

# PROTECTION WITHIN THE MOVEMENT MAPPING EXERCISE.

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1993–2019 Council of Delegates and International Conference resolutions  
related to protection

Prepared by the Norwegian Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross  
Postboks 1, Grønland  
0133 Oslo  
Norway

**Email:** [post@redcross.no](mailto:post@redcross.no)

**Website:** [www.rodekors.no](http://www.rodekors.no)

**Author:** Moa Nyamwathi Lønning, Norwegian Red Cross

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021, the Protection Advisory Board started consulting with Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) components on a potential resolution on Protection at the Council of Delegates (CoD) in 2023. This resolution would commit the Movement to agree to a Common Movement Approach on Protection, promoting greater coherence and complementarity in the Movement's Protection work.

In preparation of the upcoming consultation process and the early drafting process for the resolution, this mapping aims to provide a better overview of existing Movement resolutions related to protection<sup>1</sup>. It uses the Movement Protection Framework<sup>2</sup> to define and structure the resolutions analysed. The mapping is designed to be used as a quick overview of former resolutions, as well as serving three main purposes:

## **1) Identifying the gaps**

## **2) Maintaining progress made**

## **3) Defining the scope of protection-related resolutions**

Through analysing past resolutions, the mapping exercise provides a detailed background to inform the future discussion on better defining a common Movement approach to Protection. The mapping seeks to highlight the aspects of protection within the Movement that are less covered by existing resolutions, as well as potential areas of inconsistencies or discrepancies. The objective is to help determine the rationale and design for a new resolution by way of narrowing the scope and deciding on what the resolution will set out to do, and how it will add value to the topic-specific resolutions already adopted by the Movement.

The mapping takes a broad overview, extending across three decades (1993 to 2019). The topic overview shows the development from the Movement's primary focus on addressing protection concerns over the past decades. Early resolutions were centred on IHL and child protection, but there are no resolutions solely focused on children since 1999. The Movement went on to address the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the 2000s, alongside resolutions on diversity and non-discrimination, as the two dominant themes of this decade. Since 2009 and onwards, there has been a proliferation of topics related to protection, indicating that the Movement is increasingly addressing risks and consequences related to violence, discrimination and the violation of rights. Topics include Migration, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), Disability Inclusion, protection from weapons, legal protection for victims of armed conflict, and civilians in armed conflict.

The mapping intended to categorise resolutions according to the three circles of the Movement Framework on Protection (see diagram on page 9):

### 1) Do no harm and Protection Mainstreaming:

“Do no harm” generally refers to avoiding any negative effects from humanitarian activities. Protection mainstreaming refers to ensuring that protection risks are minimised, and potential violations of international and domestic law are taken into consideration when conducting all humanitarian activities, so that assistance activities also address protection needs through ensuring dignity, access, participation, and safety for affected people. It is relevant for all humanitarian actors – whether or not these

<sup>1</sup> What should be considered as protection or not within the Movement will be part of the drafting process of the resolution; therefore, this study does not represent a definite and official list of protection related issues.

<sup>2</sup> The Movement Protection Framework was adopted in March 2018 by the Protection Advisory Board.

are protection actors. At a minimum, Movement actors should ensure that they “do no harm”, and further “mainstream” protection concerns in all humanitarian response.

## 2) Specialised Protection Activities:

This refers to specialised protection activities addressing the causes and circumstances leading to violations of international law (including International Humanitarian Law) and domestic law. It also includes addressing the consequences of those violations.

## 3) Influencing standards, norms and law:

In this circle, the Movement strives to promote an enabling environment that is conducive to the protection of vulnerable persons, particularly by advocating that humanitarian principles and protection elements are taken into account, and integrated into states’ policies, practices and legislation as well as into international law and guidance.

However, the mapping demonstrated that the different levels are interconnected. National Societies’ roles are often emphasised in relation to circles 1 and 3. All components are active in different ways within circle 2. For example, ICRC often takes the lead on developments within circle 3 related to IHL, whereas National Societies and IFRC often take the lead on other developments (e.g. disaster law, education, humanitarian values and social cohesion) within this circle.

The resolutions generally draw attention to previous resolutions, thus positioning them, and often also reaffirming their relevance and previous commitments. What is far less visible in the re-

solutions overall, with a few exceptions, is implementation. Strategies and action plans that are part of resolutions are very helpful in providing further depth to the content and go further in prescribing concrete actions. It is also important to note that the level of detail and length of the resolutions and their potential annexes vary to a large extent.

With respect to collaboration and coordination, Movement components recognise the importance of working together on protection and promoting each component’s strength derived from their respective mandates and expertise. Furthermore, making the environment conducive to respecting the rights of individuals is a common theme. The mapping provides an attempt to clarify the mandates, roles and responsibilities assigned to the various Movement components as per each resolution. The ICRC plays a particular role in upholding IHL and a lead role in RFL, and it should provide support for other Movement components in this respect. The IFRC provides policy and technical guidance, training and coordination for National Societies’ protection activities (institutional strengthening, mainstreaming and specialised) and represents the membership’s position on protection issues internationally. National Societies implement protection activities across a wide range of thematic areas. A balanced auxiliary role to their respective governments can facilitate protection activities.

The mapping exercise also reflects on the language used in the resolutions, and to what extent they clearly commit Movement components to action. Resolutions often “call on”, “remind”, “invite”, “request”, (strongly) “encourage”, “urge”, “ask” and “recall”. A new resolution should pay attention to the wording, and whether the wording carries a

particular understanding within a given field (e.g. law).

The mapping exercise has been undertaken by the Norwegian Red Cross, in dialogue and consul-

tation with the Movement Protection Advisory Board and the Movement working group established to support the Movement Advisory Board in the process towards a potential resolution on Protection within the Movement.

# INTRODUCTION

Since 2018, a Movement Protection Advisory Board (AB) consisting of representatives from selected National Societies (NS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has worked to align the Protection work by different Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) components at policy and operational levels. In 2023, the AB is considering to present a draft resolution on Protection at the Council of Delegates (CoD). This resolution would commit the Movement to agree to a Common Movement Approach on Protection, promoting greater coherence and complementarity in the Movement's Protection work. The priorities for the forthcoming resolution are to:

- Allow more people to be better protected by Movement actions;
- Establish a fully common understanding of what the Movement considers as the Protection approach, and establish a greater coherence and complementarity of action;
- Acknowledge what is already being done in the area of Protection by the Movement;
- Present the added value of Movement actors in Protection internally and externally;
- Increase the capacity of the Movement, including the NS to act in the area of protection.

A working group consisting of the Swedish Red Cross, the Australian Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, the ICRC and the IFRC, has been established to support the process leading up to the presentation of the resolution. In preparation for the upcoming consultation process with NS, the ICRC and the IFRC, and the early drafting process for the resolution, the working group seeks to gain

a better overview of existing Movement resolutions related to protection. This is the background and provides the direction for the present mapping of CoD and International Conference (IC) resolutions related to protection between 1993 and 2019, as presented below.

The RCRC Movement has adopted a range of CoD and IC resolutions for how the Movement should address protection-related topics, such as Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Restoring Family Links (RFL) and the protection of health care/ Health Care in Danger (HCiD). A new resolution on Protection needs to have a clear scope and purpose to avoid duplicating existing efforts, watering down what previous resolutions already aim to achieve and ensure coherence with past decisions. In response, selected resolutions, as identified by members of the working group, have been reviewed. Please note that the list is not exhaustive. The mapping exercise has been structured with the aim to respond to the following questions:

- How does the resolution relate to protection?
- What are the mandates, ambitions and/or roles?
- What type of commitment is taken by the Movement and/or by National Societies?

The first question refers to the three circles of protection as described on page 9. We specify the explicit mandates, ambitions and roles by different Movement components as explicitly expressed by the resolution, but also as implied by the general text.

The mapping itself is structured according to themes and is designed to be used as a quick overview of each included resolution. As such, it is an accessible reference document that can be easily updated. We hope that the overview will highlight

relevant resolutions, help make it easier to identify gaps within existent resolutions, and provide an overview of progress made, as elaborated below:

- 1) **Identifying the gaps:** The mapping will seek to clarify what aspects of protection within the Movement are not adequately addressed by existing resolutions, as well as potential areas of inconsistencies or discrepancies. This will help determine the rationale and design for a new resolution by way of narrowing the scope and defining what the resolution will set out to do, and how it will add value to the topic-specific resolutions already adopted by the Movement.
- 2) **Maintaining progress made:** Negotiating on a new resolution is likely to open discussions that have already been addressed in the preparations and negotiations on topic-specific resolutions. In presenting a new resolution on protection, acknowledgement and awareness of existing commitments may serve as a common reminder of current roles, mandates and ambitions related to protection in the Movement.
- 3) **Defining the scope of protection-related resolutions:** The mapping exercise will provide detailed background to inform the future discussion on better defining the common Movement approach to Protection, to be covered by the resolution. The mapping shall not provide a definition of what constitutes protection but rather provide a broad overview of relevant resolutions to be discussed by the Advisory Board in Phase 1 before finalising the list in Phase 2.

## PROTECTION

The Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) defines protection as “all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law (i.e. human rights law, international humanitarian law, refugee law).”

It is the primary role and responsibility of State authorities and relevant non-State actors to protect people and ensure their security. However, authorities frequently lack the capacity or the will to ensure that people at risk are protected. The overall aim of protection is to address the causes of violations and the circumstances that lead to them and their consequences by ensuring that authorities fulfil their obligations to protect all people without discrimination. This includes protection activities that aim to stop or prevent violations of relevant bodies of law.

The Minimum Protection Approach (MPA) seeks to provide Movement partners with standards and guidelines to ensure that they provide a minimum level of response to protection needs through being able to identify, address and respond to needs without designing a full protection programme. As described in the MPA guidance, the key elements are:

- 1) Establish internal escalation pathways and protection focal points;
- 2) Refer individual cases and issues to a relevant protection actor ensuring informed consent of the individual(s) concerned;
- 3) Dialogue and advocacy with authorities on individual or systemic protection concerns where possible and appropriate;
- 4) Directly meet individuals’ needs arising from protection concerns through service provision.



The Movement Framework on Protection which outlines the three “levels” of protective actions. These are:

- 1) “Do no harm” and Protection mainstreaming: “Do no harm” generally refers to avoiding any negative effects from humanitarian activities. “Protection mainstreaming” refers to ensuring that assistance activities address protection needs through ensuring dignity, access, participation and safety for affected people.
- 1) Specialised protection activities which address the causes and circumstances leading to violations of international law (including IHL) and domestic law. It also includes addressing the consequences of those violations.
- 1) Efforts to influence standards, norms and law: Promote an enabling environment that is conducive to the protection of vulnerable persons.

