



Power of humanity

Council of Delegates of the International
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

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

Antalya, Turkey
10–11 November 2017

**Resolution to Adopt a
Movement Call for Action
on The Humanitarian Needs of Vulnerable Migrants**

BACKGROUND REPORT

**Document prepared by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent
Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross**

Geneva, September 2017

Justification for the CoD Resolution adopting a Movement Call for Action on the Humanitarian Needs of Vulnerable Migrants

IFRC and ICRC are proposing that the 2017 Council of Delegates endorse a resolution that adopts a *Movement Call for Action on the Humanitarian Needs of Vulnerable Migrants*.

The Call for Action is necessary in light of continuing challenges in the overall protection and assistance of migrants. Since the adoption of the [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#) last year, there has been little evidence of improvement in this regard in various countries. In many instances, we are facing long-standing issues. It is therefore critical that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement raise its concerns once more and trigger a change in State action.

The Call for Action is also opportune in the context of the current consultations regarding a Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration and a Global Compact on Refugees, which are expected to culminate at the end of this year before a more formal negotiation process begins on the texts.

IFRC and ICRC have proposed the format of a Call for Action, somewhat similar in intent to the Movement Statement on Migration of the 2015 Council of Delegates, while providing more detailed and specific “asks” to States, similar to the Movement Message to the World Humanitarian Summit (also adopted by the Council of Delegates in the same year).

The humanitarian needs of migrants vary substantially between countries and regions, as do the challenges faced by the components of the Movement in seeking to support them. However, thanks to our global network with a presence in 190 countries and recent discussions with National Societies, we have identified four areas that continue to urgently require State action. These issues also resonate with those previously emphasized in Resolution 3 of the 31st International Conference in 2011, which remain highly relevant in the current context. They are:

1. Protecting migrants from death, violence, abuse and violations of their fundamental rights along the entire migratory trail
2. Guaranteeing that migrants, irrespective of legal status, have effective access to essential services
3. Prioritizing the rights and needs of the most vulnerable
4. Using detention only as a measure of last resort

These issues are therefore the main focus of the Call for Action, which is directed at States, who bear the primary responsibility to address the protection and assistance needs of migrants, in accordance with their obligations under international law. The Call for Action aims both to call for immediate action at the national level and to influence migration policies at the national, regional and international level, including current negotiations on the Global Compacts. It also emphasizes the willingness and readiness of National Societies, as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, to lend their support, as appropriate, to States in order to respond to the needs of migrants.

The Call will serve as a vehicle for humanitarian diplomacy by all components of the Movement with the relevant authorities to ensure that States meet their obligations towards migrants and that the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants are met.

Annexes and attachments:

- [Resolution 3 on Migration: Ensuring Access, Dignity, Respect for Diversity and Social Inclusion, adopted at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent \(2011\);](#)
- [Movement Statement on Migration: Ensuring Collective Action to Protect and Respond to the Needs and Vulnerabilities of Migrants \(2015\), adopted at the Council of Delegates.](#)