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Movement Approach to Strengthen the National Society Statutory and Constitutional Base and Complementary Frameworks

PROGRESS REPORT
RESOLUTION 3 OF THE 2019 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

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**PROGRESS REPORT
RESOLUTION 3 OF THE 2019 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES**

**Movement Approach to Strengthen the National
Society Statutory and Constitutional Base and
Complementary Frameworks**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Modern statutory or constitutional frameworks are essential for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) to deliver sustained, relevant and principled humanitarian services. These frameworks safeguard integrity and support the humanitarian mission of National Societies recognized under national legislation.

Through [Resolution 3](#) of the 2019 Council of Delegates (CD/19/R3), “Movement approach to strengthening National Society statutory and constitutional base and complementary frameworks such as the Volunteer Charter”, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) adopted the [Guidance for National Society Statutes 2018](#) (Guidance Document), which was co-created by National Societies for National Societies, together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Joint ICRC/International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes (Joint Statutes Commission). The resolution also called on National Societies to review their statutes and related regulatory and policy frameworks within five years of the adoption of the resolution (i.e. by the end of 2024) and to continue with regular reviews at least once every ten years.

This is the second report produced by the Joint Statutes Commission since 2019 on the achievements and progress made towards these commitments. This report, covering the 28-month period from 1 March 2022 to 1 July 2024, is issued to meet the requirements of the resolution, as a follow-up to the commission’s 2022 report and, more broadly, as a comprehensive progress report since the Guidance Document came into effect in October 2018.

The Joint Statutes Commission reports that the following progress has been made in implementing the commitments established under the resolution:

- 24 National Societies (12.5 per cent) have statutory base texts and frameworks (statutes) that include all minimum standards (“musts”), as defined in the Guidance Document.
- 18 National Societies (9.4 per cent) have reviewed their statutes with the commission’s support. However, some minimum standards still need to be incorporated.
- 56 National Societies (29.3 per cent) are actively engaged in the process of reviewing and revising their statutes.
- 7 National Societies (3.6 per cent) have completed the process without the support of the commission.
- 26 National Societies (13.6 per cent) have contacted the ICRC, the IFRC and/or the Joint Statutes Commission informing them of their intention to review their statutes.
- 7 National Societies’ statutes (3.6 per cent) are in the process of being revised by the Joint Statutes Commission.
- 53 National Societies (27.7 per cent) still need to conduct and complete a revision of their statutes as soon as possible.

In total, 105 National Societies are currently or have been in dialogue with the Joint Statutes Commission. This represents approximately 55 per cent of all National Societies.

Compliance analysis

The Joint Statutes Commission analysed National Societies' statutes compliance¹ with the "must" standards of the Guidance Document, for which it has issued recommendations. The findings for each chapter of the Guidance Document are as follows:

- **Chapter 1 – National Society Identity:** 76.2 per cent of National Societies clearly establish their legal status, whereas 58.1 per cent define their mission and objectives.
- **Chapter 2 – Members:** 69.5 per cent of National Societies establish membership rights and duties, whereas 52.4 per cent define the process for acquiring membership.
- **Chapter 3 – Volunteers:** 51.4 per cent stipulate that National Societies are open to all who want to volunteer, whereas 49 per cent define their rights and responsibilities.
- **Chapter 4 – Leadership (Governance and Management):** 51.4 per cent introduce checks and balances in decision-making, whereas 36.2 per cent ensure the legitimacy and capacity of their governance bodies.
- **Chapter 5 – Organizational Structure and Territorial Coverage:** 79 per cent define the National Society's structure, whereas 61.9 per cent delineate unified operational practices.
- **Chapter 6 – Compliance, Integrity and Dispute Resolution:** 61 per cent include dispute resolution mechanisms, whereas 45.7 per cent incorporate integrity and ethical standards.
- **Chapter 7 – Financial Matters:** 67.6 per cent define how resources are mobilized, with 49.5 per cent committing to conducting independent audits.
- **Final Provisions:** 56.2 per cent establish procedures for statutes revision, with 59 per cent including dissolution provisions.

The way forward

The Joint Statutes Commission will continue to:

1. promote the revision of statutes and monitor progress. Emphasis will be placed on National Societies with lower compliance, meaning those that have communicated their intention to review their statutes or have not yet engaged in a dialogue with the Joint Statutes Commission.
2. study the compliance trends while implementing the Guidance Document standards.
3. encourage participatory, inclusive and transparent statutes revision processes.
4. support National Societies in preventing and managing integrity issues, contributing to principled humanitarian action.