## SOME REFLECTIONS FROM THE MAPPING EXERCISE

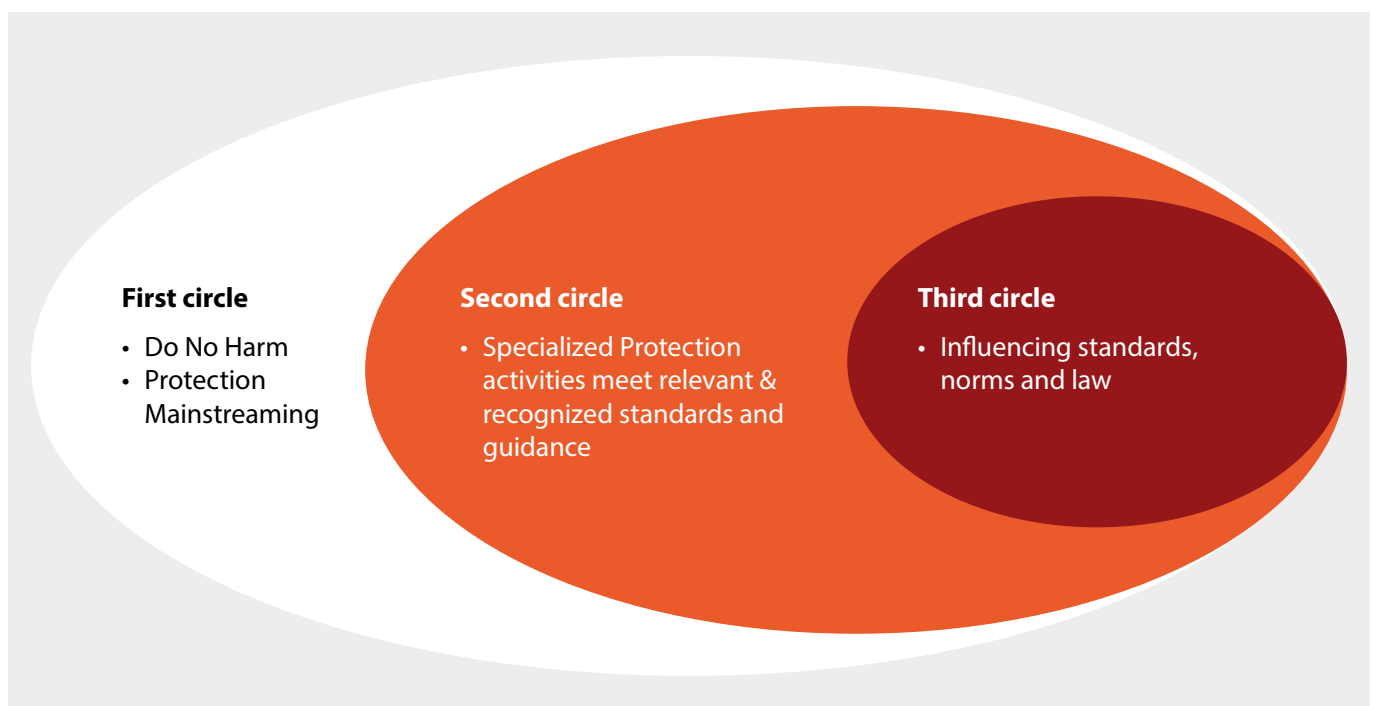
Before presenting the theme-based mapping of selected CoD and IC resolutions, we will present some reflections on the exercise.

### Timeline

The mapping takes a broad overview, extending across three decades (1993 to 2019).

IHL and Human Rights, along with children and civilians in armed conflicts, are prominent themes for resolutions from the 1990s. There is also one resolution on IDPs and one on protection and assistance.

IDPs and diversity and non-discrimination are the two dominant themes for resolutions reviewed from the 2000s. There are also resolutions on protection from weapons, RFL and HCiD.



Compared with the previous decade, the range of themes in the 2010s is broader. The most prominent themes are RFL and migration. However, we also see a focus on MHPSS, SGBV and diversity (disability and inclusion), protection from weapons, legal protection for victims of armed conflict, and civilians in armed conflict.

There are no resolutions solely focusing on children, since the 1990s (1993, 1999). The two existent resolutions are also very short.

IDPs is a theme covered in this mapping that can be identified across the three decades (1993, 2001, 2003, 2009, 2019).

The last decade has seen a much more explicit focus on migration (2011, 2015, 2017). However, despite this focus on migration, trafficking is only mentioned once in any resolution on migration:

Institute early identification and referral mechanisms for the most vulnerable individuals, such as unaccompanied children, victims of torture or trafficking, pregnant women, people with disabilities, the elderly and people suffering from serious or chronic diseases (CD/17/R3).

Trafficking is not mentioned in any of the resolutions on IDPs. We do, however, see a slight increase with reference to victims of trafficking in resolutions on RFL (2007, 2017, 2019), particularly in CD/19/R6:

We operate on the basis of assessed needs, giving first priority to the most vulnerable groups and individuals, such as unaccompanied and separated children, detainees, the elderly, persons with disabilities and individuals with specific protection needs, including survivors of trafficking, torture, violence or other forms of trauma.

Unaccompanied children are particularly vulnerable to forced recruitment into armed groups, exploitation, sexual and gender-based violence and trafficking.

There are many reasons why migrants might lose contact with family members, including incidents in their country of origin or as they travel through countries of transit to their destination as well as illness, injury, detention, trafficking, deportation and a lack of means, access or resources.

Trafficking is also mentioned once in 33IC/19/R4, but only as part of a list of groups regarding which concern is expressed:

[...] concerned by the numbers of families separated and people going missing as a result of, inter alia, armed conflicts, disasters and other emergencies, forced displacement, as well as in the context of migration, smuggling of migrants and trafficking of persons

While not an explicit focus in this mapping, it is worth mentioning that few of the resolutions address consequences for RCRC personnel and volunteers. Potential consequences for staff and volunteers are mentioned predominately under the themes MHPSS, HCiD, SGBV and Peace, IHL and human rights, and civilians in armed conflicts.

It is worth mentioning that certain resolutions not on a particular group, also speak to specific groups. For instance, IDPs and refugees are also addressed in (1995) Resolution 4—Principles and action in international humanitarian assistance and protection (IC); children affected by armed conflict and street children are addressed in (1997) Resolution 8—Peace, IHL and Human Rights (CoD) and Resolution 2—Protection of the civilian population in period of armed conflict (IC); and

civilians, women, children and RFL are addressed in (1995) Resolution 2—Protection of the civilian population in period of armed conflict (IC).

## 2010–

<b>RFL</b>	(2019) <a href="#">33IC/19/R4</a> —RFL while respecting privacy, including as it relates to personal data protection (2019) <a href="#">CD/19/R6</a> —RFL: Strategy for the Movement 2020–2025 (2017) <a href="#">CD/17/R9</a> —RFL strategy development
<b>IDP</b>	(2019) <a href="#">CD/19/R7</a> —Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement: Ten years on
<b>MHPSS</b>	(2019) <a href="#">CD/19/R5</a> —Movement policy on addressing mental health and psychosocial needs (2019) <a href="#">33IC/19/R2</a> —Addressing mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies
<b>IDRL</b>	(2019) <a href="#">33IC/19/R7</a> —Disaster laws and policies that leave no one behind
<b>Access to Education</b>	(2017) <a href="#">CD/17/R6</a> —Education: Related Humanitarian Needs
<b>Migration</b>	(2017) <a href="#">CD/17/R3</a> —Movement Call for Action on the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants (2015) <a href="#">CD/15/R7</a> —Movement statement on migration: Ensuring Collective Action to Protect and Respond to the Needs and Vulnerabilities of Migrants (2011) <a href="#">31IC/11/R3</a> —Migration: Ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion
<b>Protection from weapons</b>	(2017) <a href="#">CD/17/R4</a> —Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: 2018–2021 action plan (2013) <a href="#">Resolution 7</a> —Weapons and IHL (CoD)
<b>Disability and Inclusion</b>	(2015) <a href="#">CD/15/R4</a> —Adoption of the Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion by the Movement (2013) <a href="#">Resolution 9</a> —Promoting Disability and Inclusion (CoD)
<b>SGBV</b>	(2015) <a href="#">31IC/15/R3</a> —SGBV: Joint action on prevention and response
<b>Legal protection for victims of armed conflict</b>	(2013) <a href="#">Resolution 8</a> —Strengthening legal protection for victims of armed conflicts: Implementing Resolution 1 of the 31 <sup>st</sup> International Conference (COD) (2011) <a href="#">Resolution 1</a> —Strengthening legal protection for victims of armed conflicts (IC)
<b>HCiD</b>	(2011) <a href="#">Resolution 5</a> —Health care in danger: Respecting and protecting health care (IC)
<b>Civilians in armed conflict</b>	(2011) <a href="#">Resolution 7</a> —National Societies preparing for and responding to armed conflict and other situations of violence

## 2000–2009

<b>IDP</b>	(2009) <b>Resolution 5</b> —Movement Policy on Internal Displacement (CoD) (2003) <b>Resolution 10</b> —Movement action in favour of refugees and IDPs and minimum elements to be included in operational agreements between Movement components and their external operational partners (CoD) (2001) <b>Resolution 4</b> —Movement Action in favour of refugees and IDPs (CoD)
<b>HCiD</b>	(2009) <b>Resolution 8</b> —Respecting and protecting health care in armed conflict and other situations of violence (CoD)
<b>Protection from weapons</b>	(2009) <b>Resolution 6</b> —Movement Strategy on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and other ERW: Reducing the Effects of Weapons on Civilians (CoD)
<b>RFL</b>	(2007) <b>CD/07/R4</b> —RFL Strategy (and Implementation Plan) for the Movement (2008-2018)
<b>Diversity and non-discrimination, human dignity, agenda for humanitarian action</b>	(2005) <b>Resolution 3</b> —Promoting respect for diversity and non-discrimination – a contribution to peace and friendship between peoples (CoD) (2005) <b>Resolution 3</b> —Promote respect for diversity and fight discrimination and intolerance (CoD) (2003) <b>Resolution 1</b> —Adoption of the declaration and Agenda for Humanitarian action (IC)

## 1990–1999

<b>Children</b>	(1999) <b>Resolution 8</b> —Children affected by armed conflict (CoD) (1999) <b>Resolution 9</b> —Street children (CoD) (1993) <b>Resolution 4</b> —Child Soldiers (CoD)
<b>Civilians in armed conflict</b>	(1999) <b>Resolution 12</b> —Arms availability and the situation of civilians in armed conflict and post conflict situations (CoD) (1995) <b>Resolution 2</b> —Protection of the civilian population in period of armed conflict (IC)
<b>IHL and human rights</b>	(1997) <b>Resolution 4</b> —National Implementation of IHL (CoD) (1997) <b>Resolution 8</b> —Peace, IHL and Human Rights (CoD) (1995) <b>Resolution 1</b> —IHL, from law to action. Report on the follow-up on the IC for the Prevention of War Victims (IC) (1995) <b>Resolution 3</b> —IHL applicable to armed conflicts at sea (IC)
<b>Protection and Assistance</b>	(1995) <b>Resolution 4</b> —Principles and action in international humanitarian assistance and protection (IC)
<b>IDP</b>	(1993) <b>Resolution 7</b> —The Movement, refugees and displaced persons (CoD)

Protection, as identified by the three levels of protection proposed by the Movement Protection Framework, provides a very useful analytical framework to discern what kind of protection actions are covered. While our aim was to identify this for each resolution, time constraints made it necessary to prioritise an overview rather than explicitly identifying and detailing how each resolution is related to the different levels. During the mapping itself, but also during meetings with the working group, it became clear that the different levels are interconnected. The question then became how much should be drawn out from the text. This issue suggests that in future resolutions, being explicit about the level of protection might be beneficial for further clarity and mandated responsibility.

