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Strengthening disaster risk governance through comprehensive disaster Laws, policies and plans

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT AND
PROGRESS REPORT

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT

Strengthening disaster risk governance through comprehensive disaster laws, policies and plans

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is twofold: first, to provide the background and rationale for the disaster law resolution proposed for adoption at the 34th International Conference; and second, to report on progress in implementing Resolution 7 of the 33rd International Conference “Disaster laws and policies that leave no one behind”.

As detailed in this report, since the 33rd International Conference, significant progress has been made towards the implementation of Resolution 7. The IFRC and National Societies have supported the adoption of new disaster instruments in ten countries. On average, they have been involved in 18 legal review processes per year. The IFRC has also completed global research projects on three key topics: (1) disaster recovery; (2) public health emergencies; and (3) integration of disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA). As a result, it now has an extensive body of research and recommendations on disaster law, which it has consolidated into a single, comprehensive guidance document: the [Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines: Strengthening Laws, Policies and Plans for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management \(the Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines\)](#).

Although states continue to make significant progress towards strengthening their domestic disaster laws, more needs to be done. The recent Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework highlighted that progress in strengthening disaster risk governance has been varied and primarily confined to high-income countries.¹ It found that there is a continued need to enhance legal frameworks and that a significant number of countries identified assistance with establishing legal frameworks as a priority.² In this regard, the Political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 calls on states to strengthen comprehensive disaster risk governance and “[e]nsur[e] that disaster risk governance is supported by legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and plans at all levels”.³

The International Conference is a key international forum for continued dialogue on the strengthening of disaster laws, rules and policies.⁴ In light of the findings of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, the IFRC proposes to adopt a resolution at the 34th International Conference on strengthening legal preparedness for disasters and emergencies of all kinds and identifying the specific issues that require more detailed legal, policy and planning provisions. It also proposes that the resolution would endorse the new Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines as a non-binding but important tool for supporting states in this endeavour and reaffirm the mandate of the IFRC and National Societies in the area of disaster law, calling attention to their capacity and readiness to provide states with assistance in strengthening legal frameworks.

¹ [Report of the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030](#), p. 42.

² *Ibid.*, p. 43.

³ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 77/289, para. 26(c).

⁴ [Resolution 7, 33rd International Conference](#), 2019, [para. 14](#).

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Our world is becoming increasingly hazardous. In 2022, 387 natural hazard-related disasters were recorded worldwide, affecting 185 million individuals and resulting in economic losses of approximately USD 223.8 billion.⁵ Much of the increase in disaster losses is driven by the rise in climate- and weather-related disasters, such as hurricanes and floods. Alongside this, the 21st century has seen many public health emergencies, the COVID-19 pandemic being just one of them, albeit the largest. In this increasingly hazard-prone world, such events disproportionately affect marginalized and at-risk groups, including those living in high-risk areas, indigenous people, racial and ethnic minorities, older people and people with disabilities.

The term “disaster risk governance” refers to the system of laws, policies, plans and institutional arrangements that provide the foundation for DRM.⁶ The term “legal preparedness” means having in place well-designed, well-understood and well-implemented laws, policies and plans to deal with disasters and emergencies of all kinds. Strengthening disaster risk governance and legal preparedness is critical to keeping people safe from the impacts of disasters and climate change. Indeed, strengthening disaster risk governance is one of the four priorities for action set out in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

Since 2003, successive resolutions of the International Conference have granted the IFRC and National Societies a shared mandate for disaster law.⁷ This mandate has two pillars: first, to conduct research and advocacy and develop models, tools and guidelines for practical use in disaster response activities; and second, to assist states in strengthening their disaster laws. Consistent with this mandate, over the past two decades, the IFRC has developed several guidance documents to support domestic law and policy reform. In addition, the IFRC and National Societies have jointly supported governments in developing, reviewing and updating their disaster laws and regulations. To date, the International Conference has adopted or recognized three key disaster law guidance documents.