Conclusion and recommendations

While many National Societies have revised their statutes, a significant number have yet to engage in this process. The Joint Statutes Commission encourages these National Societies to initiate or continue their revision efforts. Ongoing support and advice from the Joint Statutes Commission, the ICRC and the IFRC remain available to facilitate this critical work. The Joint Statutes Commission will report further progress at the 2026 Council of Delegates.

¹ The compliance analysis was done taking the 105 National Societies that have engaged with the Joint Statutes Commission.

1) INTRODUCTION

As auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, National Societies are entrusted with a key role in supporting their governments, which includes supplementing or substituting public humanitarian services, when required and according to the needs of the communities in their country. To ensure that National Societies remain trusted partners of choice for local humanitarian action, they must always be allowed to act and operate in accordance with the Fundamental Principles. In this regard, sound statutory base frameworks are paramount to National Societies fulfilling their mandates.

Modern statutory or constitutional base frameworks are a prerequisite for National Societies to be able to deliver sustained, relevant and principled humanitarian services to vulnerable people and communities, firmly anchoring the Movement in its humanitarian mission and in the Fundamental Principles. Both the legislation recognizing the National Society in its domestic legal system and the statutory base of a National Society are essential instruments to safeguard its integrity and make it a relevant humanitarian actor that can provide support to those who are most in need.

Developments in the humanitarian sector, such as the localization agenda and calls for humanitarian organizations to be more accountable, as well as the requirement for greater digitalization, have highlighted the need for National Societies to strengthen their internal rules, systems and processes. This has led the ICRC, the IFRC and the Joint Statutes Commission, together with the National Society development departments of both Geneva-based organizations, to further adapt their advice and forms of support offered to National Societies to help them enhance their recognition laws, statutory basis and related frameworks.

In Resolution 3, adopted by the 2019 Council of Delegates, the Movement called on National Societies to review their statutes and related regulatory and policy frameworks in accordance with the Guidance Document standards within five years of the adoption of the resolution (i.e. by the end of 2024) and to continue with regular reviews at least once every ten years. The resolution also sets out a series of commitments for the ICRC, the IFRC, the Movement as a whole and the Joint Statutes Commission in support of this objective. Now that the resolution's deadline is drawing near, it is worth highlighting that many National Societies updated their legal base using the Guidance Document.

The Guidance Document has proved to be a useful tool in helping National Societies update their legal base. This instrument was co-created by National Societies for National Societies, together with the IFRC, the ICRC and the Joint Statutes Commission. It establishes a series of minimum standards that are derived from the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the Fundamental Principles, the Statutes of the Movement (including the ten conditions for recognition of a National Society), the Constitution of the IFRC, and the resolutions and decisions adopted at the Movement's statutory meetings. The standards are also inspired by developments and new requirements in the fields of good governance, the National Society auxiliary role, integrity and compliance.

2) ROLE OF THE JOINT STATUTES COMMISSION IN IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTION 3 OF THE 2019 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

Through its resolution, the Council of Delegates requested that the Joint Statutes Commission report on the progress made by National Societies in revising and strengthening their statutes in line with the Guidance Document. This report is issued to meet the requirements of the resolution as both a follow-up to the Joint Commission's 2022 report and, more broadly, as a comprehensive progress report since the Guidance Document came into effect in October 2018.

The five-year term imposed by the resolution on National Societies to review their statutes will expire in December 2024. The drafting of this report closed at the end of June 2024, leaving National Societies with a further six months to work on the revision of their statutes or to inform the Joint Statutes Commission of the work undertaken.

This report reflects the work carried out by the Joint Statutes Commission in the implementation of its twofold mandate established under previous resolutions adopted by the International Conference and the Council of Delegates to:

- review and provide recommendations on the legal and statutory base of National Societies, including both National Society recognition acts (laws and decrees) and National Society statutory base instruments, and
- assess applications for recognition and admission to the IFRC received from new Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations and provide recommendations to the ICRC and the IFRC respectively.

For ease of reference, the term “statutes” shall, throughout this report, refer to a National Society’s statutes or constitution and related regulatory and policy frameworks (including internal regulations, by-laws and other internal regulatory or policy base instruments complementing a National Society’s statutes or constitution).

