



Power of humanity

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

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Reaffirming the Role of the Movement as a Factor of Peace and Resilience

DRAFT ELEMENTS OF RESOLUTION

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DRAFT ELEMENTS OF RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the role of the Movement as a factor of peace and resilience

BACKGROUND

The draft elements of the proposed resolution “Reaffirming the Role of the Movement as a Factor of Peace and Resilience” seek to provide an outline of the possible substance of individual paragraphs, without providing a definitive draft text. Each paragraph is followed by a rationale explaining why it would be useful to include such a paragraph in the resolution.

This document is being shared for consultation with the members of the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to gather a first round of comments and feedback and to gain an initial understanding of whether the proposed approach would be acceptable and to garner consensus.

When providing comments and feedback on this document, please consider the following questions:

- Do you agree with the proposed elements for the preambular and operative paragraphs of the proposed resolution?
- Are there any elements that are missing or should be included in the resolution?

Detailed comments on the wording of the draft elements of this resolution are not expected at this stage. There will be an opportunity to comment on specific wording at a later stage, once the draft zero of the resolution is available.

INTRODUCTION

Several important trends in recent years emphasize the need for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) to reinforce actions aimed at enhancing the linkages between peace and resilience. We face enormous challenges in a world marked by growing inequalities, marginalization, economic shocks, increasing insecurity and disasters exacerbated by climate change, ongoing conflicts, evolving global threats such as pandemics, and the stalling or reversal of progress towards sustainable development.

With geopolitical, subregional and national polarization increasing tensions, political instability and conflicts continue to intensify as nations grapple with divergent interests, economic challenges, territorial disputes, ideological differences (religious, ethnic and social) and domestic divisions due to the politicization and securitization of migration and other challenges relating to social cohesion. The world faces a range of interconnected global threats, including forced displacements, pandemics, climate change and cybersecurity risks. The [Global Peace Index 2023](#) highlights a disturbing increase in conflicts driven by political tensions, economic disparities and environmental challenges. Escalating violence and insecurity have disrupted societies while diminishing trust in national and international institutions poses a threat to resilience and peaceful conflict resolution at all levels. These conflicts often escalate into

regional or global crises, highlighting the fragility of international stability. They also generate and exacerbate humanitarian crises around the world, which can have long-term repercussions on the fabric of society.

To address these challenges, the Movement – driven by the principle of humanity – must renew its attention to conflict resolution and prevention, promoting community resilience as a contribution to development, education on the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, the promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL), local youth engagement, the transformative power of volunteering and multilateral cooperation. These efforts are crucial to mitigate the risk of violence, discrimination and exclusion and to promote peaceful coexistence.

The Movement has always held peace as one of its ultimate objectives.¹ The principle of humanity, the Movement’s driving force, is defined, in part, as “promot[ing] mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples”. The Movement’s motto, “*per humanitatem ad pacem*” – through humanity to peace – underscores its commitment to the promotion of peace. As the Statutes of the Movement state, “by its humanitarian work and the dissemination of its ideals, the Movement promotes a lasting peace”, defining peace as a “dynamic process of cooperation among all States and peoples ... founded on respect for freedom, independence, national sovereignty, equality, human rights, as well as on a fair and equitable distribution of resources to meet the needs of peoples”.

Peace, in this context, extends beyond the absence of violent conflict to include cooperation founded on the Fundamental Principles and supported by “a universal sense of solidarity towards all those in need of its protection and assistance”. This commitment to dialogue, cooperation and humanitarian values has remained constant, and the work undertaken to bring it to life has evolved over the Movement’s long history.²

The Movement’s ethos is based on respect for and the promotion of human dignity; this in turn is translated and reflected in values such as equity, gender equality, fairness and inclusion. These values and principles are active; the Movement endeavours to bring them to life through actions and words, seeking positive and constructive solutions to problems, tensions and potential sources of violence. In armed conflict, the promotion of IHL is a symbol of our shared commitment to human dignity even in the darkest of times.

The concept of resilience is central to the work of the Movement, which aims to enhance the capacities of individuals, institutions and communities, especially the most vulnerable ones. Resilience-building involves contributing to existing capabilities within communities and supporting them in becoming stronger and better able to cope with shocks. Building on local capacities and connecting them to local and national systems, including the involvement of local actors and communities in decision-making and response efforts, is a key approach to promoting resilience and peace. By supporting the empowerment of individuals, local organizations and communities, we can enhance the sustainability of our impact and ensure our responses are tailored to the context.

