

Together for humanity  
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معاً من أجل الإنسانية



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OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

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**THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED  
CRESCENT MOVEMENT IN ACTION AND PARTNERSHIPS  
AND  
THE ROLE OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES AS AUXILIARIES  
TO THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES IN THE HUMANITARIAN  
FIELD**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION (REV1)**

Document prepared by the International Federation  
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in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross

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**DRAFT RESOLUTION (REV 1)****THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT  
MOVEMENT IN ACTION AND PARTNERSHIPS AND  
THE ROLE OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES AS AUXILIARIES  
TO THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES IN THE HUMANITARIAN FIELD**

*The International Conference,*

*Acknowledging* that strong partnerships between States, the components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) and other humanitarian actors, such as international organisations, non-governmental organisations and the civil society are essential to address effectively the needs of vulnerable people worldwide in the spirit of the slogan of the Conference “Together for humanity”,

*Acknowledging* the different mandates of the various components of the Movement,

*Recalling* the Movement’s fundamental principle of independence as well as Articles 2.3, 3 and 4.3 of the Statutes of the Movement whereby Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) are recognized by all governments as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field,

*Recalling* Articles 24, 26 and 27 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field of 12 August 1949, Articles 24 and 25 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea of 12 August 1949, as well as Article 63 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,

*Noting* the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations (A/RES/49/2 of 27 October 1994) which recalled that National Societies are recognized by their respective Governments as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field on the basis of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,

*Recalling* the Agenda for Humanitarian Action adopted at the 28<sup>th</sup> International Conference, whereby States, recognizing the importance of the independent and auxiliary role of National Societies agreed, inter alia, to negotiate clearly defined roles and responsibilities with their respective National Societies in risk reduction and disaster management activities, as well as in public health, development and social activities,

*Recalling* Resolution 1 of the 28<sup>th</sup> International Conference which welcomed the study carried out by the International Federation on “National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as auxiliaries to the Public Authorities in the Humanitarian Field” containing the concept of the “Characteristics of a balanced relationship” and noting the work done by the International Federation in consultation with the ICRC pursuant to the resolution,

*Recognizing* that the cooperation and dialogue of National Societies with their respective governments includes the key role and responsibilities of National Societies in the fields of promotion, dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law,

*Recognizing* that National Societies represent a reliable partner to national and local public authorities that provides service through its diverse volunteer base and its unique capacity to mobilise human and material resources at the community-level,

*Noting with appreciation* that the Council of Delegates, in its resolution **3** of 2007, has endorsed the concept of a toolbox for use by National Societies when concluding partnership arrangements, including those relevant to auxiliary relationships, and that this toolbox includes documents such as the *Guidance on National Societies Statutes, Minimum Elements to be included in operational agreements between Movement components and their external operational partners, Relations between the components of the Movement and military bodies*, and others,

*Reaffirming* the obligation of all the components of the Movement to act at all times in conformity with the Fundamental Principles, the Statutes of the Movement and the rules governing the use of the emblems and **to take full account of the relevant** Movement policies,

*Acknowledging* that the autonomy of National Societies and their commitment to neutrality and impartial assistance, provides the best available means to gain the confidence of all in order to have access to those in need,

*Recalling* Article 2 paragraph 4 of the Statutes and Rules of procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement adopted by the 25<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross at Geneva in 1986 as amended in 1995 and 2006, which stipulates that “The States shall at all times respect the adherence by all the components of the Movement to the Fundamental Principles”,

1. *Reaffirms* that it is the primary responsibility of States and their respective public authorities to provide humanitarian **assistance** to vulnerable persons on their respective territories and that the primary purpose of National Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field is to supplement them in the fulfilment of this responsibility;
2. *Calls upon* National Societies and respective public authorities to consolidate a balanced relationship with clear and reciprocal responsibilities, maintaining and enhancing a permanent dialogue at all levels within the agreed framework for humanitarian action;
3. *Recognises* that public authorities and National Societies as auxiliaries enjoy a specific partnership, entailing mutual responsibilities and benefits, based on international and national laws, in which the national public authorities and the National Society agree on the areas in which the National Society supplements or substitutes public humanitarian services; the National Society must be able to deliver its humanitarian services at all times in conformity with the Fundamental Principles, **in particular that of neutrality and independence**, and with its other obligations under the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as agreed by States in the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent;
4. *Emphasises* that
  - (a) National Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field have a duty to consider seriously any request of their public authorities to carry out humanitarian activities within their mandate,

- (b) States must refrain from requesting National Societies to perform activities which are in conflict with the Fundamental Principles or the Statutes of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement or its mission, that National Societies have the duty to decline any such request and underlines the need for the public authorities to respect such decisions of the National Societies;
5. *Invites* National Societies and Governments to clarify and consolidate the areas in which National Societies as auxiliaries cooperate at all levels with the public authorities;
  6. *Stresses* that the National Society **whilst acknowledging that its personnel and assets are provided to the medical services of the State's armed forces in accordance with Article 26 of the First 1949 Geneva Convention and thus subject to military laws and regulations, must respect the Fundamental Principles, including that of neutrality, and at all times maintain its autonomy and ensure that it is clearly distinguishable from military and other governmental bodies;**
  7. *Invites* the International Federation and the ICRC to make available and further develop relevant information material for National Societies, public authorities and other interested bodies, including guidelines, legal advice and best practices, in support of partnerships between National Societies and the public authorities in the humanitarian field.