In issuing its recommendations, the Joint Statutes Commission has continued to use its standard letter format, which reflects the approach and structure of the Guidance Document. This includes the Guidance Document’s distinction between:

- “musts”, which establish, under each standard, the minimum requirements that a National Society’s statutes must comply with, and
- “coulds”, which include, under each standard, a series of suggestions aimed at improving the quality of National Society statutes that can be adapted to each National Society’s specific context and needs.

3) NATIONAL SOCIETIES’ LEGAL BASE

A. NATIONAL SOCIETY RECOGNITION ACTS (LAWS AND DECREES)

The Joint Statutes Commission issued, during the reporting period, a total of 12 letters presenting the commission’s recommendations on draft recognition acts (laws and decrees) regarding the minimum standards formulated in the model law on the recognition of National Societies.

B. RECOGNITION AND ADMISSION OF NEW NATIONAL SOCIETIES

With regard to the Joint Statutes Commission’s mandate to assess applications for recognition as a component of the Movement by the ICRC and for admission to the IFRC, no applications have been received from new National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies during this reporting period.

4) JOINT STATUTES COMMISSION STATUTES DASHBOARD: NEW DESIGN AND ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

- i. While drafting this report, the Joint Statutes Commission examined the efficiency of its monitoring tool (known as the dashboard) and found that the compliance categories could be expanded to better support the statutes revision processes. In light of this, during the

second quarter of 2024, the commission redesigned its dashboard aiming to: i) provide transparency regarding its work; ii) reflect the full spectrum of exchanges it has had with National Societies; iii) obtain indicators on National Societies’ compliance with specific standards; iv) identify areas of improvement, both in terms of communication with National Societies and promoting compliance; and v) identify areas to promote future peer-to-peer support in the revision of statutes. Based on this, the redesign of the dashboard has two main features: a new colour-coding system and columns indicating the Guidance Document’s standards.

ii. Regarding the first change, the colour coding aims to clarify the overall compliance of each National Society with the revision of their statutes, as well as reflect its communication with the Joint Statutes Commission. The colour coding was replaced as follows:

Previous colour coding	New colour coding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green: Statutes assessed as compliant with the Guidance Document standards. ▪ Orange: Review process initiated by the National Society; dialogue under way with the commission to adapt its statutes etc. ▪ Red: Statutes assessed as not compliant with the Guidance Document standards. ▪ No colour: No progress or timeline known or communicated to the commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green: Statutes revision concluded and all commission recommendations incorporated. ▪ Blue: Statutes revision concluded, but not all commission recommendations incorporated. ▪ Grey: Commission provided input, further feedback from the National Society still pending. ▪ Purple: Statutes revision done without the commission’s input. ▪ Yellow: National Society has informed the commission, the ICRC or the IFRC of its intention to review its statutes or that it is in early stages of revision. ▪ Red: Commission has not been approached by the National Society to review its statutes. ▪ No colour: The commission’s comments to the National Society are in progress.

iii. The second change to the dashboard involves the introduction of columns identifying the Guidance Document standards. The columns indicate the compliance status of each National Society. National Societies that comply with the minimum standards are marked with a green dot [●]. The National Societies that are not yet compliant with the standards are left blank. To fill in the dashboard columns, the Joint Statutes Commission only took into consideration compliance with the minimum requirements (“must” standards).

iv. Based on the above, the Joint Statutes Commission has completed the dashboard in the annex with the following caveats:

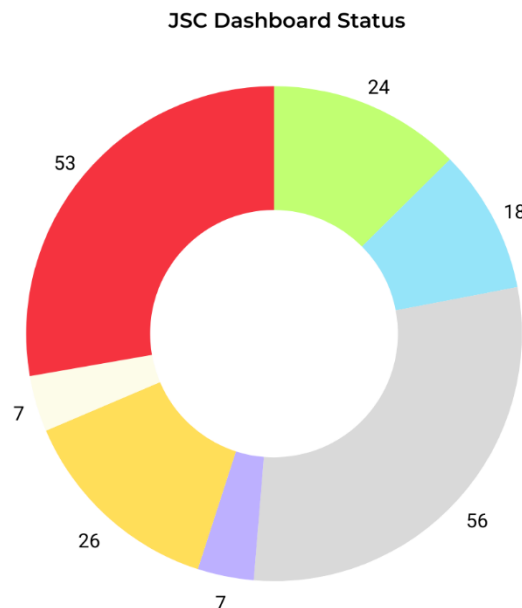
- As the five-year term imposed by the resolution expires in December 2024, with the rest of the year remaining, the number of National Societies revising their statutes may still increase and the dashboard will be updated accordingly.
- The dashboard only reports data following the adoption of the resolution.
- The colour coding assigned to National Societies is based on the information that is

