



150 years of humanitarian action
**Council of Delegates of the International
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**
Sydney, Australia, November 2013



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COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
**OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

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**Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons:
Four-year action plan**

Resolution

Document prepared by
The International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red
Cross and Red Crescent Societies in consultation with Red Cross and Red Crescent
Societies

RESOLUTION

Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: Four-year action plan

The Council of Delegates,

reiterating its deep concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, including the unspeakable human suffering that their use would cause and the threat that such weapons pose to food production, the environment and future generations,

expressing its satisfaction that the concerns raised by the Council of Delegates in 2011 about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, the lack of any adequate humanitarian response capacity and the international humanitarian law issues arising from their use, are increasingly being recognized and raised by States in national and international fora,

welcoming on-going and new initiatives that help ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again and that can advance their elimination, in particular the March 2013 Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, the 2012 and 2013 meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the meetings of the UN Open-ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations and the UN General Assembly's High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament, as well as additional multilateral, bilateral and national initiatives pursuing these goals,

welcoming also the decision by the Government of Mexico to host a conference addressing the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons in February 2014,

reaffirming the position and actions set out in Resolution 1 of the 2011 Council of Delegates and commending the efforts of the components of the Movement to implement those actions at the national and international levels, including the National Society workshops held in Vienna (2012) and in Hiroshima (2013) and the National Society network established to support work on this issue,

recognizing that much more needs to be done to raise awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and to advance the objectives of (a) ensuring that nuclear weapons are never used again and (b) prohibiting the use of and completely eliminating nuclear weapons,

1. *adopts* 'Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: Four-year action plan';
2. *urges* all components of the Movement to implement the action plan, in particular by
 - (a) undertaking, to the extent possible, the action plan's activities to raise awareness of (i) the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, (ii) the lack of any adequate humanitarian response capacity, (iii) the view expressed in Resolution 1 of 2011 that it is difficult to envisage how any use of nuclear weapons could be compatible with the rules of international humanitarian law, and (iv) the need for concrete action leading to a prohibition on the use of nuclear weapons and their elimination,

- (b) engaging, to the extent possible, with governments to (i) encourage their active participation in current fora addressing the threat of nuclear weapons, (ii) convey the Movement's concerns and position on nuclear weapons, and (iii) urge them to take concrete steps leading to the negotiation of a legally binding international agreement to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate nuclear weapons – based on existing commitments and international obligations – and to conclude such negotiations with urgency and determination;
3. *invites* the Federation to play a coordination role in order to facilitate National Societies' endeavours in related areas as appropriate;
 4. *invites* National Societies to exchange their knowledge and experiences within the Movement;
 5. *invites* the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to monitor implementation of the Movement's action plan and to report, as necessary, to the Council of Delegates on the progress made on the issue of nuclear weapons and the implementation of Resolution 1.

Resolution co-sponsors :

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Algerian Red Crescent
Australian Red Cross
Austrian Red Cross
Barbados Red Cross Society
Belgian Red Cross
Belize Red Cross
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Canadian Red Cross Society
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Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: Four-year action plan

Through this action plan the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement build upon the commitments of Resolution 1 of the 2011 Council of Delegates (Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons), namely:

- to engage, to the extent possible, in activities to raise awareness among the public, scientists, health professionals and decision-makers of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, the international humanitarian law issues that arise from such use and the need for concrete actions leading to the prohibition of use and elimination of such weapons,
- to engage, to the extent possible, in continuous dialogue with governments and other relevant actors on the humanitarian and international humanitarian law issues associated with nuclear weapons and to disseminate the Movement position as outlined in Resolution 1 of the 2011 Council of Delegates.

This action plan will guide the components of the Movement in their efforts to implement Resolution 1 over the next four years. It outlines the types of activities that National Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Federation) intend to undertake and support. The components of the Movement will implement it to the extent possible in accordance with their respective mandates, expertise and capacities while taking into account their specific societal and political contexts and the opportunities provided by ongoing discussions regarding nuclear weapons.

Actions to implement Resolution 1

1. National

- National Societies publish Resolution 1 and relevant materials on nuclear weapons on their websites in national languages.
- National Societies transmit Resolution 1 to relevant government officials, departments and committees as well as to parliamentarians, together with an offer to brief them on the Movement's concerns and position.
- National Societies raise awareness of Resolution 1 at all levels within each National Society, including with governance, staff, volunteers and youth members. To the extent possible, National Societies organize at least one internal event or briefing on the Movement's concerns and position on nuclear weapons.
- National Societies, utilizing the framework of humanitarian diplomacy, undertake, to the extent possible, the following types of public and communication activities:
 - communicate to the general public in their countries the Movement's concerns and position on nuclear weapons. This could be via print, social, digital, electronic and other media

- host public events (e.g. seminars, conferences, presentations, panel discussions) for parliamentarians, health assistance professionals and other relevant and appropriate actors within civil society
 - identify and pursue opportunities to share the Movement's concerns and position with specialized audiences in their countries that may be interested in or active on the issue of nuclear weapons, in particular the academic, health, humanitarian, environmental, legal and scientific communities
 - educate and promote active engagement among young people on the issue of the consequences of nuclear weapons in humanitarian terms
 - include in their nationally distributed publications (e.g. newsletters, magazines, updates or other communications) a special focus on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, incorporating the Movement's position and concerns.
- National Societies engage with national disaster-planning agencies (a) to examine the likely humanitarian consequences of a nuclear detonation on national territory or in the region and the agencies' response capacity, and (b) to encourage involvement of disaster-planning officials in the development of national positions on nuclear weapons.

2. Regional

- National Societies, with support from the ICRC as appropriate, encourage States to raise the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in relevant regional fora (such as meetings of regional organizations), and to develop common regional positions reflecting the Movement's humanitarian concerns.
- National Societies develop, where possible, their own regional networks to engage with the public, with specialized audiences and with governments and to share their experiences and materials.

3. International

National Societies encourage their governments to participate actively in multilateral meetings discussing the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament, including the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons to be held in Mexico (February 2014), the UN Open-ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations (if it continues in 2014), the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its preparatory meetings, the Conference on Disarmament, and the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, and to take the Movement's concerns into consideration when developing their positions for such fora.

- The ICRC maintains its lead role in representing the Movement in relevant multilateral fora and provides timely reports on results achieved, next steps and opportunities for action by National Societies.

- The Federation coordinates National Societies' involvement in relevant multilateral meetings and ensures that the voices of National Societies are heard, particularly as regards the absence of any adequate capacity or plans to provide humanitarian assistance in response to the use of nuclear weapons.

4. Support for implementation

- The ICRC maintains a lead role within the Movement in promoting and monitoring the implementation of Resolution 1 while providing a range of publications and communication materials in a variety of languages.
- National Societies, with support from the ICRC and the Federation, maintain and develop the international network of National Societies active in promoting the Movement position on nuclear weapons. The network was established by the Second Meeting on the Implementation of Resolution 1 of the 2011 Council of Delegates, held in Hiroshima in May 2013. The network enables the timely exchange of information on action taken, past and upcoming events, and the activities of specialized organizations working in this field, and of materials and resources available for work with States and the public.
- National Societies, through the e-platform provided by the Federation, provide information on the progress made and the challenges encountered in implementing Resolution 1, so as to exchange experiences and knowledge within the Movement.
- Each National Society appoints a focal point to facilitate the implementation of Resolution 1, including by sharing information and experiences with other National Societies.
- The ICRC keeps all National Societies and the Federation informed on a timely basis of developments and opportunities at the international level.