What is clear is that all components of the Movement have a role to play in protection work. Their different roles do however manifest themselves at different levels in the various resolutions, making clear comparisons challenging.

### **The wording of the resolutions**

Another issue discussed during the mapping exercise was the language used in the resolutions, and their inherent force. Commit, as far as has been discerned in this mapping, is not the word of choice in resolutions. Rather the resolutions often call on, remind, invite, request, (strongly) encourage, urge, ask, recall, etc. These words carry different nuances and it is important to consider that they are not necessarily understood as commitments. It is important to pay attention to the wording, and whether the wording carries a particular understanding within a given field (e.g. law).

Strategies and action plans that are part of resolutions are very helpful in providing further depth to the content. It is also important to note that the level of detail and length of the resolutions and

their potential annexes vary greatly.

### **Progress made**

The resolutions generally draw attention to previous resolutions, thus positioning them and often also reaffirming their relevance and previous commitments.

Several resolutions also refer to concrete tasks and sought developments such as specific plans and issues to be reported. For example, in CD/19/R7 – Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement: Ten years on, the resolution invites us to consider making this topic the subject of a resolution at the 2023 IC in an attempt to sustain focus on the topic and ensure progress.

What is far less visible in the resolutions overall, with a few exceptions, is implementation. It seems particularly relevant to discern instances where implementation is compromised by any of the Movement components. For instance, the CD/19/R6—RFL: Strategy for the Movement 2020–2025, clearly states that many NS RFL services remain weak, partly from the lack of commitment by the leadership, organisational weakness and high turnover, and that only about half of the countries' disaster preparedness and response plans include a role for NS in RFL. It would be useful to identify further sources that may be informative as to the state of services, capacity and commitments.

### **Complementarity and coordination**

Movement components recognise the importance of working together in protection, promoting each component's strength derived from their respective mandates and expertise. Furthermore, making the environment conducive to respecting the rights of individuals is a common theme.



# MAPPING: 1993–2019 RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO PROTECTION, BY THEME

## RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

**(2019) 33IC/19/R4—RFL while respecting privacy, including as it relates to personal data protection**

**How does it relate to protection?** It deals with all three circles.

**What are the mandates?** The resolution both reminds the Movement of previous commitments (such as the processing of data under the *Family Links Code of Conduct on Data Protection* and the review and updating of this periodically), encourages concrete actions (such as enhancing the effectiveness of data processing practices), and calls on collaboration with States (also to cooperate to ensure that personal data is not requested or used for purposes incompatible with the Movement's work and to this end, calls on States to respect the humanitarian purpose).

**What are the ambitions?** Provide RFL services consistent with the *Restoring Family Links Code of Conduct on Data Protection*, relevant IHL and the Statutes of the Movement.

**What are the roles?** The resolution is mainly addressed to the Movement but also raises the role that different components play in RFL. For instance, ICRC's forensic expertise to states.

**(2019) CD/19/R6—RFL: Strategy for the Movement 2020–2025**

**How does it relate to protection?** The resolution relates to all three circles.

**What are the mandates?** The *Resolution adopts the RFL Strategy for the Movement 2020-2025*. All Movement components are responsible for

enhancing awareness of this, implement its measures (as part of their organisational strategies, plans and training programmes), and allocate necessary resources. It explicitly acknowledges the need to deliver RFL within a broader framework of activities, protect personal data and be in line with the Fundamental Principles. To that end, the provision of expertise and resources for applying the *RFL Code of Conduct on Data Protection* is raised (including one dedicated to assist NS). The Strategy emphasises the prioritisation of services for assessed needs and the integration of RFL services in a multidisciplinary response.

Enhanced cooperation between the ICRC and IFRC is encouraged for supporting NS' implementation and partnerships between NS for support and capacity-building. The Strategy notes that many NS RFL services remain weak, partly due to the lack of commitment by the leadership, organisational weakness and high turn-over, and because only about half of the countries' disaster preparedness and response plans include a role for NS in RFL. The Resolution welcomes the proposal to create a Movement RFL Medal for outstanding service (and invite the RFL Leadership Platform to develop regulations and conditions).

**What are the ambitions?** For the Movement to respond efficiently and effectively by mobilising its own resources and authorities to prevent families from being separated and people from going missing, and maintain and restore family links and family unity, clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing persons and support families left behind.

**What are the roles?** The responsibility for implementation is shared by the Movement. Movement components will also continue to explore and seek to establish innovative funding tools and mechanisms to secure the financial resources needed to support the Strategy's successful implementation.

The RFL Leadership Platform steers the implementation. It is called on to continue to address critical issues for the future of RFL activities. The *RFL Code of Conduct on Data Protection Application Group* is encouraged to continue to support the application

of the RFL Code of Conduct on Data Protection. For more on implementation, see pp. 80-93.

**What type of commitment is taken by the Movement?** Invest in strengthening response

NS	IFRC	ICRC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Components of the international network for tracing and reuniting families</li> <li>• Need to incorporate their RFL activities into an overall plan of action</li> <li>• Raise awareness among the public, humanitarian agencies and governments to the existence and significance of RFL activities</li> <li>• Responsible for setting up or consolidating an effective national RFL network</li> <li>• Work with the CTA, the relevant ICRC delegations and/or the tracing/RFL services of other NS – They decide what actions is to be taken during disasters and may call on the ICRC to deploy the RFL Pool of Specialists where the RFL response required is beyond their capacity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strives, in coordination with the ICRC, to support NS in including RFL in their development plans and ensuring that disaster preparedness and response plans emphasise the role and importance of RFL</li> <li>• In the event of a disaster, the Secretariat ensures that assessments consider the need for RFL and the degree to which the affected NS can respond</li> <li>• The role of the Secretariat also includes liaising with the ICRC to support the CTA and cooperating in the deployment of the RFL Pool of Specialists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead role in RFL</li> <li>• Continue to chair the RFL Strategy Implementation Group to support and monitor the implementation of the RFL Strategy 2020-2025</li> <li>• Remind the authorities of their obligations under IHL and other relevant bodies of law with regard to family links and carrying out direct action in the field</li> <li>• Ensure the operation of the CTA (coordinator and technical adviser to NS and governments). The CTA promotes consistency within the Family Links Network, provides methodologies and guidelines and builds information systems for the whole Network</li> <li>• Through the CTA, is tasked with coordinating, providing advice and strengthening the capacity of its partners within the Movement in RFL matters in all situations requiring a humanitarian response</li> <li>• As coordinator, the CTA, in consultation with the Movement partners, decides what actions is to be taken in armed conflicts/other situation of violence</li> <li>• In other circumstances requiring an international effort, it coordinates the international activities of other NS' RFL services, when needed and in close consultation with the NS of the affected countries</li> </ul>



capacity and improving regional and supra-regional cooperation and coherence, as well as research and analysis and develop modern technology across the Network. Commit to maintaining personal contact and personalised searches as a core strength of RFL service. Shared responsibility to maintain and strengthen the RFL Network.

### **(2017) CD/17/R9—RFL strategy development**

**How does it relate to protection?** It arguably relates to all circles, as it calls on continued effort to implement provisions of the RFL Strategy until the adoption of the new one in 2019.

**What are the mandates?** All Movement components are to integrate the provisions of the code into their regulations and working procedures. It recalls the Movement's mandate in providing support to their respective authorities, including in the implementation of IHL.

### **(2007) CD/O7/R4—RFL Strategy (and Implementation Plan) for the Movement (2008-2018)**

**How does it relate to protection?** It relates to all three circles. It specifically concerns RFL activities and states that these relate to other activities including: the development and promotion of international law and support for its application, and reform where needed.

**What are the mandates?** The *RFL Strategy for the Movement* and a reaffirmation of the ICRC's support for NS in meeting RFL needs. All Movement components share a responsibility for implementing the Strategy and incorporating it in their own strategies, plans, training programmes. To this end, it calls on RFL to be recognised as a core activity at all le-

vels. Furthermore, there is a shared responsibility to build, strengthen and maintain the Family Links Network. The Resolution also calls attention to the crucial importance of coordinating Movement components' efforts to optimise assistance, and the organisational concept of a "lead role" based on specific competencies assigned by the Geneva Conventions, the Movement's Statutes and/or resolutions of the IFRC.

The assessment indicates that there is an overall lack of a sense of commitment to RFL activities within NS, insufficient capacity within NS tracing services to identify and meet RFL needs, and that very few have assessed needs in terms of RFL. To this end, it identifies a need for better understanding of RFL and expertise to conduct and manage RFL activities. NS must incorporate RFL activities in an overall plan of action.

**What are the roles?** The Strategy points to a need for clear definitions of the role of coordinator and technical adviser, and of RFL itself. It maintains that the ICRC could do more to mainstream RFL in emergency and contingency planning. For implementations, see pp. 33-48.

**What type of commitment is taken by the Movement?** Movement-wide approach which recognises that meeting RFL needs and building capacity is a responsibility for all components.

**What type of commitment is taken by NS?** The Strategy emphasises that it is essential for NS to develop and maintain relationships with other Movement components, other stakeholders and affected individuals/populations, to engage in strategic dialogue, develop targeted services and disseminate information. It also notes that most NS have few if any such relationships and have little or no regular contact with other components of the Movement regarding RFL.

NS	IFRC	ICRC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must raise awareness among the public, humanitarian agencies and governments to the existence and significance of their RFL activities</li> <li>• individual NS are responsible for setting up or consolidating an effective national RFL network</li> <li>• They must work with the CTA, the relevant ICRC delegations and /or the tracing services of other NS</li> <li>• Must decide what actions is to be taken during national disasters and may call on the ICRC where the RFL response is beyond their capacity</li> <li>• Individual Societies will include RFL activities in national fundraising plans as a means of supporting self-sustaining RFL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strive, in cooperation with the ICRC, to have RFL activities included in NS development plans and to ensure that disaster-preparedness and response plans emphasise the role and importance of RFL</li> <li>• In the event of a natural or man-made disaster, ensure that assessment of the situation takes into account the need for RFL and the degree to which the NS of affected countries can respond</li> <li>• Liaise with the ICRC; particularly the CTA, and cooperation in the deployment of tracing delegates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remind the authorities of their obligations under IHL and other relevant bodies of law with regard to family links and carry out direct action in the field</li> <li>• Take a comprehensive approach to RFL</li> <li>• Through the CTA, coordinate, advise and strengthen the capacity of Movement partners</li> <li>• The CTA promises consistency within the Network and provides the NS with methods and guidelines</li> <li>• As coordinator, the CTA decides what action is to be taken in armed conflict or other situations of violence. In other circumstances requiring an international effort, it coordinates the activities of NS tracing services to ensure the most effective response</li> <li>• As technical adviser, the CTA establishes working practices for tracing services</li> <li>• Supervise the Strategy's implementation in cooperation. It will set up an Implementation Group, including NS and the IFRC, to provide guidance and support</li> </ul>

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

### (2019) CD/19/R7—Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement: Ten years on

**How does it relate to protection?** It speaks to mainstreaming, concrete activities (such as RFL), and encourages the Movement to increase its efforts to support authorities in developing and implementing domestic laws, regulations and policies, and integrating IDP protection into broader legislative and policy efforts.

