



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

Sydney, Australia
17-18 November 2013

Strengthening Movement coordination and cooperation

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 National Societies

RESOLUTION

Strengthening Movement coordination and cooperation

The 2013 Council of Delegates,

recalling Resolution 6 of the 2005 Council of Delegates, which adopted the Update of the Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and called upon all components of the Movement to “work better together” to meet the challenges of increasing vulnerabilities across the world, and thereby reach more people in need,

further recalling Resolution 6 of the 1997 Council of Delegates, which adopted the “Agreement on the organization of the international activities of the components of the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement” (the Seville Agreement); Resolution 8 of the 2005 Council of Delegates, which adopted the “Supplementary Measures to Enhance the Implementation of the Seville Agreement”; and their follow-up reports,

recognizing the shifting dynamics of the humanitarian landscape, with States asserting greater sovereignty over humanitarian responses; the continued politicization of humanitarian assistance; the growing number of actors; shifting patterns of vulnerabilities; challenges to access; the increased complexity and intensity of conflicts; and the rising incidence of disasters and crises linked to factors such as climate change, depleting natural resources and continual population growth and movements,

mindful of the resultant trends within the Movement, including the increased capacity of National Societies and expectations placed on them as national development actors and lead responders in emergencies; the increasingly complex interaction among all Movement components; the call for coordination and the challenge of providing truly effective coordination and agreeing to be coordinated; the call for honesty and accountability in terms of our capabilities and functioning in an increasingly competitive environment,

further recognizing that the Movement must continue to seek the best way to adapt to and deal with these external and internal dynamics,

reaffirming that a local and national response is critical to saving and protecting lives and that “National Societies form the basic units and constitute a vital force of the Movement” (Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Article 3),

recalling – as per the Statutes of the Movement – that international solidarity among National Societies is required to build and complement the local and national response,

further recalling the international roles and mandates entrusted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Federation) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and set forth in the Statutes of the Movement, as well as the specific role of the ICRC and the other components of the Movement as enshrined in the Geneva Conventions,

reaffirming the Movement’s commitment to upholding, and promoting a common understanding of, the Fundamental Principles and the uniqueness of National Societies as independent humanitarian actors recognized as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field,

desiring to improve the relevance and impact of our collective efforts to meet the needs of those affected by disasters, crises and conflicts through greater coherence, efficiency and effectiveness as a Movement,

further desiring to work together to improve internal communications in order to protect our common identity while promoting our diversity, and to better align our external communications (including with affected populations, national authorities, armed groups, donors, media and other external actors),

further desiring to better harness our joint capacity to mobilize resources for the good of all and boost our collective accountability,

recognizing that effective cooperation and coordination among all Movement components, capitalizing on their combined strength, is key to achieving our collective goal to “prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found” (Preamble to the Statutes of the Movement),

acknowledging the considerable and necessary work that has already been done on coordination and cooperation in the Movement, including the Strategy for the Movement and its updates and subsequent reports; the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures and the reports thereon; the Code for Good Partnership of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the reports thereon; and the guidance and subsequent reports on working with external actors,

welcomes the initiative to further strengthen Movement coordination;

resolves as follows:

1. *warmly welcomes* the joint vision paper prepared by the Federation and the ICRC, which sets out the strategic direction and guidance for improving our international humanitarian action over the next two years (Annex A);
2. *takes note* of the report on Movement coordination and cooperation (Annex B);
3. *tasks* the Federation and the ICRC to work with a reference group of National Society representatives (at leadership level), ensuring the involvement of all components of the Movement, and ensuring that explicit consideration be given to the comments and issues raised during the Council of Delegates debate of 17 November 2013;
4. *requests* the Federation and the ICRC to continue their joint work on strengthening Movement coordination by involving all components in efforts to address the current challenges and opportunities, with a focus on the following areas:
 - a. Strengthening leadership and coordination roles through mechanisms for agreeing and shouldering leadership responsibilities in international response operations as well as longer-term work, including a focus on strengthening the leadership capacities of National Societies in their own countries.
 - b. Scaling up the Movement’s operational preparedness, response and recovery work through better coordinated and aligned operational plans, tools and mechanisms, including frameworks on safety and access.
 - c. Promoting coherent and well-coordinated internal and external communications, as well as adopting consistent approaches with external actors.
 - d. Exploring new Movement-wide resource-mobilization approaches for large-scale international response operations.

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5. *further requests* the Federation and the ICRC to keep the Standing Commission regularly informed of progress, and to report with recommendations and proposals to the 2015 Council of Delegates;
6. *welcomes* the proposal of commissioning regional consultations in the lead-up to the 2015 Council of Delegates, thereby providing fora for all National Societies to both voice their views on coordination and further the substantive work on the four themes listed above;
7. *commits* to resourcing the initiative as suggested by the Federation and the ICRC.