¹ Jean Pictet, *The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent: Commentary*, 1979, pp. 18–20.

² Vision of the IFRC, as defined by its Constitution (*Article 4, version 2007*); Declaration “Together for Humanity”, adopted at the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent; Vision of the IFRC regarding its role in addressing violence as set out in a report on a high-level meeting on violence held in Geneva in (2008; IFRC Strategy 2020 (2009); IFRC Youth Declaration (2009); IFRC Strategy on Violence Prevention, Mitigation and Response 2011–2020; Resolution 3 of the 32nd International Conference “Sexual and gender-based violence” (2015).

The 2024 Council of Delegates presents a timely opportunity for the Movement to reaffirm its commitment to leveraging its unique role as the world's largest humanitarian network to contribute to peace. It is also an opportunity to strengthen the Movement's capacities, advocacy and expertise in this area so that it can better assist vulnerable populations in building peaceful and inclusive societies, in line with our mandates. The proposed resolution reminds us of our historical commitments around peace and resilience and the need to recommit our efforts to these ends. It would be an appropriate and valuable contribution to the Council's previous decisions, commitments and commissions related to the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace.

PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS (PP)

PP1: A preambular paragraph could acknowledge the changing global landscape, including the increasing complexity and interconnectedness of global challenges, such as armed conflicts, disasters, internal displacement and migration as well as public health crises, climate emergencies and other emergencies that contribute to fragility, lack of resources, increased violence and exclusion. These challenges require innovative approaches and increased local engagement in order to build sustainable peace and resilience.

Rationale: This is based on the background above and trends described in reports such as the Global Peace Index, which highlight a disturbing increase in both internal and international conflicts, driven by political tensions, economic disparities and environmental challenges.

PP2: A preambular paragraph could reaffirm the motto of the Movement “per humanitatem ad pacem” – through humanity to peace – which underscores its commitment to peace.

Rationale: This Movement motto, which is included in the preamble of the Movement's Statutes, underscores its commitment to establishing peace by building social cohesion based on human-centred programmes and activities.

PP3: A preambular paragraph could reiterate the importance and relevance of the Fundamental Principles and affirm the commitment of all components of the Movement to alleviating human suffering and strengthening and building the capacity and resilience of communities affected by conflicts and disasters.

Rationale: This refers to the Statutes and Constitution of the components of the Movement and to the foundations of the Movement's long-standing role of contributing to peace. The Fundamental Principles underscore the Movement's mission to create dialogue, understanding and cooperation, supported by the universal sense of solidarity towards all those in need.

PP4: A preambular paragraph could reaffirm the mission statement of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to “encourage and coordinate the participation of the National Societies in activities for safeguarding public health and the promotion of social welfare and a culture of non-violence and peace in co-operation with their appropriate national authorities; encourage and coordinate between National Societies the exchange of ideas for the education of children and young people in humanitarian ideals and for the development of friendly relations between children and young people of all countries, and to share good practices for the participation of youth in volunteer services and decision-making processes; assist

National Societies to recruit, protect, empower and retain volunteers and members from the population as a whole and to promote awareness and understanding of the Fundamental Principles and ideals of the Movement to them and to the general public”.

Rationale: This is from the IFRC Constitution, Section 1, Article 5.A. This preambular paragraph showcases the core mandates of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the IFRC’s role in creating and sustaining inclusive and peaceful societies.

PP5: A preambular paragraph could recognize the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in maintaining and disseminating the Fundamental Principles and its mandate to take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its role as a specifically neutral and independent institution and intermediary.

Rationale: This is from the Movement’s Statutes and relevant in terms of the ICRC’s contribution to an environment conducive to peace.

PP6: A preambular paragraph could acknowledge the critical importance of complementary responses and, in particular, those of local actors, in addressing the diverse and evolving challenges faced by communities, especially in situations of conflict, disasters and other emergencies.

Rationale: The Movement supports and empowers local humanitarian action, particularly through National Societies, which have 16.5 million volunteers working at 188,000 local units in 191 countries and play a unique role as auxiliaries to their governments. Complementarity between local, national and international actors is built into the very design of the Movement and is essential for the effective, coordinated and principled delivery of humanitarian response. The local role of National Societies is unique because they act as auxiliaries to their governments, supported by their membership of the IFRC, which they collectively own and govern, and by their status as components of the Movement.

