

**Regional Meeting on the Role of the Red Cross Movement
and Migration in the Americas
Toluca, Mexico
7 - 8 November, 2016**

Considering

FIRST. – That migration is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon. A person migrates, voluntarily or involuntarily, for a variety of reasons, ranging from situations of violence, poverty, disasters, social crisis or political causes, to the desire for a better future, to reunite with their families or even flee from armed conflicts. The Americas region has more than 63 million migrants, originating from the same region or other continents, representing almost 30% of global migration.

SECOND. – That in the region the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (the Movement¹) notes with growing preoccupation the absence of adequate policies and the lack of implementation of existing ones to provide the necessary protection and assistance to migrants, particularly the most vulnerable along the migration route and communities of return. As such, the principle of non-refoulement must be respected according to international law and the commitment made by the States, prior to all deportation processes, and especially in cases where a person has a well-founded fear of being persecuted in their country of origin.

THIRD. – That the Movement is committed to working with governments, civil society, host populations and migrant communities to respond to the humanitarian needs of vulnerable groups, their families and the communities that welcome them. In the 2015 Council of Delegates (Resolution 7), the Movement recalled and reaffirmed its previous commitments and resolutions to act collectively to provide protection to migrants.

FOURTH. – The dire situation of migrants, the National Societies (NS) of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), gathered in the city of Toluca, Mexico, on 7 and 8 of November 2016, to reaffirm their strong commitment to continue their humanitarian work in favor of all migrants in the Americas. This work is directed and conditioned by the Fundamental Principles that govern and distinguish the Movement.

Within this framework, the components of the Movement in the Americas

¹ The Movement is composed of the National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

AGREE

1. In response to an increase in the indifference to the plight of migrant populations by governments and society, to take actions in order to sensitize and ensure that the causes of migration are understood, and that the rights and needs of migrants are recognized, respected and addressed.
2. That it is imperative to implement effective measures in accordance with the Fundamental Principles, international law and the Movement's Resolutions, in collaboration with authorities and other stakeholders, to guarantee the respect for the rights of migrants along the migration route in transit, in the country of destination and return, strengthening the resilience of migrants and communities.
3. That the National Societies of the region, with the active support of the Federation Secretariat, the ICRC, and other partners of the Movement, confirm their willingness to continue and, where necessary, extend their humanitarian action, according to their abilities and expertise, specifically migrants with the greatest vulnerabilities and particular needs.
4. To advocate for the guarantee of access to medical services to all migrants, especially in situations of greatest vulnerability, such as to those who are wounded, sick and victims of violence, paying particular attention to victims of sexual violence.
5. To advocate for the right of individuals to be treated with dignity along the migration route, as well as meeting the multiple needs of migrants and their families, including physical, psychological, psychosocial, administrative and legal, among others.
6. That measures must be facilitated to maintain and restore family contact, preserve family unity, and ensure the right of families to participate in and be informed about the search of their missing loved ones, given the high risk of disappearance along the migration route.
7. To advocate for alternatives to the detention of migrants, considering that this should be an exceptional measure and a last resort. For those who are detained, the States must assure that they have access to basic services, that family unity and contact be preserved, and that respect for their rights be guaranteed.
8. That in its auxiliary role in the humanitarian field to public authorities of the States, the National Societies who are part of this agreement will develop and/or maintain an active role before the authorities to respond in a responsible and shared manner, to the needs of migrants. This work will be carried out maintaining and preserving their independence, impartiality and neutrality.
9. To develop and/or strengthen effective channels of communication and coordination mechanisms between the components of the Movement with the aim to enhance the quality and reach of the National Societies' response to the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable migrants.
10. To call on States to strengthen their efforts to provide development opportunities for their citizens and to address the causes of forced migration, in full respect of international norms.