**Model text for pledge to**

**Strengthen disaster risk governance through comprehensive disaster laws, policies and plans**

**Background and objective**

The frequency and intensity of disasters has been increasing worldwide, compounded by climate change and other factors. People in vulnerable situations and those most at risk of being disproportionately impacted by disasters, such as those living in high-risk areas, women and girls, indigenous people, racial and ethnic minorities, older people and people with disabilities, often bear a disproportionate burden in the face of disasters and emergencies.

For over twenty years, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has recognized disaster risk governance, which refers to the system of laws, policies, plans and institutional arrangements pertaining to disaster risk management (DRM), as the foundation for the strong DRM system required to manage disaster risks in our increasingly hazardous world. Strengthening disaster risk governance and having in place well-designed, well-understood and well-implemented laws, policies, and plans relating to disasters and emergencies is crucial to keeping people safe from the impacts of disasters.

This document sets out a menu of **potential concrete, measurable and action-oriented commitments** that could be used in pledges on strengthening disaster risk governance through comprehensive disaster laws, policies and plans.

**How to use this document**

It is not expected that every element suggested here will be included in every pledge. It is up to each National Society and government making a pledge to decide what makes most sense for their specific context.

It is recommended that National Societies and governments make joint rather than individual pledges on these issues to reinforce their commitment to work together. This might be on a bilateral basis or in some other grouping (such as a regional group).

Please follow the instructions of the Joint Organizing Committee with respect to the procedures for signing and submitting pledges.

**Menu of potential pledge commitments to strengthen disaster risk governance through comprehensive laws, policies and plans**

[Jointly]

* Establish an **institutional structure** (e.g. working group, taskforce or committee) with a mandate to focus on strengthening relevant domestic legal and regulatory frameworks for DRM, including representatives from relevant disaster authorities, departments and agencies, parliamentarians and representatives from non-government actors and at-risk communities who will participate in and meaningfully contribute to the process;
* Undertake a **disaster risk analysis** to identify the main hazards present in the country and determine the levels of exposure and vulnerability to them and the capacities required to manage and reduce disaster risks;
* Undertake a **mapping of existing institutional arrangements** for DRM, including the identification of the key government and non-government actors involved, key roles, responsibilities and coordination mechanisms for different aspects of DRM and for different types of disaster, and capacities and available resources;
* Undertake a **stakeholder consultation** to identify the main practical challenges and problems that they encounter in DRM in the country and determine what types of solutions may need to be implemented and how weaknesses or gaps in existing legal arrangements impact on these issues;
* Conduct a **legislative review** and assess whether up-to-date and comprehensive domestic laws, policies, strategies and plans are in place to manage disaster risks of all kinds, including public health emergencies and climate-related emergencies. Use the operative paragraphs of the resolution *Strengthening disaster risk governance through comprehensive disaster laws, policies and plans* and the [*Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines: Strengthening Laws, Policies and Plans for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management*](https://disasterlaw.ifrc.org/DRMguidelines) as benchmarks for assessing domestic legal instruments and identifying strengths, weaknesses and gaps for improvement;
* Develop **new legal instruments** or amend existing ones, based on the gaps and weaknesses identified in the legislative review;
* **Strengthen the implementation** of existing legal instruments through measures such as:
	+ developing joint training opportunities for National Society and government workforces (including staff and volunteers) at the national, regional and local level
	+ promoting the sharing of experiences, techniques and best practices between countries
	+ conducting drills and simulation exercises for all actors with roles and responsibilities in DRM
	+ supporting the development of tools, models, guidelines and research
	+ strengthening public understanding of the rights, roles and responsibilities of different actors under existing law and policy on DRM;
* **Engage in discussions** on the prospect of 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.

**Menu of potential indicators and milestones (please pick the ones relevant to your commitments or develop new ones)**

* Number of new laws/regulations/policies/strategies/rules/plans relating to comprehensive DRM drafted, adopted, revised or updated by the government using the *Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines: Strengthening Laws, Policies and Plans for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management*.
* Existence of an institutional structure(e.g. working group, taskforce or committee) with a mandate to focus on strengthening relevant domestic legal and regulatory frameworks for DRM.
* Number of training events/simulation exercises conducted by the government and/or the National Society to strengthen understanding among the workforce and/or the general public about the rights, roles and responsibilities of different actors under existing law and policy on DRM.
* Number of tools, models, guidelines and/or research developed by the government and/or the National Society.
* Number of annual meetings or events held by the government and/or the National Society in relation to this pledge to discuss achievements, best practices and challenges in implementing the commitments.

**For regional/sub-regional pledges**

* Number of new regional instruments/agreements/protocols/manuals relating to comprehensive DRM drafted, adopted, revised or updated by the governments and/or the relevant regional DRM organization.
* Number of annual meetings or events held by signatories to this pledge to discuss achievements, best practices and challenges in implementing the commitments.

**Reference documents**

Resolution “[Strengthening disaster risk governance through comprehensive disaster laws, policies and plans](https://rcrcconference.org/about/34th-international-conference/documents-34th-international-conference/)”

[Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines | IFRC](https://disasterlaw.ifrc.org/DRMguidelines)

[Handbook on Disaster Law Reform – A Guide for Domestic Authorities | IFRC](https://disasterlaw.ifrc.org/media/4283)

For more information, please contact:

IFRC Lead, Disaster Law and Auxiliary Role: isabelle.granger@ifrc.org