**What are the mandates?** To ensure that responses to the protection and assistance of IDPs and host communities are informed by the *Movement Policy on Internal Displacement*, and to enhance responses, particularly in areas of urban internal displacement (and integrate short- and long-term needs in their analysis and response), prevention, protection and durable solutions. It also calls on the importance of keeping in mind that women, men, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities may have specific vulnerabilities, and to engage with IDPs and others affected by displacement in a more structured and systematic way. In addition, the coordination in support for durable solutions, within the Movement, authorities and other stakeholder, such as development organisations and people/communities affected.

**What are the ambitions?** Strengthening the implementation of the *Movement Policy on Internal Displacement*. To implement the “minimum protection approach” (see definition above) in work with IDPs, prevent family separation, increase awareness of/access to RFL services and provide these in line with the *Movement’s RFL Strategy 2020-2025*.

**What are the roles?** The ICRC and IFRC are to collaborate on developing common training tools

on the Movement’s approach to internal displacement, applicable legal framework and relevant standards, and to create a Movement Reference Group on Internal Displacement (to promote and monitor the Resolution’s implementation). They are invited to consider making this topic the subject of a resolution at the 2023 IC.

**What type of commitment is taken by the Movement?** Dedicate more resources to strengthening the capacity of NS to respond to internal displacement.

**What type of commitment is taken by NS?** Encouraged to implement the *IFRC’s Minimum Standards for Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Emergencies*.

### (2009) Resolution 5—Movement Policy on Internal Displacement (CoD)

**How does it relate to protection?** It relates to the three circles.

**What are the mandates?** It adopts a *Movement Policy on Internal Displacement* consisting of 10 principles (see below), to be implemented by all Movement components. The policy builds on and complements the Movement resolutions relating to action aimed at helping refugees and IDPs. It makes it clear that the Movement’s activities should never fall short of standards set by international law.

**What are the ambitions?** The primary goal is to protect people against arbitrary displacement and to reduce the risk of displacement caused by natural and man-made hazards. The guidelines aim to create greater consistency in the Movement’s response, reaffirm its role and maximise its positive impact on those at risk (see next page).

### **Movement Policy on Internal Displacement principles**

1. Serve all those affected by internal displacement – the people actually displaced, host communities and others – and make decisions according to the most pressing needs for humanitarian services.
2. Make full use of our privileged access to communities at risk as well as to decision-makers
3. Seek to prevent displacement while recognising people’s right to leave on their own accord
4. Support the safe, voluntary and dignified return, relocation or local integration of IDPs, on the basis of our independent assessment of their situation
5. Seek to empower individuals and communities, by ensuring their participation in programme design and implementation, and by helping them to exercise their rights and providing access to available services
6. Coordinate with authorities and all others concerns. Whenever necessary, remind them of their obligations, as set out in the applicable normative framework
7. As NS and auxiliaries to our authorities, support those authorities in meeting their responsibilities in the humanitarian field as far as our resources and capacities allow, and provided we can do so in full compliance with the Fundamental Principles and in keeping with the Movement’s mission and Statutes
8. Seek to limit the extent to which we substitute for the authorities, in discharging their responsibility to meet the needs and ensure the well-being of the population within the territory under their control
9. Give priority to operational partnerships within the Movement and strive to play our complementary roles, shoulder our responsibilities and marshal our expertise to the full
10. Coordinate with other entities on the basis of their presence and abilities on the ground, the needs to be met, the capacities available, and the possibilities for access, while ensuring that we remain (and are perceived as remaining) true to our Fundamental Principles

**What are the roles?** The ICRC plays a particular role in upholding IHL and should provide support for other Movement components in this respect. It also contributes to the development and preparedness of NS in areas related to its mandate and core expertise. The ICRC will support the endeav-

ours of NS to strengthen their operating capacity in RFL, spread knowledge of the Movement’s Fundamental Principles, and activities to reduce the impact of weapon contamination. To this end, the ICRC will do its utmost to provide technical advice and resources.

The NS and, in case of international relief operations, the ICRC and IFRC, must strive to establish and adopt a coordination framework for the Movement and share it with all partners. Where it able to do so, the host NS will coordinate the Movement’s response on its territory. Otherwise, that NS is the primary partner of the agency on which this coordination responsibility devolves. NS must channel their international appeals primarily through the ICRC or the IFRC.

**What type of commitment is taken by the Movement?** Should be aware of the applicable legal framework when engaging in activities concerning displacement.

**(2003) Resolution 10—Movement action in favour of refugees and IDPs and minimum elements to be included in operational agreements between Movement components and their external operational partners (CoD)**

**What are the mandates?** That all Movement components comply with the standards set out in the *“Minimum Element to be Included in Operational Agreements between Movement components and their External Partners”* when formulating operational partnerships. These require Movement components to always act in adherence to the Statutes of the Movement and the Fundamental Principles, as well as the role of the principles of the *‘IASC Policy Statement on Protection from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Humanitarian Crisis’*, the Seville Agreement, the *Principles and Rules for the RCRC Disaster Relief and the Code of Conduct*. For reference documents see pp. 29-30.

The Resolution also draws attention to previous resolution (4 of the 2001 CoD) and obligations (for NS to inform the IFRC and/or ICRC of negotiations likely to lead to agreements with international orga-

nisations). It calls on the development of activities for given populations, with the aim of a global approach including all persons/communities affected.

**(2001) Resolution 4—Movement Action in favour of refugees and IDPs (CoD)**

**What are the mandates?** The resolution calls on a global approach in the response to refugees, IDPs and resident populations in line with the Principle of impartiality, co-ordinate activities and promote coordination with others, and address all stages of displacement (see below).

**Address the need:**

- for protection, assistance, tracing, family reunification and durable solutions
- of different groups within populations, as well as their different needs at different stages of displacement
- for short-term interventions and long-term solutions
- to involve refugees and IDPs in planning and implementing programmes or their own benefit
- of host and local communities
- for burden sharing within the Movement to assist NS when responding to displacement
- to develop a strong advocacy platform with common Movement positions

NS	IFRC	ICRC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that their activities are carried out in respect of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and existing policy, and particularly when they are acting as implementing partners for other humanitarian actors</li> <li>• Support ICRC and/or International Federation programmes in favour of refugees and IDPs mobilising public as well as government support and coordinating their action with the Lead Agency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In consultation with NS, develop proposals for a plan of action on other aspects of population movement to address, inter alia, migration and resultant vulnerability, migrants in irregular situations, and action to address discrimination and xenophobia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In circumstances in which the ICRC, as the Lead Agency in situations of armed conflict, must focus on the priority needs of refugees and IDPs who find themselves close to areas of conflict, while there may be displaced persons located at a distance from the theatre of hostilities who may also be in dire need of assistance, and urges the ICRC in consultation to develop operational solutions to such situations</li> </ul>

**What are the ambitions?** A global Movement approach, co-ordination and greater complementarity with other humanitarian actors.

**What are the roles?** The ICRC and IFRC are requested to develop a strategy to address issues identified in Section VI of CD 2001/6/1.

**(1993) Resolution 7—The Movement, refugees and displaced persons (CoD)**

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution calls for the implementation of programmes for asylum seekers and displaced persons providing both emergency assistance and long-term solutions, information campaigns to combat xenophobia and racial and ethnic discrimination, and education programmes on tolerance, the establishments of regional workshops, focus on psychological problems, and to support governments with a view to durable solutions and ensuring voluntariness of repatriation and safety of return.

Movement components are invited to call on parties in conflicts to respect/ensure respect of IHL, to continue to act vigorously in favour of refugees, asylum-seekers, displaced persons and returnees, to strengthen cooperation among themselves and between the Movement and the UN system, and to promote the protection of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons, and train/inform volunteers and staff appropriately. It also raises existing obligations, such as NS' obligations to inform the IFRC and/or ICRC of negotiations likely to lead to agreements between a NS and UNHCR.

**What are the roles?** The ICRC and IFRC are called upon to examine ways and means for cooperation between Movement components and the UN system.

## MIGRATION

### **(2017) CD/17/R3—Movement Call for Action on the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants**

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution calls on States to protect migrants along the migratory route, guarantee their rights irrespective of legal status, prioritise the most vulnerable, only use detention as a last resort, and agree to the global compacts on safe, orderly and regular migration and refugees.

**What type of commitment is taken by the Movement?** To continue to scale up efforts to respond to the protection and assistance needs of migrants and strengthening cooperation between components of the Movement to support States, in line with Resolution 3.

### **(2015) CD/15/R7—Movement statement on migration: Ensuring Collective Action to Protect and Respond to the Needs and Vulnerabilities of Migrants**

**How does it relate to protection?** It relates to all circles, by calling for mainstreaming, appropriate services and international laws, norms and standards.

**What are the mandates?** States are called upon to fulfil existing obligations under international refugee law, international human rights, IHL and national law. States and the Movement are called upon to collaborate to this end, to ensure safety of all migrants, address causes of forced displacement and find durable solutions. Cooperation between States and the Movement is also called on in terms of services, to address humanitarian

needs and vulnerabilities, and promote respect for diversity, non-violence and social inclusion regardless of legal status.

**What type of commitment is taken by the Movement?** Increase and sustain the Movement's response aimed at saving lives and improving protection, health and dignity of migrants without discrimination and irrespective of legal status, RFL, record and promote the search and identification of the missing and dead, and advocate ensure that protection and humanitarian needs are met.

### **(2011) 31IC/11/R3—Migration: Ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion**

**How does it relate to protection?** It speaks to mainstreaming (particularly in cooperation between public authorities and NS for practical actions in formal and non-formal settings), access to relevant services, and the upholding and ensuring of relevant laws.

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution directs itself to States. It also encourages cooperation between public authorities and the Movement, concerning partnerships that recognise the Movement's role in working with migrants, NS for practical actions in formal and non-formal settings (see bullet points below), and for States to make sure that NS have safe access to all migrants. States are furthermore called on to ensure that their procedures at borders include adequate safeguards that protect the dignity and safety of migrants, to grant international protection, when appropriate, and access to services:

- Promote respect for diversity, non-violence and inclusion of all migrants.

- Enhance cultural awareness between migrant and local communities
- Promote through formal and non-formal education, humanitarian values and the development of interpersonal skills to live peacefully together.
- Enhance social cohesion through the engagement of local and migrant populations and civil society organisations in voluntary services, community and sport programmes.

## ACCESS TO EDUCATION

### (2017) CD/17/R6—Education: Related Humanitarian Needs

**What are the mandates?** This Resolution emphasises the importance of international law in ensuring access to and protection of education. It recalls existing IHL obligations and calls on parties to armed conflict to respect these. Movement components are encouraged to intensify efforts to assess, analyse and respond to education-related humanitarian needs, to increase efforts to promote/implement/disseminate/foster compliance with IHL provisions on education, take measures to secure the continuation/resumption of education provisions, increase evidenced-based research, and commit to supporting efforts to identify emergency shelter alternatives for the use of educational facilities and, when possible, avoid soliciting support of education personnel as first responders outside their sector. Movement components are also encouraged to meaningfully engage those affected in decision-making processes and activities.

The Resolution also emphasises and supports the work of Movement components in the field of education, such as support for authorities to develop and strengthen adequate preparedness, response and recovery measures, exert their influence in different forums, promote and contribute towards achieving a globally harmonised approach, support for vocational and professional education to increase capacity, and for skills- and value-based education to continue building a culture of respect, dialogue and peace, awareness raising and assistance, while incorporating the provision of humanitarian education into formal and non-formal education systems and curricula, teaching skills, and coordination and cooperation in this field.