either in the Joint Statutes Commission archives or has been provided by the delegations and offices of the ICRC and the IFRC. Therefore, it is possible that some status classifications might not yet reflect the current state of affairs.

- Some National Societies, after receiving the Joint Statutes Commission’s recommendations, have not shared their adopted statutes; hence, their compliance has not yet been fully assessed.
- The Joint Statutes Commission has not only taken into account formal exchanges with National Societies, but also some informal interactions between National Societies and the Joint Statutes Commission, the delegations and offices of the ICRC and/or the IFRC.
- Some interactions between the Joint Statutes Commission and National Societies have occurred on specific statutes provisions, and in these cases a full analysis of compliance has not yet been possible.
- There are two reasons for some National Societies not being given a colour-coded status: either the Joint Statutes Commission is in the process of issuing its comments or the letters have not been issued in line with the commission’s standard letter format (i.e. in a table with the “must” and “could” standards separated out). In both cases, the commission will prioritize issuing these recommendations.
- It is worth mentioning that in 2024, owing to the proximity of the deadline for the revision of statutes, the Joint Statutes Commission experienced an increase in workload. This, together with the retirement of the commission’s two co-secretaries, caused some delay in the revision process.

5) REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION 3 OF THE 2019 COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

Since issuing its 2022 report, the Joint Statutes Commission assessed compliance with the Guidance Document and issued recommendations to over 59 National Societies through 90 letters. More broadly, and since 2018, the Joint Statutes Commission identified that out of 191 National Societies:



- **24 National Societies** (12.5 per cent) have statutory base texts and frameworks (statutes) that include all minimum standards (“musts”), as defined in the Guidance Document.
- **18 National Societies** (9.4 per cent) have reviewed their statutes with the Joint Statutes Commission’s support. However, some minimum standards still need to be incorporated.
- **56 National Societies** (29.3 per cent) are actively engaged in the process of reviewing and revising their statutes.
- **7 National Societies** (3.6 per cent) have carried out the process without the support of the Joint Statutes Commission.
- **26 National Societies** (13.6 per cent) have reached out to the ICRC, the IFRC and/or the Joint Statutes Commission informing them of their intention to review their statutes.
- **7 National Societies’** statutes (3.6 per cent) are in the process of being revised by the Joint Statutes Commission.
- **53 National Societies** (27.7 per cent) still need to conduct and complete a revision of their statutes as soon as possible.

In total, 105 National Societies are currently or have been in dialogue with the Joint Statutes Commission. This represents approximately 55% per cent of all National Societies. Several National Societies informed the Joint Statutes Commission that because of ongoing crises (mainly armed conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic), they had to temporarily slow down their development efforts, including the revision of their statutes. Those National Societies either postponed the revision of their statutes or only reviewed some provisions of their statutes.

Overall, indicators are encouraging as they show National Societies are willing to engage in the process of revising their statutes and take into account the commission’s recommendations. Despite these encouraging outcomes, there is still a substantial gap in engagement, indicating a critical need for outreach and support to ensure broader compliance with the Guidance Document and reinforce good governance.

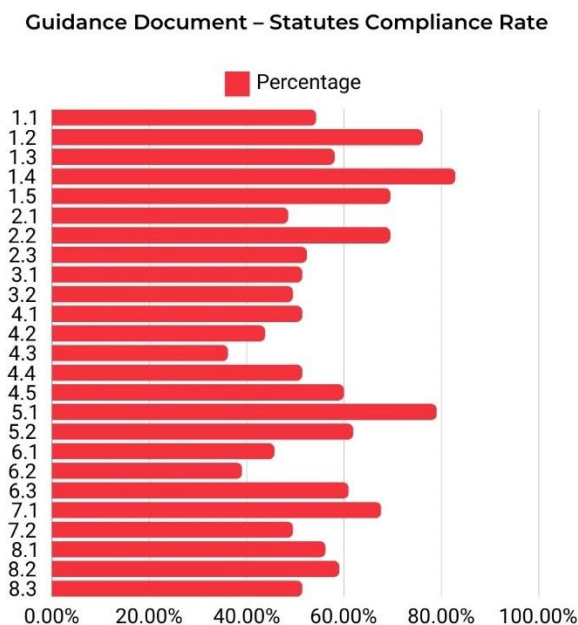
A. Qualitative analysis of National Society statutes compliance: progress