PP7: A preambular paragraph could emphasize the central role of National Society volunteers as front-line responders, recognize that volunteering strengthens civic sense and responsibility and engages all manner of people as active and constructive agents of change and acknowledge the transformative power of volunteering in promoting understanding, tolerance and respect among diverse cultures, religions and communities.

Rationale: As the 2022 IFRC Volunteer Policy affirms, voluntary service is a Fundamental Principle of the Movement. From the IFRC Strategy 2030, we know that volunteering and civic mobilization are key to ensuring more inclusive societies where everyone can enjoy the benefits and opportunities available. We also know that volunteers ensure we are deeply rooted in the communities we support, understand the persistent and emerging challenges in their communities and have ideas and passion for how to drive change. We know that the very nature of “community” and volunteering is changing, powered in part by greater connectedness and capacity to self-mobilize through digital technologies.

PP8: A preambular paragraph could affirm unwavering support and encouragement for the engagement of young people, recognizing their potential as agents of positive change, peacebuilders and advocates for resilience in an ever-changing world.

Rationale: Youth engagement has long been at the heart of Movement action. It is increasingly recognized as critical to progress on addressing pressing global challenges. The IFRC Strategy 2030 emphasizes a focus on the efforts of young people to drive the change they

want. The United Nations *Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 3* highlights that youth are key to identifying new solutions that will secure the breakthroughs that our world urgently needs. They must be enabled to participate effectively and meaningfully. The progress study *The Missing Peace* illustrates how young people are actively engaged within their communities, from simple acts of community service and civic engagement to advocating for the needs of their communities or participating in formal institutions. Young women and men also play active roles in organizing and mobilizing their peers at national, regional and global levels to address different forms of violence. The resilience of young people manifests not only in their agency, but also in their ownership and leadership in building peace. The initiatives undertaken by young people reflect the core approaches to sustaining peace – by taking into consideration the changing nature of violent conflict and the manifestations of exclusion of young people that remain unresolved.

PP9: A preambular paragraph could reaffirm the long history of the Movement's contributions to peace. This could refer to the history of Council of Delegates and International Conference resolutions, including the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace and long-standing action in the field of the promotion of IHL and international human rights law among all relevant actors.

Rationale: J. Pictet has described how in the wake of the First World War the International Red Cross “sharing the hopes of the nations, declared its intention to work thenceforth, not only in time of peace, but also for peace” (from a [report on a Round Table](#) held in 1967.). This has inspired a series of resolutions in International Conferences and Council of Delegates which can be usefully recalled. A parallel resolution on “Protection in the Movement” also refers to the work of the Movement in protecting affected people from violations of their fundamental rights, based on the principle of impartiality and prioritizing their needs. The preambular paragraph could reiterate the Movement’s stance that it is “driven by needs, informed by rights” and underline how that stance supports neutral and impartial work to promote peace.

PP10: A preambular paragraph could acknowledge that respect for IHL during an armed conflict can facilitate an eventual return to sustainable peace.

Rationale: Respect for IHL is critical in times of armed conflict to mitigate humanitarian consequences and also makes a return to sustainable peace more possible. IHL has positive and multiplying impacts when it is respected. For example, when the principles of proportionality and distinction are applied, lives are saved, critical infrastructure, such as hospitals and schools, remain open and markets can function. These are all factors that contribute to stability and pave the way for development and future peace.

PP11: A preambular paragraph could recognize the importance of education as a human right and a powerful tool for empowerment, social cohesion, the dissemination of IHL in education and the promotion of human values, including those that protect the environment and contribute to a culture of peace and coexistence.

Rationale: Education is recognized as a critical tool for fostering personal and societal well-being. It can play an important role in promoting conflict resolution, empathy, inclusion and intercultural understanding from an early age and also equips individuals with the competencies needed to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of different challenges, further enhancing resilience. Please refer to Article 5.A.e of the IFRC Constitution and the ICRC Access to Education Strategy 2020–2026.

PP12: A preambular paragraph could reaffirm action to promote and ensure respect for gender equality, diversity and inclusion and the fight against discrimination, exclusion, intolerance and racism as efforts that promote peace and resilience.

Rationale: Discrimination on the basis of any aspect of identity is antithetical to the Fundamental Principles, and the equality of all people is at the heart of the principle of humanity. This paragraph would seek to confirm that non-discrimination and equality require an acknowledgement of historical forms of discrimination that must be addressed in the interests of peace and resilient societies.