- In 2007, [Resolution 4](#) of the 30th International Conference adopted the [Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance](#) (commonly known as the **IDRL Guidelines**). They explain how governments can legally prepare to receive international disaster assistance, addressing the initiation and termination of international assistance; the responsibilities of affected states and assisting actors; the cross-border movement of personnel, goods and equipment; and the passage and arrival of land, marine and air vehicles.
- In 2015, [Resolution 6](#) of the 32nd International Conference recognized the [Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction](#), which was jointly developed by the IFRC and the United Nations Development Programme. The Checklist provides guidance on how domestic laws, policies and plans can support disaster risk reduction (DRR). It was also conceptualized as a tool to support domestic implementation of existing international standards, in particular, the Sendai Framework.
- In 2019, [Resolution 7](#) of the 33rd International Conference recognized the [Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response](#), which provides guidance on how domestic laws, policies and plans can best support disaster preparedness and response. It addresses a wide range of key issues including contingency planning, early warning systems, training, education and drills, institutional frameworks, declaration of a state of disaster and financing.

In addition to endorsing the Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response, Resolution 7 encouraged National Societies to continue providing advice and support to their governments for the development and implementation of effective legal and policy frameworks relevant to DRM. It

⁵ Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), Emergency Event Database EM-DAT, *2022 Disasters in Numbers*, CRED, Brussels, 2023.

⁶ [Report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction](#), A/71/644, 1 December 2016, p. 15.

⁷ [Final Goal 3.2, 28th International Conference](#), 2003, Subsections 3.2.4 and 3.2.6; [Resolution 4, 30th International Conference](#), 2007, para. 5; [Resolution 7, 31st International Conference](#), 2011, paras 14 and 15; [Resolution 6, 32nd International Conference](#), 2015, paras 16 and 17; [Resolution 7, 33rd International Conference, 2019, \(paras 10 and 11\)](#).

requested the IFRC to continue supporting National Societies and states in the field of disaster law through technical assistance, capacity building, the development of tools, models and guidelines, advocacy, ongoing research and promotion of the sharing of experiences, techniques and best practices among countries.

1) ANALYSIS AND PROGRESS

A) PROGRESS SINCE THE 33RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Progress in domestic implementation

Since the 33rd International Conference, the IFRC and National Societies have continued to provide advice and support to governments for the development and implementation of effective legal and policy frameworks relevant to DRM. Since the beginning of 2020, the IFRC and National Societies have provided technical support to ten countries to enact new DRM legislation or policy instruments: Guatemala, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malawi, Nepal, New Zealand, South Sudan, Turkmenistan and Vanuatu. As disaster law review processes tend to be lengthy, the number of new instruments reflects just a small part of the work carried out by the IFRC and National Societies in terms of disaster law advocacy and technical advice. Indeed, each new instrument adopted is generally the culmination of many years of constant and skilful technical support. Since the 33rd International Conference, the IFRC and National Societies have been involved in approximately 18 legislative drafting processes a year in different countries around the world.

In addition to the above, the IFRC has observed that many other governments have updated their disaster laws, policies and/or plans in the period since the 33rd International Conference. There is a general trend towards replacing or updating laws that focus predominantly on preparedness and response to weather-related disasters with multi-hazard disaster laws that also encompass prevention, mitigation and recovery. Progress also continues towards Target E of the Sendai Framework, which is to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local DRR strategies by 2030. Evidence of this progress can be seen not only in the number of such strategies adopted, but also in their content and level of implementation.⁸

Progress in developing new recommendations

Since the 33rd International Conference in 2019, the IFRC has continued to conduct research and develop recommendations on disaster law. Three major research projects have been completed during this period to fill key gaps in the IFRC's existing body of research and recommendations.

