



*Leadership and humanitarian vision*

**XXI RED CROSS INTERAMERICAN CONFERENCE  
BUENOS AIRES ARGENTINA**

20-23 MAY 2019



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

# BUENOS AIRES COMMITMENT



We, the leaders of the Red Cross National Societies of the Americas region, gathered in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the 21st Inter-American Conference, 21-23 May 2019, to strengthen our leadership and humanitarian vision to save lives and protect the human dignity of vulnerable people.

We agree that it is vital to maintain the solidarity of the Movement to help each other in times of crisis, which demonstrates our strength, doing so in a coordinated manner and respecting the norms established among its components. In this way we ensure the relevance of our systems that will be strengthened by Strategy 2030, generating a greater commitment to the community and credibility of our Movement.

We therefore commit ourselves to:

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# A REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE 5 GLOBAL CHALLENGES OF STRATEGY 2030



## 01. CLIMATE CHANGE

Use scientific information together with community knowledge to transform the way we work and reduce our carbon footprint in order to respond to the vulnerabilities and threats caused by climate change and affecting everyone.

## 02. DISASTERS AND CRISIS

Implement integrated risk management programmes that promote the resilience of individuals and communities and strengthen effective response capacities, through the deployment of early warning and early action systems that are self-sustaining, based on forecasts and local knowledge, and are an extension of national disaster response and preparedness mechanisms.

## 03. HEALTH

Implement holistic health programmes that use the unique access of our National Societies to address unmet needs in health and reinforce community resilience; specifically addressing access to health care for those impacted by emergencies and crisis, those who are isolated and marginalised, or those who are vulnerable due to stigma and discrimination.

## 04. MIGRATION, POPULATION MOVEMENT AND IDENTITIES

Prevent and reduce the specific risks, discrimination and xenophobia associated with population movements (migrants, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, commuters and returnees), whether in their place of origin, transit or destination, by expanding holistic services and programmes and the promotion of people's rights and dignity.

## 05. VALUES, POWER AND INCLUSION

Be an organization with a culture of diversity and peace that uses participatory consultation and actively includes, protects and respects the dignity of marginalized groups and those affected by all forms of violence, while raising awareness that violence has an impact on all humanitarian activities.

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# THE 8 TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE MOVEMENT IN THE AMERICAS



- 06. SUPPORT AND DEVELOP NATIONAL SOCIETIES AS STRONG AND EFFECTIVE LOCAL ACTORS**

Implement ongoing processes of organizational development of National Societies, at local and national levels, that strengthen leadership, capacities, systems, and organizational structures; thus, contributing to the development of strategies that allow us to decide our own priorities and fulfil our mission in a sustained manner.
- 07. WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP**

Advocate for the leadership role of women by promoting equity at all levels, within and outside the Movement, taking into account the gender perspective and inclusion in programmes and operations, and celebrating diversity and respect for all people.
- 08. A DISTRIBUTED NETWORK**

Establish strategic and strong partnerships between Movement components and external national, regional and global actors to share knowledge, learn from each other and align our actions for joint problem solving and to achieve collective impact.
- 09. A TRUSTED ORGANISATION**

Be accountable to ourselves, the people we serve, our donors and partners to ensure that communities design and drive their own initiatives, are transparent about decision-making processes and results, and build a culture of trust, safety and mutual integrity.
- 10. VOLUNTEERING AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

Invest in and implement new forms of youth and volunteer development that are inclusive and self-managed, based on evidence, technology and decentralized decision-making processes, reflecting the diversity of each country, with the aim of protecting, promoting, recognizing and motivating volunteers.
- 11. INFLUENCING HUMANITARIAN ACTION**

Strengthen our public auxiliary role in humanitarian actions to promote policy change at the local, national and international levels in order to ensure compliance with international commitments and their positive effects on communities.
- 12. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

Bridge the digital divide while using new technology and innovations, at all levels, to collect and validate data to inform decision making, internally and with our strategic partners, to improve the quality of services we provide and ensure accountability to our stakeholders that is aligned with national legislation and Movement policies on data protection.
- 13. FINANCING THE FUTURE**

Diversify sources of income and implement innovative fundraising models that contribute to the development and continuous improvement of the capacities of National Societies, thus ensuring their financial sustainability.

# THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

**Humanity** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

**Impartiality** It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

**Neutrality** In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

**Independence** The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

**Voluntary service** It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

**Unity** There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

**Universality** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

INTERNATIONAL



FEDERATION