



**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

**Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons:  
2018–2021 action plan**

**RESOLUTION**

**Document prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross in consultation  
with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and  
National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

Antalya, November 2017

## RESOLUTION

### **Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: 2018–2021 action plan**

The Council of Delegates,

*reiterating* its longstanding and deep concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, the lack of any adequate humanitarian response capacity in the event of their use, the difficulty of envisaging how any use of nuclear weapons could be compatible with the rules of international humanitarian law, and the need for concrete action leading to the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons,

*recalling* its 2011 appeal to all States “to ensure that nuclear weapons are never again used, regardless of their views on the legality of such weapons” and “to pursue in good faith and conclude with urgency and determination negotiations to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate nuclear weapons through a legally binding international agreement, based on existing commitments and international obligations”, as well as the other positions and actions called for in Resolution 1 of the 2011 Council of Delegates and in Resolution 1 of the 2013 Council of Delegates,

*commending* the efforts of the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) to implement these resolutions at the national and international levels, in particular the workshops for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) held in Hiroshima, Nayarit, The Hague, Vienna and Geneva,

*inspired* by the high-level Movement conference on nuclear weapons held in Nagasaki in April 2017 and the Nagasaki Action Plan adopted by 34 National Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) with the aim of guiding efforts and stimulating greater engagement by all National Societies and their leaderships in advancing the universal goal of a world free of nuclear weapons,

*recalling* the Nagasaki Appeal of 26 April 2017, endorsed by 34 National Societies, the ICRC and the IFRC, which urged all States to participate in the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination,

*welcoming* the historic adoption by 122 States on 7 July 2017 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as an essential step towards their total elimination, and that the treaty clearly and comprehensively prohibits nuclear weapons based on the recognition of their catastrophic humanitarian consequences, international humanitarian law, and the principles of humanity and the dictates of public conscience,

*welcoming also* that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons recognizes the efforts undertaken by the Movement in calling for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and the role that the ICRC, the IFRC and National Societies may play in assisting victims of the testing and use of nuclear weapons and in environmental remediation, and in other aspects of the implementation of the treaty,

*deeply alarmed* by the increasing risk that nuclear weapons will again be used by intent, miscalculation or accident, and *stressing* that any risk of use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable given their catastrophic humanitarian consequences,

1. *calls on* all States to promptly sign, ratify or accede to, and faithfully implement the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;
2. *calls on* States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and regional treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, and *calls on* all States Parties to fulfil their obligations and commitments under these treaties;
3. *calls on* all States, until nuclear weapons are completely eliminated, to ensure that these weapons are never again used, and *calls in particular on* nuclear weapons possessors and nuclear-allied States to take urgent steps to reduce the risk of intentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, based on their existing international commitments;
4. *urges* all components of the Movement to promote, to the extent feasible, adherence to and full implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as well as other 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;
5. *adopts* the Action Plan on the Non-use, Prohibition and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons 2018–2021 (in annex);
6. *urges* all components of the Movement to implement the action plan in the context of their humanitarian diplomacy efforts, to the extent feasible;
7. *invites* the IFRC to facilitate, as appropriate, the coordination of National Societies' efforts to implement the action plan;
8. *invites* the ICRC to lead the implementation of the Movement's action plan, with support from the IFRC, and to report, as necessary, to the Council of Delegates on the progress made in the implementation of Resolution 1 of the 2011 Council of Delegates and this Resolution.

**Resolution co-sponsors:<sup>1</sup>**

1. ICRC
2. IFRC
3. Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society
4. Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan
5. Australian Red Cross
6. Austrian Red Cross
7. Bahamas Red Cross Society
8. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
9. Belgian Red Cross
10. Belize Red Cross Society
11. Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina
12. Botswana Red Cross
13. Brazilian Red Cross Society
14. Burkinabe Red Cross Society
15. Burundi Red Cross
16. Central African Red Cross Society
17. Colombian Red Cross
18. Cook Islands Red Cross Society
19. Costa Rica Red Cross
20. Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire
21. Croatian Red Cross
22. Cyprus Red Cross Society
23. Czech Red Cross
24. Danish Red Cross
25. Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
26. Dominica Red Cross Society
27. Dominican Red Cross
28. Ecuadorean Red Cross
29. Egyptian Red Crescent Society
30. Salvadorean Red Cross Society
31. Ethiopia Red Cross Society
32. Fiji Red Cross Society
33. Finnish Red Cross
34. Gambia Red Cross Society
35. German Red Cross
36. Ghana Red Cross Society
37. Grenada Red Cross Society
38. Guatemalan Red Cross
39. Guyana Red Cross Society
40. Haitian National Red Cross Society
41. Honduran Red Cross
42. Hungarian Red Cross
43. Icelandic Red Cross
44. Indonesian Red Cross Society
45. Iraqi Red Crescent Society
46. Irish Red Cross Society
47. Italian Red Cross
48. Jamaica Red Cross
49. Japanese Red Cross Society
50. Kazakh Red Crescent Society

