,

**PP8.** *welcoming* the efforts that the National Societies and the IFRC have undertaken to build the resilience of urban communities through their programmes and operations, as provided for in the IFRC Strategy 2030, the IFRC Plan and Budget 2021–2025, the Urban Collaboration Platform, the Asia-Pacific Urban Community Resilience Hub and the Global Shelter Cluster, and *further welcoming* the support that the ICRC has provided to the efforts and programmes of the National Societies,

**PP9.** *commending* the National Societies for the considerable work accomplished to effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic while also addressing the added stress on services, economies and society resulting from the pandemic,

#### **WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE ABOUT THE PROBLEM/WHERE OUR ACTION MUST FOCUS**

**PP10.** *acknowledging*, however, that despite the commitments and actions undertaken to date, far more investment and work is needed from the components of the Movement, in accordance with their mandates, strategies and capacities, to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable in urban settings,

**PP11.** *recognizing* that cities are often characterized by limited social cohesion and isolation that could increase the level of people’s vulnerability on the one hand and weaken the enabling environment for promoting volunteerism within communities on the other,

**PP11bis.** *recognizing* the key role of local actors and municipal authorities as an integral part of urban risk preparedness and community empowerment and the importance of strengthening partnerships between National Society branches and local governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and community networks in cities to respond to future crises effectively, utilizing innovative approaches coming from our own National Societies, such as coalition building and public-private partnerships,

**PP12.** *recognizing* the added value of National Societies in reaching the most vulnerable and *recalling* their key role as auxiliaries to public authorities in the humanitarian field, complementing governments’ plans and programmes according to their specific roles, mandates, strategies and capacities in the country,

**PP13.** *recognizing* the need to better understand urban systems and processes as a basis for informing more contextually appropriate and dynamic urban responses as well as for thought leadership and exchange, and the potential for National Societies to play a key role in this,

## Operative paragraphs (OP)

### ADVOCACY

- 1) *calls upon* all components of the Movement to advocate for increased investment in urban settings for climate adaptation, health risk mitigation, disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response, resilience-building approaches, and preparedness and response to armed conflict and other forms of urban violence, according to their respective mandates, strategies, capacities and the specific needs they encounter and with special attention to environmentally responsible solutions;

### AUXILIARY STATUS

- 2) *calls upon* National Societies, with the support of the IFRC, to continue strengthening their auxiliary status vis-a-vis public authorities and to build on existing agreements with governments to ensure strengthened engagement and partnerships at the municipal level;

### WORK ON A COMMON STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

- 3) *requests* all components of the Movement to scale up their work on urban settings, notably through the development of a common urban strategy and action plan to be adopted at the next Council of Delegates in 2023, consistent with the IFRC's Strategy 2030, existing commitments made in the IFRC Plan and Budget 2021–2025 and the ICRC's Strategy 2019–2022, and in this regard:
  - a) *requests* National Societies, with the support of the IFRC and the ICRC, to establish a Movement Urban Advisory Group (MUAG) to develop the strategy and action plan, with the first meeting being held no later than October 2022;
  - b) *encourages* the MUAG to include experts from a broad variety of sectors relevant to our work in urban areas (e.g. health, shelter and housing, road safety, climate, migration and displacement, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods), including from IFRC Reference Centres, and representatives from the Youth Commission and senior management, with due regard to geographic distribution and gender balance;
  - c) *urges* the MUAG to specify and elaborate on certain core principles in the urban strategy, including the commitments to leave no one behind, to put communities at the centre of our action, including through youth empowerment, and to make our work more environmentally sustainable as per commitments in the Climate and Environmental Charter [**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**];
  - d) *encourages* the MUAG to pay specific attention to the aspects of building and scaling up **partnerships** with local governments and key city stakeholders to identify opportunities to enhance the contribution to urban community resilience according to government plans, scaling up the **provision of services** in urban settings, considering the social protection plans of governments to enhance interaction with social safety nets and developing the Movement's ability to **share lessons learnt and drive innovation** on humanitarian and development actions in urban settings, and to the ways in which **volunteering**

**in urban areas** is evolving and is affected by urban dynamics [WHAT TO FOCUS ON];

- e) *encourages* the MUAG to also focus on cities that are impacted by extreme weather conditions and on urban slums and the urban poor to ensure that programmes are reaching the most vulnerable people and to take into consideration the linkages between urban and rural contexts [WHERE TO FOCUS, GEOGRAPHICALLY];
- f) *encourages* the MUAG to systematize all the knowledge and lessons learnt captured by National Societies and the IFRC in different documents and publications related to programmatic approaches to urban risk and community resilience in the last two decades;
- g) *encourages* the MUAG to take into consideration the recommendations of the Urban Community Resilience Workshop organized by the IFRC General Assembly on 19–21 June 2022;

#### INTEGRATE URBAN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE INTO OUR ACTION

- 4) *requests* all National Societies, with the support of the IFRC and the ICRC, in line with their respective mandates, strategies and capacities, to scale up their efforts to integrate urban community resilience into their regular programming, promoting a multisectoral and multidimensional approach.