- In 2021, the IFRC completed a research project focusing on how to enhance integration and coherence between DRR and CCA. The project, which was conducted in partnership with University College Cork in Ireland, comprised a [literature review](#) and a set of four country case studies and culminated in a final report entitled [Global Synthesis Report on Law and Policies for Climate Resilience](#). The report provides recommendations on how to achieve normative coherence and integration between the DRR and CCA sectors.
- In 2022, the IFRC completed a research project on how domestic instruments can best support preparedness and response to public health emergencies. Drawing on a literature review and country-level research in 32 countries, the project investigated how laws, policies and plans had operated during the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies, such as those caused by the Ebola, Zika and SARS viruses. In mid-2021, the IFRC published a synthesis report entitled [Law and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). The recommendations from this report were published in early 2022 in a new guidance document: [Guidance on Law and Public Health](#)

⁸ The [Sendai Framework Online Monitoring Tool](#) can be used to obtain figures and graphs showing progress in achieving Target E. There are four indicators for Target E that can be selected for a date range between 2015 and 2023.

[Emergency Preparedness and Response.](#)

- In 2023, the IFRC completed a research project on law and disaster recovery. It comprised a [literature review](#), eight country reports and a final report entitled [Laws, Policies and Plans for Disaster Recovery: Multi-Country Synthesis Report](#). Each of the country reports comprehensively mapped the legal, policy and planning framework for disaster recovery in the country concerned and examined how that framework operated during recovery from a recent major disaster. The synthesis report drew on this rich body of research to provide a set of detailed findings and recommendations on how domestic laws, policies and plans can facilitate effective disaster recovery.

With these three projects completed, the IFRC now has a comprehensive body of research and recommendations on disaster law encompassing all major phases and aspects of DRM.

Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines

In 2023, the IFRC consolidated all of its existing recommendations on disaster law into a new document: Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines: Strengthening Laws, Policies and Plans for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management. The impetus for preparing the new Guidelines was twofold: first, the IFRC had received feedback that it would be helpful for all of its recommendations to be presented in a single comprehensive document; and second, as explained above, by 2023 the IFRC had developed an extensive body of research and recommendations on disaster law covering all major phases and aspects of DRM.

The Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines are a tool designed to support states in their efforts to strengthen disaster risk governance and become legally prepared for disasters and emergencies of all kinds. Their intended audience is domestic law and policy makers as well as DRM actors and stakeholders that support them. The Guidelines commence with a section on the foundations of an effective DRM system, including institutional arrangements, funding, monitoring and evaluation, and the prevention of fraud and corruption. They go on to address disaster prevention and mitigation; disaster preparedness, anticipatory action and response; and disaster recovery. The Guidelines also have sections dedicated to specific types of disasters; international disaster assistance; legal facilities for DRM actors; the protection and inclusion of marginalized and at-risk groups; mental health and psychosocial support; and disaster displacement.

The Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines adopt a holistic approach, explaining how different types of instruments – laws, regulations, policies, plans and standard operating procedures – can collectively provide a comprehensive framework for effective DRM. For each topic addressed in the Guidelines, there is a description of key legal and practical issues, followed by a checklist for the types of legal, policy and planning provisions that need to be in place. These checklists for each topic are designed to serve as a benchmark for assessing domestic instruments and identifying strengths, weaknesses and gaps. They can be used to identify areas for improvement and the types of provisions that may need to be enacted.

Progress in developing new tools

Since the 33rd International Conference in 2019, the IFRC has also made significant progress in developing new tools to support law and policy makers and DRM practitioners working on law and policy reform. The following is a list of the key tools developed during this period.

- **New online courses:** In 2021, the IFRC published two new courses on disaster law on the IFRC Learning Platform: [Introduction to International Disaster Response Law](#) and [Introduction to Disaster Preparedness and Response Law](#). They are designed to serve as short, introductory modules and are available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish.
- **IFRC disaster law website:** In 2021, the IFRC launched a new [disaster law website](#). It is a rich repository of information and resources on disaster law. Importantly, it has dedicated pages for regions, subregions and countries around the world, enabling users to learn about developments and best practice in other places.
- **IFRC Disaster Law Database:** In 2021, the IFRC launched the new [Disaster Law Database](#), which is the world's largest collection of documents relating to disaster law. The materials in

the database come from international, regional and domestic sources and from a wide range of actors, including states, international organizations, the IFRC and academic institutions. The database has full-text search functionality and can also be searched using a set of filters.