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<sup>1</sup> National Societies listed in alphabetical order by country name.

51. Kenya Red Cross Society
52. Kiribati Red Cross Society
53. Kuwait Red Crescent Society
54. Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan
55. Latvian Red Cross
56. Lebanese Red Cross
57. Luxembourg Red Cross
58. Malagasy Red Cross Society
59. Malawi Red Cross Society
60. Malaysian Red Crescent Society
61. Maldivian Red Crescent
62. Mali Red Cross
63. Mexican Red Cross
64. Red Cross Society of Micronesia
65. Mongolian Red Cross Society
66. Mozambique Red Cross Society
67. Nepal Red Cross Society
68. Netherlands Red Cross
69. New Zealand Red Cross
70. Nicaraguan Red Cross
71. Red Cross Society of Niger
72. Norwegian Red Cross
73. Palau Red Cross Society
74. Red Cross Society of Panama
75. Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society
76. Peruvian Red Cross
77. Philippine Red Cross
78. Portuguese Red Cross
79. Qatar Red Crescent Society
80. Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society
81. Red Cross Society of Saint Lucia
82. Samoa Red Cross Society
83. Solomon Islands Red Cross
84. South African Red Cross Society
85. South Sudan Red Cross Society
86. Spanish Red Cross
87. Sudanese Red Crescent
88. Suriname Red Cross Society
89. Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society
90. Swedish Red Cross
91. Swiss Red Cross
92. Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan
93. Tanzania Red Cross Society
94. Thai Red Cross Society
95. Timor-Leste Red Cross
96. Tonga Red Cross Society
97. Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society
98. Tunisian Red Crescent
99. Turkish Red Crescent Society
100. Tuvalu Red Cross Society
101. Uganda Red Cross Society
102. Ukrainian Red Cross Society
103. Uruguayan Red Cross
104. Yemen Red Crescent Society
105. Vanuatu Red Cross Society

106. Viet Nam Red Cross
107. Zambia Red Cross Society

**ANNEX****Action Plan on the Non-use, Prohibition and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons 2018–2021**

Awareness of the unacceptable risks posed by nuclear weapons instils in us a profound sense of responsibility to prevent the unspeakable human suffering that any use of such weapons would cause. Neither our Movement nor any other humanitarian actor or State could adequately address the needs of victims and the long-term humanitarian consequences of such use.

While the risk of nuclear-weapon use is growing, we are also facing an unprecedented opportunity to bring our collective power to bear in preventing their use, advancing their prohibition and, ultimately, bringing about their total elimination.

Through this action plan, the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) are committed to intensifying our global action based on the commitments made in Resolutions 1 of the 2011 and 2013 Council of Delegates, and to implementing Resolution 8 of the 2017 Council of Delegates.

The action plan is inspired by the Nagasaki Appeal and Action Plan adopted by 34 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) at a high-level meeting in Nagasaki in April 2017. It is motivated by the knowledge that our efforts have contributed to the unprecedented mobilization of States in recent years to address and prevent the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

The **key objectives** of this action plan are to:

- promote adherence to and full implementation of the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by all States, as a crucial step towards the total elimination of these weapons;<sup>2</sup>
- promote adherence to and full implementation 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;
- raise awareness of the incalculable human suffering that can be expected to result from any use of nuclear weapons, and of the lack of any adequate humanitarian response capacity to meet the needs of victims in the event of such use;<sup>3</sup>
- raise awareness of the increased risk of nuclear-weapon detonations in the current international environment, and promote concrete measures by all States to reduce the risk and to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again;<sup>4</sup>
- promote a better understanding, in particular among young people, of the experiences of survivors of past atomic bombings (*hibakusha*) and nuclear testing, and of the humanitarian, environmental and development implications of any use of nuclear weapons, so that future generations will remain committed to continuing efforts to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again and are completely eliminated.