In order to provide a comprehensive report, the Joint Statutes Commission’s analysis involved collecting compliance data from its recommendation letters. Quantitative analysis tallied compliant National Societies, while qualitative analysis identified common challenges. The findings are displayed using bar charts to illustrate compliance levels, and a comparison is made with previous analyses of the progress report on Resolution 3 of the 2019 Council of Delegates (CD/22/25) to highlight trends and persistent issues. This structured approach provides a comprehensive overview of compliance.

The chart below demonstrates how many of the 105² National Societies that have contacted the Joint Statutes Commission have complied with the specific standards. The diagram displays the

² It is worth mentioning that of the 105 National Societies that the Joint Statutes Commission has engaged with, only 100 have received comments based on the commission’s latest letter template (which includes the “must” and “could”

compliance rates of National Societies with the various standards. Each standard is represented by a label on the y-axis, ranging from 1.1 to 8.3 based on the Guidance Document. The bars represent the percentage of compliance, based on the total number of National Societies that are or were actively engaged in dialogue with the Joint Statutes Commission.



SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT, AND AS A COMPARISON WITH THE COMMISSION'S 2022 REPORT, THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS PRESENT THE COMMISSION'S MAIN FINDINGS:

Chapter 1: National Society Identity

Although most National Societies' statutes mention the Fundamental Principles, only 57 National Societies' statutes (54.3 per cent) completely align with them throughout their provisions, as provided for in standard 1.1. In compliance with standard 1.2, 80 National Societies (76.2 per cent) mention their legal status in domestic law and set out their auxiliary role. Additionally, 61 National Societies (58.1 per cent) define their mission clearly (standard 1.3), and 87 (82.9 per cent) affirm their integration within the Movement (standard 1.4). Furthermore, 73 National Societies (69.5 per cent) have internal regulations for the proper use and protection of the emblem (standard 1.5).

These findings reassert past challenges, where ensuring a comprehensive reflection of mission and objectives in statutes remains a hurdle.

Chapter 2: Members

Currently, only 51 National Societies (48.6 per cent) ensure their membership is open to all (standard 2.1), a slight improvement reflecting ongoing efforts to enhance inclusivity. Standard 2.2, which defines membership rights and duties, is met by 73 National Societies (69.5 per cent). However, only 55 National Societies (52.4 per cent) have clearly defined the process for acquiring members (standard 2.3). The issues highlighted two years ago persist, particularly regarding

tables). In this sense, the data analysis only takes into account those letters issued under the latest commission letter template.

non-discriminatory recruitment practices and clear procedural fairness in the suspension and expulsion procedures for members.

Chapter 3: Volunteers

Compliance with standard 3.1, expressly stipulating that National Societies are open to all who want to volunteer, is met in 54 statutes (51.4 per cent). However, defining the rights and responsibilities of volunteers (standard 3.2) is met by 52 (49 per cent) in compliance. This reflects ongoing challenges identified previously, where non-discriminatory volunteer recruitment and fair procedural standards for suspension and expulsion have still not been fully addressed.

Chapter 4: Leadership (Governance and Management)

Effective leadership and governance remain crucial with moderate compliance. Standard 4.1, ensuring checks and balances in decision-making, is met by 54 National Societies (51.4 per cent). Only 42 National Societies (43.8 per cent) define governance bodies and positions clearly (standard 4.2), and a mere 38 National Society (36.2 per cent) ensure the legitimacy and capacity of their governance bodies (standard 4.3), which aim to describe the rules and procedures for election and/or appointments.

Regarding standard 4.4, regular rotation of governance positions is ensured by 54 statutes (51.4 per cent), and 62 (60 per cent) define top management roles (standard 4.5). Previous issues – such as unclear distinctions between governance and management roles, infrequent governance meetings and a lack of rotation in leadership positions – are still prevalent. These areas require focused attention to ensure transparent and legitimate governance.