**What are the ambitions?** A globally harmonised approach.

**What are the roles?** NS and IFRC are invited to outline and develop an education framework to further inform their activities, and to raise awareness about the need for and/or support the elaboration of “special”, adapted curricula for disasters/ other emergencies.

## DISABILITY AND INCLUSION

### (2015) CD/15/R4—Adoption of the Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion by the Movement

**How does it relate to protection?** It primarily concerns mainstreaming, especially equitable access, environment building (ensuring respect and dignity for persons with disabilities) and Humanitarian Diplomacy.

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution adopts the Movement’s *Strategic Framework on Disability Inclusion 2015-2019* and endorses implementation of its strategic objectives: that all Movement components adopt a disability inclusive approach, equal access to services/programmes for persons with disabilities, and that Movement components endeavour to change mindsets and behaviours to promote respect for diversity (a series of objectives/ steps are given under each). This strategic framework represents both a consolidation of different aspect of existing work and a greater emphasis on more targeted actions to promote and embed disability inclusion. An implementation committee with representation from NS, IFRC, ICRC and representatives of persons with disabilities will monitor and support implementation. Movement components are encouraged to develop an implementation plan that identifies required financial, human and other resources and programme alignments, in addition to establishing a baseline and benchmark against which to measure progress.

In addition to persons with disabilities, the Resolution mentions gender-sensitive poverty alleviation and violence prevention, mitigation and response initiatives.

**What are the ambitions?** An inclusive society for all – a society in which persons with disabilities

can participate fully and achieve their full potential, and that all components of the Movement are inclusive organisations, build their own capacities,

mobilise resources and involve and support persons with disabilities and their caregivers.

### What are the roles?

NS	IFRC	ICRC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct efforts towards increasing internal capacity, developing strong partnerships with PDOs and other relevant organisations ensuring all programming is disability inclusive and implementing disability targeted programming where relevant and appropriate</li> <li>• Ensure they are disability-inclusive organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to facilitate and provide support to NS to build their capacity to implement the strategic framework</li> <li>• Mainstream disability in own health, disaster-preparedness, humanitarian diplomacy, risk reduction and emergency response activities</li> <li>• Seek to include disability inclusion into its existing advocacy effort and advocate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement activities based on need during armed conflicts and other situations of violence</li> <li>• Identify legal, capacity-building and other measures that authorities can take before, during and after armed conflict to address the needs and challenges of persons with disabilities and communicate these proposals to relevant authorities and NS</li> <li>• Provide expertise, advice and support to NS wanting to launch programmes responding to specific needs of persons with disabilities before, during or after armed conflict</li> </ul>

### (2013) Resolution 9—Promoting Disability and Inclusion (CoD)

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution adopts the *Position statement promoting disability inclusion in the Movement*. It requests a Movement-wide Strategy on Disability be developed collaboratively, calls on Movement components to take necessary measure to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities, and urges Movement components to work with governments to address needs of persons with disabilities, help implement inter-

national law and address discrimination, change perceptions and combat stereotypes and prejudice. The statement provides actions to guide the Movement’s disability-inclusive programming and response: engage with persons with disabilities, enable access to all systems and services, promote access to programmes and services for persons with disabilities, support learning and development in relation to disability-inclusive policy and programming frameworks, increase public awareness and understanding, employ persons with disabilities, and reduce preventable impairments.

## What are the roles?

NS	IFRC	ICRC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct efforts towards promoting prevention and disability-inclusive programming and supporting other Movement members in this area</li> <li>• Play a role in supporting signatory States' periodic UNCRPD reporting</li> <li>• Seek to mainstream social inclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide the necessary organisational development support for NS in areas such as resource mobilisation and financial and human resource management and assist in incorporating programmes covered by the Movement Position in their development plans</li> <li>• Include work in this field in own health, disaster-preparedness, humanitarian diplomacy, risk-reduction and emergency-response mechanisms</li> <li>• Create opportunities for NS to present their experiences of inclusive practices and use these platforms to raise the voice of people with disabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement activities related to persons living with disabilities based on need during armed conflicts and other situations of violence</li> <li>• Identify specific types of legal, capacity-building and other measures that authorities can take before, during and after armed conflicts, to address the needs and challenges of persons with disabilities and communicate these proposals to relevant authorities and NS</li> <li>• Provide expertise, advice and support to NS wishing to launch programmes on needs of persons with disabilities before, during or after armed conflict</li> </ul>

## LEGAL PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICT

### (2013) Resolution 8—Strengthening legal protection for victims of armed conflicts: Implementing Resolution 1 of the 31st International Conference (COD)

**What are the mandates?** The Movement is called on to continue to support consultations, and to help promote and encourage States' involvement.

**What are the roles?** NS are urged to use their special auxiliary and IHL roles to work with their

governments on implementing Resolution 1 of the 31st IC (see next resolution) and are further invited to provide substantive comments on the implementation to the ICRC with the aim of ensuring a Movement-wide perspective in the consultation process.

### (2011) Resolution 1—Strengthening legal protection for victims of armed conflicts (IC)

How does it relate to protection? It focuses on the need to ensure that IHL remains practical and relevant, and to explore how to enhance and ensure the effectiveness of mechanisms of IHL compliance.

What are the mandates? The Resolution recognises the importance of analysing humanitarian concerns and military consideration related to deprivation of liberty in relation to armed conflict. States are also invited to consider ratifying/acceding to IHL treaties and the primary role of States in developing IHL is recognised.

What are the roles? The Resolution invites the ICRC to pursue further research, consultation and discussion in cooperation with States and, if appropriate, other relevant actors, to identify and propose a range of options and its recommendations to: i) ensure that IHL remains practical and relevant in providing legal protection to all persons deprived of their liberty in relation to armed conflict; and ii) enhance and ensure the effectiveness of mechanisms of compliance.

## HEALTH CARE IN DANGER

### (2011) Resolution 5—Health care in danger: Respecting and protecting health care (IC)

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution recalls the obligation to protect the wounded and sick, healthcare personnel, facilities and medical vehicles, and to ensure safe and prompt access under the law. States are urged to intensify their efforts to adopt domestic implementation measures pertaining to this and ensure that their armed and security forces implement applicable legal obligations. States are further called on to respect and implement their obligations under IHL for the protection of the emblems, and adequate marking of medical facilities/vehicles. States are also called on to ensure effective investigation and prosecution of crimes committed against healthcare personnel, facilities and means of transportation, and prevent obstruction of healthcare delivery.

The Resolution stresses that it does not give rise to new obligations under international law, nor does it expand or modify the mandates, roles and responsibility of Movement components. It also recalls Resolution 3 of the 30th IC, in the “Reaffirmation and implementation of IHL: Preserving human life and dignity in armed conflict”, in particular “the obligation to respect and to protect medical personnel, including ICRC workers, their means of transport, as well as medical establishments and other medical facilities at all times, in accordance with IHL.”

**What are the ambitions?** Its purpose “is to raise awareness and promote preparedness to address the grave and serious humanitarian consequences arising from violence against the wounded and sick, healthcare services, personnel, facilities and medical transports.”

**What are the roles?** It reaffirms the roles and responsibilities of the ICRC and NS in responding to the needs of the wounded and sick in situations of armed conflict. Movement components are called on to enhance their understanding of violence against patients, healthcare workers and facilities, and work with States to identify and promote solutions, and continue to support and strengthen capacity of local healthcare facilities and personnel. The ICRC and NS (if needed, IFRC) are called on to coordinate and cooperate with other humanitarian actors to ensure adequate healthcare delivery. NS are further called on to train staff and volunteers in effective medical assistance and own security, and to engage with their States to explore ways to address violence against healthcare workers, facilities and beneficiaries. NS are further called on to increase dissemination efforts on IHL and human rights obligations, and promote domestic implementation

**What type of commitment is taken by National Societies?** NS are called on to intensify their commitments and efforts to adopt concrete measures creating safer access.

**(2009) Resolution 8—Respecting and protecting health care in armed conflict and other situations of violence (CoD)**

**What are the mandates?** The Resolutions calls on parties to armed conflict/actors involved in violence, to respect and ensure respect for healthcare personnel, facilities and transportation, and to take measures to ensure safe and prompt access to health care. Movement components are called to bring their influence to bear if this is endangered/impeded and adopt plans of action to ensure protection of health care. They are also called on to continue supporting and strengthening the capacity of healthcare facilities and

personnel, and to intensify their efforts to ensure that healthcare needs of the most vulnerable are heard, and the ability of civil society to strengthen care.

It also draws attention to Resolution 12 on ‘Humanitarian assistance in situations of armed conflict’ of the 1991 CoD, Resolution 2 on ‘The emblem’ and Resolution 8 on ‘Peace, IHL and human rights’ of the 1997 CoD, and Resolution 3 on ‘Reaffirmation and implementation of IHL: Preserving human life and dignity in armed conflict’ of the 30th IC.

**What are the roles?** The ICRC is invited to continue to collect information on incidents impeding and endangering access and delivery of health care and make representations to remove restrictions on safety and prompt provision. The ICRC is called on (with assistance of IFRC), to support the NS’ efforts to gain safe access. Further, also with the assistance of NS, to contribute to strengthening NS’ capacity to provide healthcare in countries affected by armed conflict/other situations of violence. The ICRC (with support of NS and the IFRC) is encouraged to develop/promote campaigns for increased awareness aimed at authorities, armed and security forces and local communities, and of obligations under international law to respect and protect medical personnel, transport and facilities.

The ICRC and NS (with assistance of IFRC) are called on to increase their efforts to promote, disseminate and support national implementation of humanitarian law and human rights and are urged to encourage and support governments in their adoption of national measures in their domestic law and practice. The ICRC and NS are urged to encourage and support armed forces in ensuring implementation of relevant IHL and human rights law into military doctrine and practice.

## CHILDREN

### (1999) Resolution 8—Children affected by armed conflict (CoD)

**What are the mandates?** This Resolution reaffirms the relevance of the objectives set out in the Plan of Action and a need to pursue efforts to ensure full implementation. Movement components are requested to strengthen implementation of the Programme concerning children affected by armed conflict. They are also invited to improve reporting on their activities. NS are encouraged to support the adoption of international instruments based on the principles of non-participation and non-recruitment of children below 18 in armed conflict. It also recalls Resolution 5, CoD 1995 and 8.1, CoD 1997.

**What are the ambitions?** Full implementation of the Plan of Action and strengthening of programmes, the non-participation and non-recruitment of children below 18 in armed conflict.

**What are the roles?** The ICRC and IFRC are urged to re-examine coordination mechanisms and develop with NS a consultation process aimed at reinforcing the commitment to children affected by armed conflict. They are also urged to draw up guidelines for the prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration of children in their communities in order to give direction to NS in their work, in conjunction with NS and consultation with specialised organisations.

### (1999) Resolution 9—Street children (CoD)

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution recognises the need to reinforce the activities of the IFRC Task Force on Street Children and the formulation of a Plan of Action.