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS (OP)

OP1: An operative paragraph could recognize that achieving sustainable peace and community resilience requires a coordinated and sustained effort at all levels of the Movement, starting at the local community level and extending to the national, regional and international level.

Rationale: This paragraph would speak to the different levels at which Movement components are present and have an influence individually and in partnership. It would reflect the amplification of impact that is possible when the components work together.

OP2: An operative paragraph could call on the components of the Movement to further define the specific possibilities, priorities and limits of their efforts to contribute to peace, as appropriate in consideration of statutory instruments and their humanitarian mandate. This paragraph could recognize that, by virtue of being the world's largest humanitarian network, including front-line humanitarian actors, and witness to the suffering caused by conflict and disasters, the Movement has a unique influence that it can leverage.

Rationale: The Movement as a whole and its individual components can leverage their moral voice and convening authority to address the defining issues of our times which have a direct impact on the lives, dignity and well-being of people and communities globally. As noted above, making a contribution to peace has always been an objective of the Movement as a whole, driven by the mission to alleviate human suffering and protect human dignity. The form such a "contribution to peace" may take has evolved over time, based on needs, the nature of causes of suffering and risks to dignity, and the determination of an appropriate response to these in light of the Fundamental Principles and the respective mandates of the components of the Movement. The current challenges make the 34th International Conference an important opportunity to revisit this aspect of the Movement's work and define what it should look like for each component, with a view to meeting today's challenges.

OP3: An operative paragraph could encourage the components of the Movement to strengthen humanitarian diplomacy efforts in a collaborative and complementary manner, in pursuit of our common purpose to promote lasting peace among all peoples.

Rationale: Political decision makers, including those of partners and donors, are not always aware of the contribution the components of the Movement make to peace; concerted humanitarian diplomacy efforts are therefore needed to this end.

OP4: An operative paragraph could call on National Societies to prioritize volunteer and youth-led programming and invest in capacity-building programmes for local volunteers in

areas such as non-violent communication, mediation and dialogue facilitation, recognizing them as front-line responders and agents of change in their communities

Rationale: Volunteers and staff of National Society branches (local units) often come from the communities they work with – they speak the same language, understand local norms and are present before, during and after a crisis. Because of this proximity, they are uniquely well positioned to listen and respond to people’s views on their needs, priorities, vulnerabilities and capacities and to facilitate community engagement. They are also well-placed to understand patterns of discrimination, violence and exclusion, which helps them to ensure those who are most marginalized are included in support and assistance and protected from harm, abuse and exploitation.

OP5: Mindful that ownership and responsibility for education lies primarily with States, this operative paragraph could urge National Societies to prioritize and expand their efforts to support States in providing quality humanitarian education and education in emergencies, including on humanitarian values, and disseminating IHL, ensuring that these programmes are inclusive, accessible and tailored to the specific needs of affected communities, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups, with the support of the IFRC and the ICRC, where applicable.

Rationale: Based on Resolution 6 of the 2017 Council of Delegates on education and the IFRC Strategic Framework on Education adopted at the General Assembly in 2019, this operative paragraph will strengthen the positioning of National Societies in the field of formal, non-formal and informal education as contributors to peace and resilience.

OP6: An operative paragraph could call on National Societies to strengthen partnerships and collaboration with local governments, civil society organizations, local and national sports organizations, humanitarian, development and peace-building actors, where relevant, and other non-traditional stakeholders (such as international sports federations) to enhance collective efforts, develop joint strategies and share best practices in conflict prevention, peace education and resilience-building at the local level. **Similarly, it could call on the IFRC and the ICRC to use their international status to enhance opportunities to reinforce humanitarian education efforts that could be internationally supported.**

Rationale: This builds on Resolution 1 of the 2007 International Conference “Together for humanity” which emphasizes the need to intensify operational partnerships with other entities to combat violence, social exclusion and marginalization.

OP7: An operative paragraph could call on the Movement to increase collaboration on conducting research and knowledge-sharing and the gathering of evidence and case studies on the work carried out by the components of the Movement to support evidence-based programming and advocacy efforts that highlight the vital role of principled action, local leadership, youth engagement and volunteering in building sustainable peace and resilience.

Rationale: While the Movement’s influence is based on long-standing respect for its proximity to the people it serves and the relevance of the work it carries out, it will maintain and capitalize on its credibility more effectively if its efforts are continually supported by evidence and research.