- **World Disaster Laws:** In 2022, the IFRC launched [World Disaster Laws](#), a project that outlines the main disaster laws of over 100 countries around the world. For each country featured, there is a dedicated page that provides an overview of the country's main disaster laws. There is a search function that enables users to quickly find laws with specific characteristics. It can also be used to calculate the percentage of laws that have a specific characteristic (either worldwide or in a selected region/subregion).
- **Handbooks:** In 2023, the IFRC developed two handbooks on disaster law review processes. [The Handbook on Disaster Law Reform: A Guide for Domestic Authorities](#) provides guidance for government decision makers and parliamentarians on how to run an effective and inclusive disaster law review process. The National Society Guide to Supporting Disaster Law and Policy Reform is a complementary resource which provides National Societies with guidance on how they can support their public authorities in disaster law and policy reform processes.
- **Disaster law MOOC:** In 2024, the IFRC launched the world's first massive open online course (MOOC) on disaster law, called Disaster Law and Policy for the Protection of the Most Vulnerable. It is a free online course that is open to anyone. Through lectures from disaster law experts around the world and carefully selected reading materials, it provides a comprehensive overview of how international, regional and national legal and policy frameworks can reduce the impacts of disasters.

B) AREAS TO BE STRENGTHENED

Although states continue to make significant progress towards strengthening their domestic disaster laws, more needs to be done. The recent Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework emphasized that progress towards strengthening disaster risk governance has been varied and primarily confined to high-income countries.⁹ It found that there is a continued need to enhance legal frameworks and that a significant number of countries identified assistance with establishing legal frameworks as a priority.¹⁰ It is against this backdrop that the IFRC proposes that the 34th International Conference adopt a resolution on disaster law in order to generate increased momentum and investment in this area, with the ultimate aim of reducing human vulnerability to disasters and climate change.

Legal preparedness

The proposed disaster law resolution encourages states to strengthen legal preparedness for disasters and emergencies of all kinds by developing comprehensive domestic disaster instruments. Further, it recognizes the new Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines as a non-binding but important tool for supporting states in this endeavour. The wording of the resolution supports a *comprehensive* approach to DRM that addresses disasters and emergencies of all kinds. Consistent with previous International Conference resolutions and in recognition of the need for additional assistance (as identified by the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework), the proposed disaster law resolution requests the IFRC and National Societies to continue providing advice and support to their authorities for the development and implementation of strong legal and policy frameworks for DRM at all levels.

The proposed disaster law resolution also contains paragraphs on specific topics that require more detailed legal, policy and planning provisions. These are discussed below.

Institutional arrangements

Effective DRM requires clear, comprehensive and inclusive institutional arrangements that support an all-of-government and all-of-society approach to DRM. Domestic instruments are key

⁹ [Report of the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030](#), p. 42.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 43.

to creating such arrangements. However, based on the IFRC's research and experience, in many countries there is a need to update domestic instruments to strengthen institutional arrangements.¹¹ Key challenges in this area include a lack of clarity regarding roles and responsibilities and omitting to include *all* relevant government institutions, organizations and other actors in coordination mechanisms. There can also be inconsistencies and duplication in the mandates, roles and responsibilities of DRM authorities and authorities responsible for health emergencies, technological disasters and CCA.

The proposed disaster law resolution calls for the strengthening of institutional arrangements for DRM and identifies specific ways in which domestic instruments can achieve this aim. Based on the IFRC's body of research and recommendations, it encourages states to use domestic disaster instruments to: identify the lead government authority responsible for DRM and provide it with a clear and comprehensive mandate; define the roles and responsibilities of all relevant actors to enable locally led action; ensure coherence and alignment between DRM authorities and those responsible for health emergencies, CCA and technological disasters; establish coordination mechanisms and promote an all-of-government and all-of-society approach, enabling the participation, protection and inclusion of all people, including those in vulnerable situations; and mandate practical measures to strengthen the knowledge and capacities of all relevant actors involved in DRM.

Innovative approaches to DRM

In the past 20 years, there has been a paradigm shift from a reactive approach focusing predominantly on disaster response to a proactive approach with an emphasis on reducing impacts through prevention, mitigation, preparedness, anticipatory action and recovery. This is clearly evidenced in the language of the Sendai Framework and its predecessors. Based on the IFRC's research, there are several specific areas where domestic laws and policies need to be strengthened in order to fully realize the potential of this proactive approach and reduce the humanitarian impacts of disasters and emergencies.

