



Power of humanity

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Protecting people from the humanitarian impacts of extreme climate and weather events: Working together to strengthen anticipatory action

RESOLUTION

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Protecting people from the humanitarian impacts of extreme climate and weather events: Working together to strengthen anticipatory action

The 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

expressing deep concern about the impacts of extreme climate and weather events described in the Fifth and Sixth Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and *noting* that drivers such as climate change, biodiversity loss, population growth and environmental degradation will increase these impacts, especially on individuals and communities in vulnerable situations unless action is taken,

highlighting that vulnerability to extreme climate and weather events differs substantially among and within regions and is often highest in conflict-affected and particularly vulnerable settings, especially in small island developing States (SIDS), where there is already reduced capacity to cope with and adapt to increasing environmental and climate risks,

having considered the findings of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which show that, in most cases, forecast information about extreme climate and weather events is available before they happen and *recognizing* that the accuracy of such information has improved considerably over the years in many contexts due to technological progress, providing States and the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement), namely the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), with the opportunity to act ahead of the impact of extreme events to reduce humanitarian needs,

highlighting that despite these improvements, there remains a need to strengthen forecasting and risk analysis to better predict extreme weather and climate events, particularly multi-hazard situations, and their cascading, simultaneous and cumulative impacts through impact-based forecasting and international, regional, sub-regional, south to south, and national cooperation , among other actions,

clarifying that, for the purpose of this resolution, anticipatory action refers to “actions taken to reduce the humanitarian impacts of a forecast hazard before it occurs or before its most acute impacts are felt; the decision to take action is based on a forecast or collective risk analysis of when, where and how an event will unfold” and that anticipatory action can be most effective if triggers, actions, decision-making and funding are pre-agreed in a participatory manner,

recognizing the role that anticipatory action can play in reducing disaster risk and in limiting the impact of extreme climate and weather events on people, thereby reducing suffering and losses, while *acknowledging* that States’ vulnerabilities and exposure to such events vary and that gaps in funding, capacity and technology can hinder the full implementation of anticipatory action, especially

for developing countries and, in particular, SIDS, which are disproportionately impacted by extreme weather and climate events,

highlighting that anticipatory action provides an important bridge between longer-term prevention efforts and emergency response within the disaster risk management (DRM) continuum, complementing adaptation, preparedness and readiness efforts,

highlighting also that anticipatory action can contribute to averting, minimizing or addressing climate-related loss and damage and should be considered in relevant frameworks, mechanisms and discussions,

recalling that both States and the components of the Movement have committed to stepping up their efforts to prevent, anticipate, prepare for and respond to the growing humanitarian consequences of climate change, as reflected, for example, in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations and the Movement Ambitions to Address the Climate Crisis,

welcoming the global momentum around anticipatory action, as shown by the Early Warnings for All initiative, the Political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Getting Ahead of Disasters Charter, *taking note* of various commitments at the regional level, and *reaffirming* the Movement's collective commitment set out in Resolution 2 of the Council of Delegates on "strengthening anticipatory action in the Movement: our way forward" (CD/22/R2),

recalling Resolution 7 of the 33rd International Conference on disaster laws and policies that leave no one behind which encouraged States to integrate innovative approaches to DRM, such as anticipatory approaches, into their laws, policies, strategies and plans, and *welcoming* the call to States to strengthen their legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and plans for DRM in the resolution proposed at the 34th International Conference on strengthening disaster risk governance through comprehensive legal and regulatory frameworks,

recognizing the important role played by National Societies in developing and implementing anticipatory action plans as part of their crucial work to reduce disaster risks, in their role as auxiliaries to public authorities, as appropriate, thereby reducing suffering and losses in affected communities, and *acknowledging* the technical expertise and support provided by the IFRC and the ICRC according to their respective mandates,

highlighting that anticipatory action has been implemented successfully but needs to be scaled up by improving coordination and collaboration at the national and local level and across the humanitarian, development and climate sectors so that more people can be protected from climate and weather extremes,

1. *encourages* States to integrate anticipatory action into their domestic frameworks and systems, including those related to DRM, and where appropriate, into relevant climate, social protection, or health frameworks, and *calls on* Movement components to support this process, notably by providing technical advice, supporting the development of triggers, undertaking data collection and analysis, identifying the best possible anticipatory actions in each context and setting up procedures and teams to implement anticipatory action;
2. *invites* States to strengthen anticipatory action to address extreme climate and weather events in conflict-affected and particularly vulnerable settings, especially in SIDS and situations of protracted crises, including through improved early warning systems for weather and climate events, with support from the Movement components, as appropriate;
3. *encourages* States to strengthen their multi-hazard early warning systems in a holistic manner, in line with their commitments under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk

Reduction 2015-2030 and United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 78/120 and 78/152, to ensure the information needed to enable anticipatory action is disseminated and is accurate and easily accessible at the local level, particularly by enhancing disaster risk knowledge and forecasting capacities, including the use of local, traditional and indigenous knowledge, and *calls on* the Movement components to support these efforts;

4. *calls on* States to strengthen the capacities of local actors, including National Societies, to implement anticipatory action, leveraging existing resources and community early warning and preparedness systems to ensure funding, warnings and actions reach even the hardest-to-reach communities in time and emphasizing the importance of people-centred, inclusive, participatory processes which provide for meaningful participation of all persons, recognizing that women, men, girls and boys of different ages, disabilities and backgrounds can be affected differently by hazards, and with special consideration for those who are at risk of being disproportionately impacted by disasters;
5. *also calls on* States to create, increase and facilitate timely, effective and equitable access to financial mechanisms enabling anticipatory action at the national and local level by establishing pre-agreed financing arrangements, adapting existing funding mechanisms, including innovative ones, to enable resources to reach communities in time to be used in anticipation of extreme climate and weather events, in line with national law, and, where appropriate, making use of climate and development financing and existing regional and international financial mechanisms;
6. *encourages* States to work jointly with their respective National Societies on anticipatory action, make use of their experience and technical expertise in this field and enable them to play a strong role in its implementation as they do for preparedness and response in line with national laws and policies;
7. *calls on* States to support each other and the Movement components in work on anticipatory action specifically and on DRM generally, through the demonstration of solidarity, including through strengthening international cooperation and the provision of technical support, capacity development, and voluntary sharing of non-sensitive data and information, tools, mechanisms, and technology, on mutually agreed terms, especially for developing countries, in particular SIDS, as well as by contributing to relevant financial mechanisms, among other measures;
8. *invites* States to continue strengthening the evidence base for anticipatory action and enhancing and sharing their knowledge and experiences around anticipatory action and to consider using the Anticipation Hub and other relevant initiatives, such as the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership and the Humanitarian Innovative Finance Hub, for these purposes;
9. *requests* the IFRC to submit a progress report on the implementation of this resolution to the 35th International Conference.