**What are the ambitions?** Concrete and sustainable improvement in the health and social situation of street children.

**What are the roles?** The IFRC is requested to continue to coordinate the work of the Task Force in developing and implementing the Plan of Action. NS are requested to actively support the Task Force. NS are further urged to initiate or become more involved in street children's programmes, and focus their work on long-term strategies, including advocacy and prevention, and to carry out such activities emphasising the principle of child participation and the need for effective collaboration.

### (1993) Resolution 4—Child Soldiers (CoD)

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution urges components of the Movement to assist children exposed to armed conflicts and protect them from physical and mental injury or abuse. It recalls Resolution 9, "Protection of children in armed conflicts" of the 25th IC, and Resolution 14, "Child soldiers" of the CoD 1991.

**What are the roles?** The ICRC and IFRC are requested to draw up and implement a Plan of Action, promoting the principle of non-recruitment and non-participation of children under the age of 18 in armed conflicts, and to take concrete action to protect and assist child victims of armed conflicts.

## DIVERSITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION, HUMAN DIGNITY, AGENDA FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

### (2005) Resolution 3—Promoting respect for diversity and non-discrimination – a contribution to peace and friendship between peoples (CoD)

**What are the mandates?** All Movement components are asked to call attention to discrimination, intolerance, exclusion and dehumanisation within areas connected with their mandates and activities. They are also encouraged to pursue efforts to promote and implement programmes seeking to ensure respect for diversity and non-discrimination. Movement components are also asked to serve as an example, to promote beneficiaries' short- and long-term interests, and to conserve their characteristics and identity when working with others (as set out in the *Movement Statutes* (art. 7.5) and *Minimum elements to be included in operational agreements between Movement components and their external operational partners*). The IFRC is asked to include non-discrimination and respect for diversity in its “Well-Functioning NS Self-Assessment” questionnaire.

The Resolution also approves the *General Criteria, Orientations and Guiding Questions* (pp. 761-766). The guiding questions are to be used when examining statutes and creating legal framework that promote respect for diversity and non-discrimination. Movement components are tasked with referring to them when planning, implementing and evaluating programmes.

**What are the roles?** The ICRC and IFRC are asked to continue to ensure compliance with aspects of non-discrimination and respect for diversity when examining the statutes of the NS in the Joint

Commission for NS Statutes. NS are asked to continue to keep the IFRC and ICRC informed regarding best practices and experiences.

**What type of commitment is taken by the Movement?** The Resolution raises concerns about the lack of commitment in applying the fundamental principles and insufficient understanding for their *raison d'être* and meaning.

### (2005) Resolution 3—Promote respect for diversity and fight discrimination and intolerance (CoD)

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution requests all Movement components to describe their work with the implementation of related aspects of the *Declaration of the Agenda for Humanitarian Action*, to work at local/national/international levels to promote tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for diversity, and to take actions as laid out in the Resolution's annex, including ensuring openness and diversity within the Movement, looking outward for insight and understanding, promoting public dialogue and advocacy, being proactive and reactive, learning from experience, and developing new initiatives. See *Mobilisation and action – the way forward*: pp. 17-20.

**What type of commitment is taken by the Movement?** Reaffirms the commitment of all components of the Movement to strengthen the application of the Fundamental Principles and the promotion of humanitarian values across religious, political and ethnic lines, both internally and in humanitarian services.

**What type of commitment is taken by National Societies?** Recalls the commitment taken by NS (and States) to cooperate and take initiatives to promote tolerance, non-violence in the community

and respect for cultural diversity (Plan of Action adopted in 1999 by the 27th IC).

### **(2003) Resolution 1—Adoption of the declaration and Agenda for Humanitarian action (IC)**

**What are the mandates?** This Resolution *Adopts the Agenda for Humanitarian Action and urges its implementation* as well as that of the *Declaration “Protecting human dignity”*. It stresses the need to reinforce implementation and respect for IHL and that States must take national measures, including training of armed forces, raising awareness among the public, and adopting legislation to punish war crimes. The **Declaration** affirms the commitment to protect human dignity in all circumstances. States are called on to comply with IHL (particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention), consider ratification/accession to IHL treaties, make use of existing implementation mechanism (such as *Protecting Powers and the International Fact-Finding Commission*), and disseminate IHL to armed forces and the civilian population. All parties to armed conflict are urged to respect applicable treaties and customary rules of IHL. Parties to armed conflict are called upon to reduce and prevent deliberate injury, death and suffering of the civilian population, and protect cultural heritage. Attention is also drawn to protection for captured persons and of humanitarian workers (and States are urged to punish crimes), and for humanitarian workers’ unimpeded access to populations. The Declaration also confirms the Movement’s responsibility to cooperate with States and for States to respect their adherence to the *Fundamental Principles*. The **Agenda** sets out action-oriented goals/measures for States and the Movement to protect human dignity (to be achieved from 2004–2007) and enhance protection in armed conflicts/other situations of armed violence. These actions are:

- Respect and restore the dignity of persons missing as a result of armed conflict or other situations of armed violence and of their families.
- Strengthen the protection of civilians in all situations from the indiscriminate use and effects of weapons and the protection of combatants from unnecessary suffering and prohibited weapons through controls on weapons development, proliferation and use.
- Reducing the risks and impact of disasters and of disease

**What are the roles?** The RCRC Standing Commission is requested to encourage and further implementation. The ICRC and IFRC are requested to implement/support implementation of the Declaration and the *Agenda for Humanitarian Action*.

**What type of commitment is taken by the Movement?** In the Declaration, the Movement commits to reaffirming and applying IHL principles and rules, including customary rule, to increase respect for humanitarian principles and values, promote tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. The Movement also commits to efforts to reduce the risks and effects of disasters on vulnerable populations and reduce their vulnerability to disease due to stigma and discrimination (particularly as concerns people living with HIV/AIDS), and work through new initiatives to build local capacity, enhance volunteerism and strengthen partnerships between States, Movement components and other organisations.



## CIVILIANS IN ARMED CONFLICT

### (2011) Resolution 7—National Societies preparing for and responding to armed conflict and other situations of violence

**What are the mandates?** This resolution recognised the assistance and protection role of the of all Movement components. Furthermore, existing mandates are laid out.

NS: mandated to “organise, in liaison with the public authorities, emergency relief operations and other services to assist the victims of armed conflicts as provided in the Geneva Conventions, and the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies for whom help is needed.” The resolution also emphasises how the NS’ mandate to act as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field and to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to those in need has been reinforced by various resolutions.

ICRC: mandated “to endeavour at all times – as a neutral institution whose humanitarian work is carried out particularly in time of international and other armed conflicts or internal strife – to ensure the protection of and assistance to military and civilian victims of such events and of their direct results.”

IFRC: mandated “to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by the National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering and thereby contributing to the maintenance and the promotion of peace in the world”; “to act as the permanent body of liaison, coordination, and study between the National Societies and to give them any assistance they might request”; and “to bring help to victims of armed conflicts in accordance with the agreements concluded with the International Committee.”

NS are encouraged to intensify their commitment and efforts to adopt appropriate security/risk management systems, and to take other concrete measures to increase their safer access. To this end, appropriate insurance coverage for staff and volunteers is emphasised. NS are also urged to engage in dialogue with governments on access to populations and for respect of NS’ role in providing humanitarian services. NS are encouraged to define their mandates, roles and responsibilities in armed conflict and other situations of violence and to improve their role. ICRC and IFRC are invited to work with NS to this end. In some countries, there is a need to strengthen NS’ statutory and legal instruments to better reflect its role in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

All Movement components are urged to continue to explore and analyse emerging trends and challenges to be used in contingency planning and strengthening resilience.

The resolution further recommends NS to work towards strengthening domestic legislation, policies, agreements and plans in order to establish the framework required to enable them to provide effective assistance and protection to populations affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence.

The IFRC are also encouraged to work closely with the other Movement components to develop effective mechanisms and capacity strengthening expertise.

**What are the ambitions?** Working towards a Movement Approach. Maximise impact by paying attention to each component’s mandates and capacities.

**What type of commitment is taken by the Movement and/or by National Societies?** All

Movement components are requested to consider including the decisions in their strategies, plans and objectives.

**(1999) Resolution 12—Arms availability and the situation of civilians in armed conflict and post conflict situations (CoD)**

**How does it relate to protection?** It is related to the first and third circles of protection.

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution calls on States to review their policies on the production, availability and transfer of arms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. States are called on to elaborate rules, based on IHL and appropriate norms, to halt arms transfers to parties committing/tolerating serious violations of IHL/human rights. Movement components are discouraged from engaging in public debate on specific transfers/receipts of weapons in ways that can compromise its neutrality or operational capacity.

**What are the roles?** NS are encouraged to raise public awareness of the human costs and implications for IHL. The ICRC is requested to support such efforts.

**(1995) Resolution 2—Protection of the civilian population in period of armed conflict (IC)**

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution addresses specific groups/issues. Roles and commitments are therefore addressed under each group. The Resolution both recalls States' obligations to repress violations of IHL and reaffirms that parties to armed conflict violating IHL can be liable for compensation.

Regarding the **whole civilian population**: It urges States and parties to armed conflict to comply/ensure compliance of armed forces with IHL. Respecting human rights norms is stressed, and sexual violence is condemned (specifies that rape and forced prostitution during armed conflict/instigated by party to conflict constitutes a war crime). The rights of a civilian population to benefit from impartial humanitarian relief actions is re-asserted, as well as the importance of unimpeded access for humanitarian organisations to populations in need. States and Movement components are urged to intensify their efforts to disseminate the rules of Protocol I (civilian defence), implement in the case of States, and assist in the case of the Movement.

Regarding **women**: It urges strong measures to provide women victims of conflict with protection and assistance, as laid out in national and international law, and that mechanisms to investigate and prosecute responsible parties are established and strengthened. To this end, appropriate training for prosecutors, judges and other involved officials is underlined. Both States, the Movement and other actors are encouraged to develop preventive measures, assess existing programmes and set up new ones, to ensure comprehensive and multidisciplinary assistance.

Regarding **children**: It demands that recruitment of children under 15 into armed forces/groups be punished and calls on particularly stringent measures and recommends that children under 18 are not recruited. Both States, the Movement and other actors are encouraged to develop preventive measures, assess existing programmes and set up new ones to ensure comprehensive and multidisciplinary assistance.

Regarding **reunification of families**: It calls on States to resolve the issue of separated families,

and that parties to armed conflict do not take actions that result in family separation in a manner contrary to IHL. The particular vulnerability of separated minors is emphasised, and all Movement components are invited to intensify their efforts in working for this group. States are called upon to swiftly determine legal status to facilitate family reunification, to facilitate tracing activities of their NS, and to support RFL work. States and parties to armed conflict are also urged to cooperate with the ICRC and to provide families with information of missing relatives. NS are encouraged to strengthen their tracing and social welfare services and cooperate with the ICRC, authorities and other organisations.

Regarding the **civilian population affected by famine**: It stresses the prohibition on: (1) using starvation as a method of warfare; (2) attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless any objects indispensable to their survival; (3) forced displacement. The obligation to accept impartial humanitarian relief operations for the civilian population in need is also emphasised.

Regarding the **civilian population deprived of water**: It requests parties to conflict to not hinder access to water, not try to destroy/damage sources for the civilian population and facilitate access to repair, including the protection of personnel undertaking repair. States are requested to encourage efforts to bring into operations water supplies, purification or distribution systems damaged by military operations.