- First, it is crucial to develop legal, policy and planning provisions that provide the foundation for an effective, multi-hazard early warning system and that tie warnings to anticipatory actions to reduce impact.¹² Relatedly, as agreed in Resolution 7 of the 2019 International Conference "Disaster laws and policies that leave no one behind", legal provisions relating to disaster funding need to be amended to authorize the release of funding *prior* to disasters to support anticipatory action.¹³
- Second, in order to reduce impacts, DRR measures need to be mainstreamed into relevant legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and plans relating to DRM, land use planning, construction, the environment and natural resource management, and legal frameworks must be in place to provide for the protection, sustainable management and restoration of ecosystems.¹⁴ Taking into account that displacements associated with climate- and weather-related hazards have reached levels unprecedented in modern times,¹⁵ it is also important to incorporate displacement-related provisions into disaster laws, policies and plans (e.g. DRR plans, contingency plans, recovery plans).
- Third, it is essential to prepare for recovery in advance of disasters and enact detailed legal provisions to provide the architecture for an effective domestic recovery system. Consistent

¹¹ For analysis and recommendations on institutional arrangements for DRM, see the following IFRC publications: [Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response: Multi-Country Synthesis Report](#), 2019, Chapter 1; [Law and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), 2021, Chapter 4; [Laws, Policies and Plans for Disaster Recovery: Multi-Country Synthesis Report](#), 2023, Chapter 2; [Effective law and regulation for disaster risk reduction: a multi-country report](#), 2014, Chapter 7; [Law and Legal Issues in International Disaster Response: A Desk Study](#), 2007, Chapter 14.

¹² [Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response: Multi-Country Synthesis Report](#), 2019, Chapter 4; Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines, 2023, Section 3.

¹³ [Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response: Multi-Country Synthesis Report](#), 2019, Chapter 2; Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines, 2023, Section 1(C); [Resolution 7, 33rd International Conference](#), 2019, para. 2(a).

¹⁴ [Effective law and regulation for disaster risk reduction: a multi-country report](#), 2014, Chapters 14–20.

¹⁵ Alexandra Bilak and Prof. Walter Kaelin, [Climate Crisis and Displacement: From Commitment to Action](#), 2022.

with the recommendations of the recovery research project,¹⁶ the proposed resolution emphasizes the importance of domestic disaster instruments that: (a) mandate long-term and multi-sectoral recovery planning; (b) provide long-term recovery funding; and (c) establish a clear commitment to incorporating risk reduction measures into recovery consistent with the “build back better” principle propounded by the Sendai Framework.

International disaster response law

Since 2003, a core part of the IFRC network’s disaster law activities has been to support states in strengthening their legal frameworks for international disaster assistance in order to mitigate the common legal problems that afflict international disaster response operations. At the domestic level, the IFRC network has supported the implementation of the IDRL Guidelines in domestic instruments in 38 countries, with several adopting more than one instrument reflecting the recommendations of the IDRL Guidelines.¹⁷ The IFRC network has also influenced the development of regional provisions consistent with the IDRL Guidelines in Central America, the Andean countries, the European Union and South East Asia.¹⁸ Notwithstanding this significant progress, in the IFRC’s experience, many states are still not legally prepared to receive international assistance in the event of a disaster that exceeds their domestic response capacity. Therefore, the proposed disaster law resolution includes an operative paragraph urging states to continue making progress in this area, using the IDRL Guidelines as a helpful (albeit non-binding) tool.

Since the 33rd International Conference, states have shown increased interest in the prospect of developing a new international convention or some other instrument based on the International Law Commission’s [Draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters \(Draft Articles\)](#). This was evident in recent discussions held under the auspices of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. The IFRC has been closely following states’ deliberations on this issue and, as outlined in its [position paper](#), strongly supports the development of a new treaty based on the Draft Articles. It notes that the Draft Articles were themselves influenced by the IDRL Guidelines. In light of the foregoing, the proposed resolution also welcomes states’ efforts to continue dialogue on the Draft Articles and to consider the development of a new convention or some other instrument based on them. It emphasizes, in this regard, the relevance of the recommendations developed by the IFRC, including the IDRL Guidelines.

2) RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of the proposed resolution requires human and financial resources to be made available by the IFRC and National Societies. The IFRC and National Societies remain committed to providing these resources during the four-year period leading up to the 35th International

¹⁶ As mentioned above, in 2023 the IFRC completed a global research project on law and disaster recovery and published the report [Laws, Policies and Plans for Disaster Recovery: Multi-Country Synthesis Report](#) (2023), which outlines a set of findings and recommendations. While the final report identifies several positive trends in recovery governance, it ultimately finds that recovery has been overlooked compared to other phases and aspects of DRM. It cites earlier IFRC research which surveyed a sample set of 100 countries and found that only 16% had detailed legal provisions for disaster recovery. By contrast, the percentage is 54% for prevention and mitigation, 75% for preparedness and 75% for response. Overall, the report finds that a lack of legal provisions and detailed pre-planning can result in recovery arrangements being improvised in haste after disasters. Another key issue is that recovery planning and institutional arrangements often do not encompass long-term recovery. Securing adequate funding for long-term recovery is also a persistent challenge. As a result, recovery programming and funding can dry up long before communities have fully recovered.

¹⁷ The 38 countries are: Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, Seychelles, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Thailand, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

¹⁸ See the Regional Mechanism for Humanitarian Assistance in the Event of Disasters of the Central American Integration System, the Guidelines on International Cooperation for Humanitarian Assistance among Andean Countries, the European Union Host Nation Support Guidelines, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response and the ASEAN Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations. See also IFRC, [Fourth Progress Report on the Implementation of the Guidelines for Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance](#), 2019, pp. 8, 9 and 11; IFRC, [Progress in the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance](#), October 2011, p. 9.

Conference. In particular, the IFRC plans to retain its dedicated team of disaster law specialists in regional and subregional offices around the world. This team will be available to provide capacity building on disaster law and give technical advice during domestic law reform processes. To fully realize the potential of laws to reduce human vulnerability to disasters, dedicated resources will need to be allocated for this work by the states participating in the International Conference. These resources should take the form of domestic funding for the review and updating of disaster laws and, where possible, funding to promote disaster law reform and capacity building in other countries. Details of resourcing requirements to support planned programming activities for the period 2024–2028 are set out in the [IFRC Disaster Law Partnership Proposal](#).

3) IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The IFRC employs evidence-based research and monitoring and evaluation findings to inform programming and planning. Projects are monitored on a continuous basis by the heads of programmes in the different regions, including through constant contact with National Societies and occasional field visits. Monitoring is also carried out as part of systematic reporting against IFRC operational plans at the country, regional and global level. The IFRC will provide the members of the International Conference with progress updates on the implementation of this resolution through its global reporting platforms and the IFRC Disaster Law Annual Report. It will also provide a progress report on the resolution ahead of the 35th International Conference in 2028.

4) CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed disaster law resolution seeks to continue the important role of the International Conference as one of the key fora for dialogue on strengthening disaster laws, policies and plans. This dialogue is much needed in the context of an increasingly hazardous world and in light of the findings of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework. As mentioned above, the Midterm Review found that progress towards strengthening disaster risk governance has been primarily confined to high-income countries and that a significant number of countries identified assistance with establishing legal frameworks as a priority.

The IFRC anticipates that the proposed resolution will lead to increased momentum and attention to the importance of strengthening legal preparedness for disasters and emergencies of all kinds. It will draw the international community's attention to the new Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines, a comprehensive, state-of-the-art guidance document consolidating the IFRC's 20 years of research and recommendations on disaster law. In addition, the resolution will highlight critical areas where domestic instruments require further strengthening. Finally, it will reaffirm the mandate of the IFRC and National Societies in this area, positioning them to provide the disaster law assistance that states have identified as a high priority.