Chapter 5: Organizational Structure and Territorial Coverage

In total, 83 National Societies (79 per cent) have successfully defined their organizational structure, ensuring high compliance with standard 5.1. However, only 65 National Societies (61.9 per cent) ensure they act, decide and speak as one (standard 5.2). These findings suggest progress in clarifying the National Societies' structure but indicate a need for more cohesive and unified operational practices.

Chapter 6: Compliance, Integrity and Dispute Resolution

Maintaining integrity and resolving disputes remain challenging areas. The highest compliance is found in establishing dispute resolution mechanisms (standard 6.3), with 64 National Societies (61 per cent) meeting this standard. In contrast, only 41 National Societies (39 per cent) define compliance procedures (standard 6.2). Additionally, 48 National Societies (45.7 per cent) have incorporated provisions defining integrity and ethical standards (standard 6.1). Previous analyses have highlighted insufficient mechanisms to ensure compliance with integrity standards, a lack of whistleblower protection, and inadequate internal dispute resolution processes. These issues are crucial for maintaining trust and integrity within National Societies.

Chapter 7: Financial Matters

There is moderate compliance with regard to defining in the statutes how resources are mobilized. Standard 7.1, ensuring transparent financial management, is met by 71 National Societies (67.6 per cent) showing high compliance, and conducting independent audits annually (standard 7.2) is met by 52 National Societies (49.5 per cent). Ongoing considerations include the need for enhanced commitment to regular external audits and improved resource mobilization, underscoring the importance of strengthening financial governance practices.

Chapter 8: Final Provisions

Final provisions ensure operational continuity and legal robustness within National Societies. In total, 59 National Societies (56.2 per cent) adequately define procedures for statutes revision (standard 8.1), while 62 National Societies (59 per cent) show moderate adherence to ensuring adaptability and legal closure through dissolution provisions (standard 8.2). The low compliance rate with statutes dissemination, with only 54 National Societies (51.4 per cent) complying, suggests a need for better communication of statutory changes at all levels, ensuring that all stakeholders are informed and engaged with the latest organizational rules and provisions (standard 8.3).

B. TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENT OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS BASED ON THE PREVIOUS ANALYSIS, THE JOINT STATUTES COMMISSION HAS OBSERVED THE FOLLOWING TRENDS:

- *Improvement in legal status, structural clarity and National Society as a component of the Movement.* There has been significant progress in ensuring that statutes reference National Societies' legal status and define their organizational structures.
- *Persistent membership and volunteer challenges.* Ongoing issues in ensuring that membership and volunteering are open to all remain significant. The ways in which National Society statutes may protect volunteers' and members' rights, and engage these groups in leadership and decision-making processes, need to be explored.
- *Moderate progress in leadership organization and governance.* While there is moderate improvement in leadership organization, issues such as governance role clarity, meeting frequency and leadership rotation persist. National Societies should continue to strive to ensure proper checks and balances.
- *Integrity and financial accountability needs.* Integrity standards and sound financial practices show moderate compliance, yet there are ongoing gaps in effective integrity mechanisms and regular audits. Continuous efforts are needed to strengthen these areas.

6) THE WAY FORWARD: THE ROLE OF THE JOINT STATUTES COMMISSION BEYOND 2024

A. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The Joint Statutes Commission will continue to promote the statutes' revision based on the Guidance Document. As a continuing support effort, National Society networks, as well as the delegations and offices of the ICRC and the IFRC at regional and subregional levels will, as far as possible, be mobilized to provide support.

Additionally, the Joint Statutes Commission will continue to monitor the progress made by National Societies and the efficiency of the Movement's approach to strengthening National Society statutes. In particular, it will aim to determine why certain National Societies have not been able to review their statutes or implement specific standards; therefore, those National Societies with the lowest compliance identified in the Joint Statutes Commission's dashboard will be prioritized for further support (i.e. mainly those identified in red and yellow). Equally, the commission will engage in a dialogue with National Societies to assess whether further clarifications and/or amendments to the Guidance Document are needed and will report on this accordingly. The commission will report on these implementation and monitoring efforts to the 2026 Council of Delegates.