Regarding **anti-personnel landmines**: It urges States to take measures towards eliminating all types of anti-personnel landmines and moratoria on their export, become party to the 1980 *UN Convention on prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have In-*

*discriminate Effects*, in particular to its Protocol II. States and competent organisations are urged to take action to increase efforts for mine-clearance and strengthen international cooperation and assistance.

Regarding **blinding and other weapons**: It reaffirms that IHL must be respected in the development of weapons technology, urges States to bind themselves by the (fourth?) Protocol, and to ensure necessary national measures for implementation. Resolution 7 of the 25th IC, IHL in armed conflicts at sea and land, is recalled. The ICRC is invited to follow development, in consultation with the IFRC.

## INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### (1997) **Resolution 4—National Implementation of IHL (CoD)**

**How does it relate to protection?** It primarily concerns itself with the first and third circles.

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution addresses itself to States and primarily NS with the aim of implementing and disseminating IHL. It reminds States of their obligation to implement IHL, adopt legislation to punish war crimes and protect the use of the RCRC emblems.

It also recalls Resolution 1 of the 26th IC on “IHL: From law to action. Report on the follow-up to the IC for the Protection of War Victims”.

**What are the roles?** It reaffirms the role of NS in cooperating with their governments towards the implementation and dissemination of IHL. NS are encouraged to promote the adoption of implementation measures at the national level and to cooperate regionally and internationally with other NS, with the IFRC and the ICRC. NS are also encouraged to promote the establishment of national committees for the implementation of IHL.

### (1997) **Resolution 8—Peace, IHL and Human Rights (CoD)**

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution concerns particular groups and roles and commitments are also discussed under these.

Regarding **children affected by armed conflict:** It recalls previous commitments (Resolution 2C of the 1995 IC, recommending that “parties to con-

flict refrain from arming children under the age of 18 and take every feasible step to ensure that children under the age of 18 do not take part in hostilities”, and Resolution 5 of the 1995 CoD, endorsing a *Plan of Action for the Movement* concerning children in armed conflicts). It urges all Movement components to implement the *Plan of Action*, to support work of the international coordinating group of the plan, and to undertake action to provide psychological and social assistance to affected children, also upon reintegration. There is a further appeal to NS in promoting the Movement’s position on the 18-year age limit and encourage their States to adopt national legislation. The ICRC and IFRC are to support action and promote minimum age in relevant international fora.

Regarding **street children:** Previous commitments are recalled (Resolution 2, adopted by CoD 1995, Resolution 51/77, Chapter VI, of the General Assembly of the UN, 1996, on the plight of street children, and the UNCRC). States are urged to include street children in their health, social, and youth programmes and actively advocate for this group. They are further invited to create preventive programmes, and to aid and ensure reintegration, with the participation of the children.

Regarding **anti-personnel landmines:** It calls on NS to promote their governments’ signing of the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction*, achieve the total elimination of all anti-personnel mines, and that NS encourage their governments to adopt national legislation outlawing anti-personnel landmines. All Movement components are called on to intensify their efforts on the total prohibition and elimination of anti-personnel mines and comprehensive multidisciplinary treatment and rehabilitation for victims, and to follow the guidelines for the Movement when considering support for mine

clearance activities. The ICRC and IFRC are further requested, in consultations with NS, to elaborate on a long-term strategy to address the anti-personnel mines problem.

Regarding **arms transfers**: The ICRC's effort to document how unrestrained arms transfer may facilitate violations of IHL and increase suffering, is supported.

Regarding **security and safety of staff of humanitarian organisations**. There is an appeal to all Movement components to urge States to enshrine unimpeded access to vulnerable people and to maximise the security and safety of humanitarian workers. It reaffirms this obligation under IHL. It also reaffirms the obligation of State parties to the Geneva Conventions, to adopt national legislation protecting the RCRC emblems and increase awareness of their protective significance. Movement components are reminded of the necessity of strict adherence to the Fundamental Principles, their obligations under Resolution 9 of the 1995 CoD, to develop recruitment and training policies, activities and improve communication and information networks on these issues, and to seek and rely more on informed local knowledge of the safety and security situation when working in the field.

**(1995) Resolution 1—IHL, from law to action. Report on the follow-up on the IC for the Prevention of War Victims (IC)**

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution reaffirms States' responsibility to respect the principles and norms of IHL. Emphasis is placed on respecting the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols among parties. States are also urged to implement *Recommendations* addressed to them.

**What are the roles?** States and NS are encouraged to organise regional activities to enhance the understanding and implementation of IHL, and to fund/support dissemination projects.

**(1995) Resolution 3—IHL applicable to armed conflicts at sea (IC)**

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution urges States to draft manuals on IHL applicable to armed conflicts at sea, and to take account of the provisions of the *San Remo Manual* in drafting these.

**What are the roles?** All Movement components are invited to promote knowledge on IHL applicable to armed conflicts at sea.

## PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

### (1995) Resolution 4—Principles and action in international humanitarian assistance and protection (IC)

**How does it relate to protection?** It speaks to all circles of protection.

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution addresses particular groups/situations and commitments, and their roles are discussed under these. It also draws attention to Resolution 11 of the 1993 CoD concerning the “Principles of Humanitarian Assistance”, Resolution 21 and *Statement of policy on aid to refugees* adopted by the 24th IC, resolution 17 on the *Movement of refugees* adopted by the 25th IC, and Resolution 21 on disaster relief in case of technical and other disasters adopted by the 25th IC.

Regarding **IDPs and refugees**: States are called on to respect IHL, accede to and fully implement the 1951 CRS and 1967 Protocol (emphasis is placed on the principle of non-refoulement), provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs and assist States that have accepted refugees, ensure access for humanitarian organisations and a rapid response to appeals, renew support for the provision of humanitarian assistance to long-standing refugee and displacement situations, and to recognise the vital role that can be played by Movement components in addressing the needs of these groups. Movement components are invited to promote humanitarian principles and values and disseminate IHL, particular at community level and promote operational cooperation in a spirit of complementarity.

Regarding **natural and technological disasters**: States are called on to take note of guidelines on NS involvement in technological disasters, and

NS and the IFRC are encouraged to intensify their activities, develop their expertise and mobilise financial resources.

Regarding the **Principles and Rules for RCRC Disaster Relief**: It calls upon Movement components to implement the *Principles and Rules for RCRC Disaster Relief*.

Regarding the **need to build longer term developmental perspectives into humanitarian assistance**: States are called upon to ensure that their relief funding policies focus on strengthening operational capacities of recipient NS, explore ways to encourage developmental approach to relief, and promote the implementation of a developmental approach that also takes emergency situations and humanitarian needs into account. The IFRC and ICRC are called on to develop tools and approaches to this end and strengthen the Movement structures.

Regarding the **Code of Conduct for the Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief**: It invites States and NS to encourage NGOs to abide by and register their support with the IFRC, for the *Code of Conduct for the Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief*.

Regarding the **humanitarian consequences of economic sanctions**. It encourages States to consider the possible negative humanitarian impact on the population and on third States, to assess and monitor the short- and long-term consequences of UN-approved sanctions on the most vulnerable, to provide relief to these groups and victims of humanitarian emergencies in their territories, and to permit relief operations. The Movement components are called on to contribute to reducing the undesirable humanitarian side-effects of sanctions.

Regarding the **need for independence of humanitarian action in times of crisis**: States are called upon to recognise the Movement's need to maintain clear separation of humanitarian action from other actions carried out by others during humanitarian crisis, redouble their efforts in conflicts resolution and prevention, peacekeeping, disaster preparedness and mitigation, and respect and not endanger humanitarian operations and personnel.

**(1995) Resolution 5—Strengthening national capacity to provide humanitarian and development assistance and protection to the most vulnerable (IC)**

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution calls attention to earlier commitments: Article 2 of the Statutes of the Movement, according to which each State shall promote the establishment on its territory of a NS and encourage its development, respect Movement components adherence to the Fundamental Principles, and Resolutions 25 and 22 of the 24th and 25th IC on the “Development of NS in the context of national development plans” and “Development of NS as a Contribution to National Development”. NS are called upon to search for means to strengthen their capacity and share experiences and resources.

**States are called upon to:**

- Affirm mandate of NS as autonomous humanitarian organisations auxiliary to their governments and as institutions that play a special role in enhancing respect for humanitarian values and human dignity
- Recognise the need for NS to maintain their independence and autonomy of action and to respect the NS' right to adjust their statutes whenever they deem it necessary in order to improve their function
- Make better use of the potential of NS as cost-effective providers of health care, social services and emergency assistance for the most vulnerable, and to recognise the NS will need to develop new ways to fund work carried out in cooperation with the public authorities
- Recognise the specific roles of the NS of their country in disaster preparedness and tracing services
- Help create beneficial environment for the overall development of NS (with IFRC, and in cooperation with ICRC), support the development of the global network of NS (also to be supported by all Movement components), and the efforts of all Movement components to assist in the development of NS

## SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

### (2015) 31IC/15/R3—SGBV: Joint action on prevention and response

**How does it relate to protection?** It speaks to all three circles of protection.

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution does not give rise to new obligations under international law. It does, however, speak detailed to sexual violence in armed conflicts and SGBV in disasters and other emergencies.

Regarding legal and policy framework: It calls attention to existing IHL and human rights law. Parties of armed conflicts are called on to cease acts of sexual violence. States are urged to ratify/accede to relevant treaties, comply with their obligations, end impunity, investigate, prosecute, and criminalise acts of sexual violence and adopt a zero-tolerance policy, review domestic legal frameworks, make sure that adequate attention is paid to SGBV in their own procedures, policies and contingency and preparedness plans related to disasters and other emergencies, and offer protection and respond to the needs of victims.

Regarding prevention: States are called on to disseminate IHL and integrate prohibitions of sexual violence into all activities of their armed and security forces and detaining facilities, and that these have appropriate internal systems for monitoring and responding in a victim-sensitive way. It also encourages States to support the activities of local leaders/civil society raising awareness on this issue. Regarding information and training: States are called on to gather, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data/information on SGBV in disasters/other emergencies (with support of NS and IFRC), make every effort before, during and after disasters/other emergencies to make the prohibi-

tion of SGBV and relevant services widely known (with support of NS), and that law enforcement and justice system is equipped to address SGBV in disasters/other emergencies. States, NS and the IFRC and other relevant stakeholders are also called on to ensure that their disaster- and emergency-management plans and activities include measures to prevent and respond to SGBV, to include the participation of women and engage community members. Sharing of good practices is encouraged.

Regarding protection and access to justice: States are called upon to make every effort to give victims/survivors access to justice, and to provide training for personnel of all relevant institutions who may respond in armed conflict. Emphasis is placed on avoiding any form of discrimination, adhering to a victim-oriented and gender-sensitive approach, and to protect the needs of victims/survivors and punish perpetrators.

Regarding investigating and prosecuting: Emphasis is placed on the importance of effective investigation and ethical documentation. States are called on to provide training for their police, prosecutors, judiciary and relevant supporting personnel, to this end, prosecute and try acts of sexual violence in an effective, impartial and appropriate manner. In post-conflict situations, it proposes truth and reconciliation processes for addressing sexual violence.

