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

Nairobi, Kenya
23-25 November 2009

RESOLUTION 14

Code for Good Partnership

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Code for Good Partnership of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The Council of Delegates,

Recalling Resolution 3 of the 2007 Council of Delegates which welcomed the Code for Good Partnership initiative and encouraged all components of the Movement to further develop this Code,

welcoming with appreciation the adoption of the Code for Good Partnership by the 2009 General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,

taking note with appreciation the consultation with National Societies and work conducted by the task force members, in particular of the Colombian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Indonesian Red Cross, Mozambique Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, the International Federation, and the ICRC to develop this Code,

reaffirming the importance of the Code to complement already existing policies, to improve and strengthen the Movement as a whole and each Movement component individually, to set commitments and minimum standards of behaviour in working together more efficiently and effectively.

bearing in mind the need to continuously promote the Code to ensure implementation, accountability and compliance towards the stated commitments,

1. *urges* the National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC to adopt the “Code for Good Partnership of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement”,
2. *urges* National Societies, the International Federation, and the ICRC to state their individual and collective commitment to implement the Code and to participate in the monitoring and compliance mechanism,
3. *calls upon* all components of the Movement to report back and share experiences in complying with the Code to the next Council of Delegates,
4. *invites* the task force members to consider any further comments on the Code to ensure its implementation and compliance.

Code for Good Partnership **of the International Red Cross and** **Red Crescent Movement**

Commitments and indicators

Date: 07 October 2009—version 4

**CODE FOR GOOD PARTNERSHIP
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT
MOVEMENT**

Original: English

Version 4: 07 October 2009

Preamble

Respectful behaviour is key to successful partnerships which are needed to “prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found”¹. This Code for Good Partnership (the Code) sets out commitments and minimum standards of behaviour in partnerships. By adhering to this Code, components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) commit to strengthen their partnerships, and work together more efficiently and effectively.

The Code builds on the Fundamental Principles, the statutes of the Movement and its policy framework, taking into account the specific mandates and nature of the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies as auxiliaries to their public authorities in the humanitarian field and the mandates of the ICRC and of the International Federation.

In the spirit of mutual respect, Movement components will apply this Code to all their partnerships to realize a common goal. The partners recognize that more can be achieved by combining their different capacities and having shared and individual responsibilities.

Institutional partnerships are ultimately about relationships between people. Successful implementation requires that all staff and volunteers understand and adhere to it. Leaders have a particular role to act responsibly by following and promoting the Code.

The Code is a practical and dynamic tool that facilitates continuous learning and development.

Commitment to implement the Code, includes participating in its monitoring and compliance mechanism, and sharing experiences.

The Code has been adopted by the Council of Delegates. Each component of the Movement will subsequently record its individual commitment to practical steps it will take to implement and further develop the Code.

¹ Preamble of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, *adopted by the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross at Geneva in 1986, amended in 1995 and 2006.*

Commitment one: Respect and empower vulnerable people

Respecting the needs and dignity of vulnerable people in all our activities.

Indicators

- Vulnerable people are recognized and empowered as stakeholders, and their needs and capacities are key to prioritising our activities
- The active participation of vulnerable people is sought in all stages of programme planning and implementation.
- National and local networks are strengthened to support the people and communities.

Commitment two: Practice diversity and cultural sensitivity

Diversity, cultural awareness and sensitivity are key to making partnership work.

Indicators

- Behaviour in partnerships values diversity, cultural awareness and sensitivity respecting Fundamental Principles.
- Differences in organizational cultures are recognized and respected as far as they are compatible with the Fundamental Principles.

Commitment three: Ensure integrity

Integrity enables good partnership and effective programming.

Indicators

- Partners comply with Movement resolutions and their own declared objectives, policies, rules and regulations in full accordance with the fundamental principles.
- Partners ensure legal compliance, effective governance, responsible fundraising and strong financial oversight.
- Openness and transparency are demonstrated regarding strategies, financial and human resources management, communications, and service delivery.
- Accountability towards beneficiaries, affected populations, the public and donors is actively promoted.

Commitment four: Work together as partners within the Movement

Working in partnership is a collective and individual responsibility strengthening all components of the Movement.

Indicators

- The different mandates of the Movement components and the role of each National Society in its own country are respected and mutually supported.
- Partners work within a common Movement policy framework and implement the statutory and operational decisions.
- Partners establish and actively participate in coordination and communication mechanisms at different levels.
- Partners' capacities are mutually strengthened, improving the capacity of the Movement.

Commitment five: Cooperate with actors outside the Movement

Cooperation with actors outside the Movement is sought when it improves the lives of vulnerable people and is in compliance with the fundamental principles of the Movement.

Indicators

- Partners dialogue and coordinate with actors outside the Movement, in particular, with the respective States, taking into account the specific nature of the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field.
- Partners engage with actors outside the Movement to influence decision-makers and the public on the basis of the Fundamental Principles.
- Partners build relations outside the Movement to mobilize resources to improve the life of vulnerable people.

Implementing the Code

The implementation process, which includes the following elements, consists of a continuous cycle:

Commitment

Each Movement component expresses its political will to adhere to this Code and to allocate resources to enable the application, monitoring, reporting and learning. Movement components that endorse this Code are recognized as being “committed to the Code for Good Partnership”.

Application

In applying the Code, each Movement component considers the following steps at organizational level:

- The Code is reflected in organizational strategies, policies, programmes and services.
- The Code becomes an integral part of human resource management, including staff and volunteers regulations, job descriptions, briefing and training to all staff and volunteers.

For each partnership arrangement, partners apply the Code context specific. In doing so, the following actions, among others, are taken:

The Code is

- applied in all Movement dialogue and negotiations.
- used to recognize the different capacities of partners.
- used to strengthen the skills and capacities to work in partnership.
- integrated in any Movement cooperation and coordination mechanism.
- explicitly incorporated in all agreements between Movement partners.
- integrated into all meetings and initiatives taken by Movement partners.
- promoted in cooperation with external partners.

Monitoring and compliance mechanisms

The Code serves as a framework for this process and provides indicators to analyse and review the partnership. Impact assessment is based upon regular and systematic monitoring of partnership performance against this Code.

Partners define monitoring and compliance mechanisms and adapt them to different contexts and needs of their partnerships.

Monitoring is a voluntary process to ensure continuous improvement and organizational learning through review of achievements against objectives as set in agreements. Monitoring entails self-monitoring, dialogue, peer review and other forms of review.

Problems related to lack of compliance of the Code should be resolved among the partners, and advice may be sought from peers.

Reporting, learning and development

The partners carry out reporting as stated in their partnership agreement. The purpose of reporting is to share good practices among the Movement, including through a website.

Committed partners constitute a task force at a global level to support the implementation of the Code by advancing continuous learning and development. The task force, among others, promotes the Code, collects good practices and experiences, publishes lessons learnt, and lists good practitioners.

The International Federation has a specific responsibility to support its members in implementing the Code. The International Federation and the ICRC will compile reports on the implementation of the Code to each Council of Delegates.