



Power of humanity

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Strengthening the resilience of urban communities: Our way forward

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RESOLUTION 11

Strengthening the resilience of urban communities: Our way forward

The Council of Delegates,

recognizing the added value of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) in reaching and working with the most vulnerable and *recalling* their key role as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, in line with their respective mandates and strategies,

recognizing the particular role that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has in assisting the National Societies in risk reduction, disaster preparedness, the organization of their relief activities and the relief operations themselves and the International Committee of the Red Cross's (ICRC) role in cooperating with National Societies on matters of common concern, such as their preparation for action in times of armed conflict and the dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and international humanitarian law,

recognizing that 56% of the estimated world population currently live in urban contexts¹ and that this percentage is projected to increase to nearly 70% by 2050, with transformative challenges and opportunities for communities and stakeholders at all levels, including for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement),

recognizing the serious and specific impacts of hazards and disasters, including public health emergencies and other crises, often occurring simultaneously, in urban contexts, and *expressing deep concern* that the effects of environmental degradation, climate change and rapid and unplanned urbanization further aggravate these impacts, increasing vulnerabilities and affecting the resilience of communities, institutions and systems,

further recognizing that urban violence, internal disturbances and tensions, and armed conflicts threaten the safety and well-being of urban communities and their future prospects,

acknowledging the specific vulnerabilities of the urban poor, people living in informal settlements, migrant and displaced communities, older people, youth and children, people with disabilities, homeless people, people with intersecting identities based on gender and diversity factors and other marginalized, underserved or otherwise vulnerable people while also recognizing that these communities are, in their own right, powerful agents of change,

reiterating the critical importance of "leaving no one behind" and putting communities at the centre of our action through community engagement and empowerment in order to contribute to building safe, resilient, inclusive and sustainable cities and to reduce the impacts of disasters and crises, in particular, on vulnerable and underserved communities,

¹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS>

recalling the resolution “Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement: Ten years on” (CD/19/R7), adopted by the Council of Delegates in 2019, and the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations,

welcoming the adoption by the Council of Delegates of Resolution CD/22/R6 “War in Cities” and its annexed 2022–2027 Movement Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to the Humanitarian Impacts of War in Cities,

noting the contributions of the components of the Movement to the implementation of 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 and strategies,

welcoming the efforts that the National Societies, as local actors, have undertaken to build the resilience of urban communities through their strategies and programmes, supported by the IFRC and the ICRC, as appropriate,

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

acknowledging, however, that despite the commitments and actions undertaken to date, far more investment and work is needed to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable in urban contexts,

recognizing that urban contexts 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,

recognizing the key role of local actors and authorities as an integral part of urban disaster management and the importance of strengthening partnerships between National Societies and local authorities, civil society, professional associations, academia, the private sector and community networks through their branches to prepare for, respond to and recover from crises more effectively, utilizing innovative approaches coming from our own National Societies, such as coalition building and public-private partnerships,

recognizing the need to better understand urban systems and processes and the root causes of risk as a basis for informing more contextually appropriate and dynamic urban action and for thought leadership and exchange, and the potential for National Societies and Reference Centres to play a key role in this,

1. *calls upon* all National Societies, supported by the IFRC and the ICRC, as appropriate, to advocate for increased investment in sustainable and environmentally responsible approaches to humanitarian action in urban contexts and to coordinate their efforts to ensure consistency and avoid duplication;
2. *also calls upon* National Societies 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 all levels, including the municipal level;

3. *urges* all components of the Movement to scale up their work on urban resilience in accordance with the IFRC's Strategy 2030, the IFRC Plan and Budget 2021–2025, the ICRC Institutional Strategy 2019–2024 and the 2022–2027 Movement Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to the Humanitarian Impacts of War in Cities and in this regard:
 - a) *invites* the IFRC, in close collaboration with National Societies and the ICRC, to establish and lead a Movement Urban Resilience Working Group (MURWG) whose aim will be to produce a globally applicable set of principles of action for urban resilience to be adopted at the 2024 Council of Delegates and subsequently presented to States and partners at the 35th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, with a view to encouraging a stronger focus on urban resilience;
 - b) *encourages* the MURWG to consider, in particular, the importance of “leaving no one behind”, putting communities at the centre of our action through community empowerment and engagement and making our work more environmentally sustainable as per the commitments set out in the Climate and Environment Charter;
 - c) *also encourages* the MURWG to involve experts from a broad variety of sectors relevant to our work in urban contexts, including from the Reference Centres, with due regard to geographic distribution and gender balance;
 - d) *further encourages* the MURWG to pay specific attention to principles of action for urban resilience that take into account the importance of:
 - i. partnerships with local governments and key urban stakeholders;
 - ii. the provision of services in urban settings;
 - iii. sharing lessons learned and driving innovation on humanitarian and development actions in urban settings;
 - iv. volunteering in urban areas;
 - e) *encourages* the MURWG to also consider a wide range of urban contexts when formulating the principles of action for urban resilience, including those that are impacted by extreme weather conditions, urban violence and urban poverty, with a view to ensuring that programmes are reaching the most vulnerable people, and to take into consideration the linkages between urban and rural contexts;
 - f) *also encourages* the MURWG to collect the knowledge and lessons learned captured by the Movement to guide National Societies in the implementation of urban resilience initiatives and to use what has been learned to contribute to the development of the principles of action for urban resilience;
 - g) *further encourages* the MURWG to take into consideration the results of the Urban Community Resilience Workshop held on 11 May 2022 in the lead-up to the 2022 IFRC General Assembly;
4. *requests* all National Societies, with the support of the IFRC and the ICRC and in line with their respective mandates and strategies, to scale up their efforts to mainstream urban community resilience into their regular programming, promoting a multisectoral and whole-of-society approach, and to dedicate sufficient resources to strengthening National Societies in this regard.