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

Geneva, Switzerland  
23-34 November 2007

**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**

**Document prepared by the International Federation**  
**in consultation with the ICRC and National Societies**

Geneva, October 2007



**DRAFT RESOLUTION****THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT IN  
ACTION AND PARTNERSHIPS AND  
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*The Council of Delegates,*

*Recalling* the Movement's Fundamental Principle of independence as well as Articles 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 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,

*Recalling* Resolution 9 of the Council of Delegates of 2005,

*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 Movement policies,

1. *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 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;
2. *Emphasises* that National Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field
  - (a) have a duty to consider seriously any request of their public authorities to carry out activities within the agreed framework,
  - (b) have a duty to decline a request of public authorities related to the above activities if it is in conflict with the Fundamental Principles or the Statutes of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement or its mission
3. *Underlines* the need for public authorities to respect the above decisions of the National Societies;

4. *Calls upon* National Societies to engage themselves in a balanced relationship with the respective public authorities with clear and reciprocal responsibilities in the humanitarian field, thereafter maintaining and enhancing a permanent dialogue at all levels within this agreed framework for humanitarian action;
5. *Stresses* that the National Society at all times safeguards neutrality and independence of its activities and clearly distinguishes itself from military and other governmental bodies while its individual staff members, when seconded to the medical services of the State's armed forces in accordance with Article 26 of the First 1949 Geneva Convention, are subjected to military Laws and regulations;
6. *Calls upon* the National Societies to build capacity enabling them to promote their auxiliary role domestically in their dialogue with the Government and *encourages* the International Federation and the ICRC to support the respective National Societies therein;
7. *Welcomes* the concept of a toolbox on good partnerships for use by National Societies when concluding partnership arrangements, including those relevant to the auxiliary role of National Societies, and invites the Federation and the ICRC to develop this toolbox and put it at the disposal of the National Societies
8. *Requests* the International Federation and the ICRC to further assist members in ensuring that their respective domestic legislation provides for the appropriate legal framework for effective functioning of the National Society as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, in the strict respect for the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.