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**ADOPTION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR THE DOMESTIC FACILITATION AND
REGULATION OF INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF AND INITIAL
RECOVERY ASSISTANCE**

DRAFT RESOLUTION

**Document prepared by
the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

Geneva, 1 November 2007

**ADOPTION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR THE DOMESTIC FACILITATION AND
REGULATION OF INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF AND INITIAL
RECOVERY ASSISTANCE**

DRAFT ADOPTING RESOLUTION

The 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

Concerned by the serious plight of all those who urgently require emergency relief and recovery assistance in the wake of disasters;

Reaffirming that the fundamental concern of mankind and of the international community in disaster situations is the protection and welfare of the individual and the safeguarding of basic human rights, as stated in the Declaration of Principles for International Humanitarian Relief to the Civilian Population in Disaster Situations, adopted by the 21st International Conference of the Red Cross in 1969;

Recalling that the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement considers it a fundamental right of all people to both offer and receive humanitarian assistance, as stated in the Principles and Rules of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Disaster Relief as amended by the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 1995;

Reiterating that relief actions are an expression of international solidarity and that extending relief strengthens the friendly relations among peoples and thus contributes to the consolidation of world peace, as stated in Resolution 18 of the 20th International Conference of the Red Cross in 1965;

Noting that the United Nations General Assembly has repeatedly highlighted the importance of humanitarian assistance to persons affected by disasters, including in Resolutions 46/182 of 1991, 43/131 of 1988, and 57/150 of 2002, and that both United Nations General Assembly Resolution 32/56 of 1977 and Resolution 6 of the XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross of 1977 adopted a set of "Measures to Expedite Emergency Relief" to facilitate international relief operations;

Recalling the commitments undertaken by the international community in the Millennium Declaration of 2000 to intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters, and in the Hyogo Declaration and Framework for Action of 2005 to improve national institutional and legal frameworks and to strengthen disaster preparedness for increased resilience and effective response to disasters at all levels;

Noting with appreciation the practice of many States to facilitate international disaster relief and recovery assistance when needed and the increased attention and activity of the international humanitarian community to improve the coordination and effectiveness of disaster relief and recovery assistance;

Welcoming the progress that has been made in the elaboration and operation of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group with the support of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the pioneering efforts by international humanitarian organizations to develop minimum quality and accountability standards and mechanisms for disaster relief and recovery assistance, such as the Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations

in Disaster Relief of 1994 and the Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response as amended in 2004;

Recalling Final Goal 2.1.1 of the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent of 1999 calling upon States to incorporate linkages to international systems of disaster response in their national disaster plans as well as to include clearly defined roles and responsibilities for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, including representation on appropriate national policy and coordination bodies;

Recalling further Final Goal 3.2 of the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent of 2003, and its determination that improved awareness, clarification, application and development of laws, rules and principles applicable to international disaster response will assist in facilitating and improving the coordination, timeliness, efficiency, quality and accountability of international disaster response activities and can therefore make a major contribution to the protection of human dignity in situations of disasters;

Noting the findings of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as expressed in the background document to the Conference 30IC/07/9.1, that the framework of international laws and standards on international disaster relief and recovery remains dispersed and under-utilized, that there is often a lack of harmonization between national law and international standards, and that legal barriers to effective international disaster relief and recovery assistance still persist;

Recognizing that the increasing breadth and diversity of international actors involved in disaster relief and recovery has brought important opportunities but also some challenges to effectively assisting persons in need and ensuring the complementarity of international disaster relief and recovery assistance with domestic response efforts and mechanisms;

Considering the crucial role of domestic law and policy in this respect, which should be further developed consistent with relevant norms and principles of international law;

1. *adopts* the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance;
2. *encourages* States to make use of the Guidelines to strengthen their national legal, policy and institutional frameworks;
3. *emphasizes* that, with regard to Red Cross and Red Crescent disaster relief and recovery activities, the Guidelines will be read consistent with the established rules, principles and practices of the Movement, including the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as amended in 1995, the Principles and Rules of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Disaster Relief as amended in 1995, the "Seville Agreement" on the Organization of International Activities of the Components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement of 1997, and the Supplementary Measures to Enhance the Implementation of the Seville Agreement of 2005, and will not affect any existing legal arrangements between the individual components of the Movement and concerned States;
4. *invites* States, the International Federation and National Societies to bring these Guidelines to the attention of international and regional inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with disaster relief and recovery assistance;

5. *requests* the International Federation and National Societies, in close collaboration with the United Nations as well as other relevant international and regional organizations, to:
 - (i) disseminate and support the use of the Guidelines in strengthening national legal, policy and institutional frameworks for disaster response;
 - (ii) promote the mainstreaming of the Guidelines in existing legal development and disaster management and risk reduction initiatives; and
 - (iii) continue their research and advocacy efforts, and the development of tools and models for the improvement of legal preparedness for disasters;

6. *invites the International Federation*, in consultation with National Societies, to submit a progress report on the implementation of this resolution to the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.