B. JOINT STATUTES COMMISSION'S ROLE AND WORKING METHODS

National Societies are encouraged to submit their existing statutes and/or any envisaged revisions to the Joint Statutes Commission.

It should be noted that the Joint Statutes Commission issues recommendations, and it does not have a mandate to approve statutes. While the Joint Statutes Commission's recommendations need to be considered when revising statutes before adoption, notably in ensuring that the minimum requirements ("must" standards) are incorporated, it understands the existence of compelling reasons not to incorporate all the commission's recommendations, mainly because of national legislation considerations. Bearing in mind that the statutes revision is not a static process but a continuous one in which National Societies have committed to regularly review their statutes (at least every ten years, as provided for in the resolution), the commission considers that these recommendations should be kept for future revisions.

Furthermore, now that the Guidance Document has been in use for five years, the Joint Statutes Commission will continue to study the trends in compliance while implementing the Guidance Document standards. Additionally, the commission will share concrete illustrations on the implementation of the various standards, aiming to clarify their contents, as provided for in the Guidance Document and the resolution.

C. REFLECTING ON NATIONAL SOCIETIES STATUTES' REVISION PROCESSES

As indicated in its previous report, the Joint Statutes Commission is occasionally made aware of how the statutes revision process is conducted by some National Societies. During the reporting period, some complaints have been made about statutes revision processes that were not conducted in a participatory, inclusive and/or consultative manner. In some cases, this occurred in contravention of the National Society's statutory requirements. While acknowledging that the development and revision of statutes must remain an internal process and a key governance function in each National Society, the Joint Statutes Commission will consider whether this should be included as a compliance criterion in potential amendments to the Guidance Document. The commission encourages National Societies to read its Advisory Note, "Recommendations to National Societies on their Statutes Revision Process", before revising their statutes and to consult the delegations and offices of the IFRC and the ICRC in their country or region.

D. ROLE OF THE JOINT STATUTES COMMISSION IN PREVENTING, MANAGING AND RESPONDING TO INTEGRITY ISSUES

Strong, sound and comprehensive statutes have long been recognized as a key condition for ensuring and contributing to a National Society's capacity to prevent, manage and mitigate integrity challenges liable to affect its image, reputation and ability to act in accordance with the requirements of principled humanitarian action. This is recognized, in particular, in the very first standard of the 2018 Guidance Document – Standard 1.1: "The Statutes are in compliance with the Fundamental Principles" – and in Chapter 6 on "Compliance, Integrity and Dispute Resolution".

To this end, Resolution 2 of the 2019 Council of Delegates, "Statement on Integrity of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement", committed the Movement to further support National Societies in strengthening risk management through the revision of their statutes and it recalled the Joint Statutes Commission's compliance assessment role. During the reporting period, there was an ongoing discussion on the commission's place and position within the Movement's compliance and integrity ecosystem, and the desired interactions and pathways between the commission's mandate and other integrity management and response mechanisms and processes in the Movement and the IFRC. This is a discussion that will continue.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Resolution 3 of the 2019 Council of Delegates, “Movement approach to strengthening National Society statutory and constitutional base and complementary frameworks such as the Volunteer Charter”, committed all National Societies to revise their statutory or constitutional base frameworks in line with the 2018 Guidance Document by the end of 2024. As mentioned earlier in this report, a large number of National Societies have taken on the task, using the Guidance Document to update their statutes. According to the information available to the Joint Statutes Commission, many National Societies have yet to engage in a statutes review. Even though the deadline is coming to an end, it remains of the utmost importance that these National Societies (close to 53, according to the Joint Statutes Commission’s dashboard) continue or start working on their statutes. In the meantime, the Joint Statutes Commission encourages National Societies that have not yet done so, to communicate any steps taken or progress made or to initiate a revision process.

The Joint Statutes Commission will also continue to reflect on the issues listed above and those most frequently addressed in the commission’s recommendations, as well as on which forms of support could be further developed. In the coming years, trends and illustrations will be shared related to specific standards from the Guidance Document.

The Joint Statutes Commission, the ICRC and the IFRC, together with their departments concerned with National Society development, as well as their respective delegations and representations at regional, cluster or country level, remain available to provide any support or advice required in this respect.

Annex

[Dashboard of compliance with the Guidance for National Society Statutes, 2018 - Joint Statutes Commission report to the Council of Delegates 2024 \(updated 30 June 2024\).](#)