Regarding support for victims, preparedness and response: Both States and NS are called on to ensure that victims have access to comprehensive and multidisciplinary services, emphasising non-discrimination, safety, dignity, confidentiality and privacy.

The Resolution recognises that while women and girls are disproportionately affected, men and



boys may also be victims/survivors of sexual and GBV, and that factors such as age, disability, deprivation of liberty, displacement, religion, ethnicity, race and nationality, among others, may increase risk. It also points to important implications of understanding SGBV, that incidents are often invisible as there are many barriers that prevent victims/survivors from coming forward, and that resulting physical and psychological injuries may be less obvious than those caused by other forms of violence. It also draws attention to the fact that humanitarian personnel may be a source of harm.

**What are the roles?** The Resolution does not expand or modify the mandates, roles and responsibilities of Movement components but provides guidelines on implementation, cooperation and partnerships. All Movement components are called on to make capacity-building on preventing/responding to SGBV one of their priorities, to adopt and enforce zero-tolerance policies on sexual exploitation and abuse of beneficiaries and subject such persons to sanctions, and develop and strengthen the capacity of national institutions, local expertise and community-based initiatives, and to coordinate and cooperate as appropriate with other relevant stakeholders. The ICRC is encouraged to intensify its efforts to prevent sexual violence, alongside its efforts to protect and assist the victims/survivors. The IFRC is encouraged to continue its research and consultations with a view to formulate relevant recommendations.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

### (2019) [CD/19/R5](#)—Movement policy on addressing mental health and psychosocial needs

**How does it relate to protection?** It relates to all three circles.

**What are the mandates?** Adoption of the *Movement policy on addressing mental health and psychosocial needs* and its implementation. The policy provides 8 guiding statements to the Movement’s work in providing MHPSS (see table). The Resolution calls on increased resource allocation to strengthen the Movement’s capacity and capability to address needs. The Movement is further called on to engage in humanitarian diplo-

macy and be involved in developing international standards and practices.

**What type of commitment is taken by the Movement?** All Movement components are called on to guarantee the ‘basic level’ of psychosocial support response within the MHPSS framework, develop their capacity, assess and advocate for the full spectrum of MHPSS.

### (2019) [33IC/19/R2](#)—Addressing mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies

**How does it relate to protection?** It specifically refers to the principle of “do no harm” and speaks to services and activities.

#### MHPSS guiding statements

1. Ensure impartial access to MHPSS and prioritise prevention and early response.
2. Ensure comprehensive and integrated support and care for people with mental health and psychosocial needs.
3. Recognise the resilience, participation and diversity of people in all mental health and psychosocial activities.
4. Ensure protection of safety, dignity and rights.
5. Address stigma, exclusion and discrimination.
6. Implement and contribute to the development of interventions based on MHPSS standards and practices that are internationally recognised and informed by evidence.
7. Protect the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of staff and volunteers.
8. Develop mental health and psychosocial support capacity.

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution calls on States and the Movement to increase efforts to ensure early and sustained access to MHPSS service, to invest in local and community-based action on a longer-term basis, and to ensure that mental MHPSS responses include psychosocial, psychological and specialised mental health care. It also calls on them to take action to address stigma, exclusion and discrimination through approaches that respect the dignity and reinforce the participation of affected people, in context-specific, culturally and faith-sensitive way, to protect and promote the mental health and psychosocial well-being of staff and volunteers, equipping them with the necessary skills, tools and supervision to cope with stressful situations and responding to their specific mental health and psychosocial needs, to integrate MHPSS into all activities addressing humanitarian needs, and to ensure that MHPSS and responses addressing other humanitarian needs are mutually reinforcing.

States and NS are also encouraged to enhance their cooperation to address needs. States are further called on to ensure that MHPSS is an integral component in domestic and international emergency response systems, that the Movement support this effort, and for States to work to strengthen the quality and capacity of the workforce in coordination and cooperation with the Movement.

It also calls attention to the Movement's policy on addressing mental health and psychosocial needs adopted by the 2019 CoD, Resolution 3, "SGBV: Joint action on prevention and response" and the role played by States and NS to ensure that SGBV survivors have access to psychological and psychosocial support, Resolution 29 of the 25th IC, Resolution 4, "HCiD: Continuing to protect the delivery of health care together" and Resolution 5, "The safety and security of humanitarian volun-

teers" of the 32nd IC. The Resolution further points to the particular risks faced by children and youth if their mental health and psychosocial needs are not addressed early.

## PROTECTION FROM WEAPONS

### (2017) CD/17/R4—Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: 2018–2021 action plan

**What are the mandates?** This resolution adopts the *Action Plan on the Non-use, Prohibition and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons 2018-2021*. The action plan's key objectives are to promote adherence to and full implementation of the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* by all States and of existing international agreements with similar objectives, including the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*, the *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty* and regional treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones.

States are called on to accede to/ratify and implement the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*, the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*, the *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty* and regional treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones. States are further called on to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again. Movement components are urged to promote adherence with and full implementation to the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* and other relevant treaties and agreements, and to implement the action plan in the context of their humanitarian diplomacy efforts.

The resolution also recognises the role that Movement components may play in assisting victims of the testing and use of nuclear weapons, in environmental remediation, and in implementing the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*.

**What are the ambitions?** That nuclear weapons are never used again, either intentionally or accidentally, and are completely eliminated.

**What are the roles?** The Resolution invites the IFRC to facilitate the coordination of NS' efforts to implement the action plan and the ICRC to lead its implementation, promote it and monitor it.

**What type of commitment is taken by the Movement?** The action plan commits the Movement to a global humanitarian advocacy strategy on nuclear weapons, and intensify the global action based on the commitments made in Resolution 1, 2011 and 2013 CoD, and implement Resolution 8, 2017 CoD.

### (2013) Resolution 7—Weapons and IHL (CoD)

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution confirms the commitment to earlier resolutions (Resolution 2 of the 2005 CoD on “Weapons and IHL” and Resolution 7 of the 2009 CoD on “Preventing humanitarian consequences arising from the development, use and proliferation of certain types of weapons”). It furthermore calls upon States to ratify the *Arms Trade Treaty* and to adopt national control system and legislation to ensure its compliance, to strengthen the protection of civilians from the indiscriminate use and effects of explosive weapons, to consider the potential humanitarian impact of new and developing technologies of warfare and subject such weapons to reviews as set out in Additional Protocol (Article 36), and to uphold the prohibition of chemical and biological weapons. Moreover, all Movement components are called on to increase their efforts to implement the 2009 *Movement Strategy on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and other ERW*.

**(2009) Resolution 6—Movement Strategy on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and other ERW: Reducing the Effects of Weapons on Civilians (CoD)**

**How does it relate to protection?** It concerns all three circles. It calls for mainstreaming, operational activities and assistance to survivors, and development/promotion/implementation of legal norms.

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution adopts the Movement Strategy on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and Other ERW: Reducing the Effects of Weapons on Civilians. This Strategy presents the Movement policy and reflects its operational approach. The Resolution urges all Movement components to implement the Strategy through their efforts to develop, promote and implement the norms of IHL, take a range of coordinated and integrated actions (data gathering, analysis, risk reduction/education, survey, clearance) to reduce the impact of weapon contamination, and provide multidisciplinary and comprehensive assistance

to victims. It places emphasis, particularly, on work on behalf of victims be consistent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and provides content to activities within victim assistance.

**What are the ambitions?** The strategy’s aim is to ensure that civilians will no longer be affected by weapons that cause suffering and injury after the cessation of hostilities.

**What are the roles?** The resolution requests that all Movement components undertake periodic self-assessment of implementation. Movement components should seek to contribute to emergency and continuing medical care, physical and functional rehabilitation, psychosocial support, and economic reintegration.

**What type of commitment is taken by the Movement?** Commit to an approach including the development, promotion and implementation of legal norms, operation and assistance to survivors.

NS	IFRC	ICRC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct their efforts towards the promotion of legal norms, incident reduction and data gathering</li> <li>• Play an important part in providing various forms of victim assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide the necessary organisational development support for NS (e.g. resource mobilisation, financial and human resources management)</li> <li>• Assist NS in incorporating programmes covered by the Strategy in their development plans</li> <li>• Include work in the field in own disaster-preparedness and emergency response mechanisms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invited to monitor the implementation</li> <li>• Continue to implement activities based on need during armed conflicts and other situations of violence</li> <li>• Provide expertise, advice and support to NS who wish to launch programmes in this area</li> <li>• Play leading role in the development of relevant international norms and in monitoring and promoting implementation</li> </ul>

## INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RISK LAW

### (2019) 33IC/19/R7—Disaster laws and policies that leave no one behind

**What are the mandates?** This resolution encourages States to assess whether existing domestic disaster laws provide guidance on addressing the evolving risks of weather-related disasters, and to consider the integration of innovative approaches in their laws including social protection programmes. States are invited to use the Checklist on law and disaster preparedness and response.

In order to leave no one behind, States are encouraged to determine whether disaster laws and policies guard against discrimination and ensure meaningful access for all, considering the specific rights and needs of those who might be overlooked and the most vulnerable, ensuring the collection and protection of SADD data, promoting gender equality in decision-making, ensuring contingency plans for SGBV and child protection, promoting access to medical support including MHPSS as part of disaster management, and promoting access to RFL services.

**What are the ambitions?** To improve disaster laws in order to leave no one behind in preparedness and response.

**What are the roles?** The Resolution encourages National Societies to continue advising and supporting their governments in the development and implementation of disaster laws as well as to scale up efforts in light of evolving risks related to climate change.

The IFRC is requested to support National Societies through capacity building, technical support, advocacy, research and tool development.

The role of young people and youth volunteers is recognised as particularly relevant in meeting the humanitarian needs of those affected by disasters and promoting disaster risk reduction in local communities.

## CULTURAL PROPERTY

This mapping bases its categorisation of relevant resolutions on the IASC definition of “Protection”, including the rights of the individual as a central element. Although the following two resolutions diverge from this definition, they do seek to preserve and protect (cultural property) and are therefore also included.

### **(2015) CD/15/R5—Preserving the historical heritage of the Movement. Follow-up to Resolution 6 of the CoD 2011**

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution addresses NS and recommends that NS gain the necessary expertise from national archives/national association of museums for information on professional norms/standards, including for training, as well as from international associations. It also recommends that NS place greater emphasis on the Movement’s historical and cultural heritage in their communication, and promotional and fundraising campaigns. Moreover, that they devote a page to it on their websites and, where appropriate, both facilitate access to, and research and publication based on the archives.

**What are the ambitions?** Preservation of the Movement’s historical heritage.

### **(2001) Resolution 11—Protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict (CoD)**

**How does it relate to protection?** It relates to the three circles. It calls upon mainstreaming, specific activities and adherence to and ratification of relevant legal instruments.

**What are the mandates?** The Resolution recognises the importance of cultural property, monu-

ments and cultural heritage, and the need for their protection. It emphasises its protection under criminal law and during armed conflict according to IHL (particularly, the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols of 1954 and 1999). It further notes the role of the ICRC in encouraging ratification and implementation of the 1954 Convention, encourages NS to include it in their activities to promote, disseminate and implement IHL, and invites States to become party to it and other relevant treaties.