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<sup>2</sup> 2011 Council of Delegates Resolution 1, “Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons”, operative paragraph 3.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, operative paragraph 1.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, operative paragraph 3.

To attain these objectives, section 1 of the present action plan outlines the types of activities that National Societies, the ICRC and the IFRC intend to undertake. The components of the Movement will implement the actions identified, to the extent feasible, in accordance with their respective mandates, expertise and capacities, taking into account their specific societal and political contexts.

Also for the purpose of achieving the above objectives, this action plan commits the Movement to a global humanitarian advocacy strategy on nuclear weapons that aims to increase the visibility of, resources for and coordination of the actions undertaken by all components of the Movement over the next four years. The activities covered by the strategy are set out in section 2.

## **1. NATIONAL ACTION**

### **a. In States that negotiated the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

- ensure these States sign the treaty as soon as possible, and promote their rapid ratification of or accession to the treaty through contacts with parliamentarians and government officials and through public communications;
- promote the early adoption of national legislation, policies and other measures to ensure effective implementation of the treaty;
- urge these States to work to ensure that other States adhere to the treaty.

### **b. In States not involved in the treaty negotiations**

- urge these States to adopt planning, policy and military practices that will not undermine the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and that will enable them to adhere to the treaty;
- urge States associated with nuclear weapons to urgently adopt measures to reduce the risk of nuclear-weapon use by intent, miscalculation or accident, based on their existing international commitments, including the Action Plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Such measures include: reducing the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrine; taking nuclear weapons off “hair trigger” alert status; pre-notification of nuclear training exercises and missile launches; and the establishment of “early-warning” centres to ensure real-time communication concerning potentially destabilizing events;
- urge States associated with but not in possession of nuclear weapons to engage in dialogue with nuclear-weapon States on steps that will diminish the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies;
- promote further deep reductions in nuclear-weapon arsenals in accordance with existing commitments, including the Action Plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
- continue to promote adherence to the treaty by these States.

### **c. All National Societies**

Each National Society, to the extent feasible according to its specific circumstances and



capacities, will:

- support and participate in the Movement's global humanitarian advocacy strategy on nuclear weapons and cooperate with the ICRC, the IFRC and other National Societies in this effort;
- name a focal point on nuclear weapons within the National Society (and inform the ICRC and IFRC of this contact) by 1 March 2018, with responsibility for coordinating the efforts under this action plan and for liaising with the ICRC, the IFRC and partner National Societies where appropriate;
- increase the role and visibility of National Society leaders in communicating about the current risks and opportunities regarding nuclear weapons;
- significantly increase outreach to young people to raise awareness of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and to promote their active involvement in support of Movement objectives;
- invite youth sections of National Societies to consider supporting the organization of regional Red Cross and Red Crescent youth conferences on nuclear weapons, to include the testimony of nuclear-bomb survivors (*hibakusha*), populations affected by nuclear testing, and other experts, with international support as provided for in section 2 of this document;
- integrate the voices of nuclear-bomb survivors (*hibakusha*) and those affected by nuclear testing into outreach activities;
- brief national committees on international humanitarian law and/or other relevant national bodies on the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;
- write to or meet with Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Environment, Health and Emergency Response and relevant parliamentarians to communicate the Movement's urgent concerns and position on nuclear weapons;
- communicate publicly – including through opinion pieces, interviews and letters to the editor – to raise awareness of current nuclear-weapon-related risks, of the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and of existing international agreements with similar objectives (including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons), based on the Movement's position, ICRC briefings and other materials produced in support of this action plan;
- convey to National Society members, volunteers and staff the Movement's views on nuclear weapons and on current risks and opportunities through National Society websites, publications and meetings of staff and volunteers;
- host public seminars and events on nuclear weapons for specific groups, such as parliamentarians, health professionals, the scientific community, emergency responders and academics;
- communicate and cooperate with national organizations working in the fields of health, the environment and emergency response, and with longstanding organizations working on nuclear-weapon issues, in accordance with the National Society's mandate and the Fundamental Principles;

- include lectures on the humanitarian consequences and legal aspects of nuclear-weapon use during training in international humanitarian law and other dissemination activities for the armed forces and civil society;
- promote this action plan through regional Movement structures to share information with other National Societies and, where possible, consider joint approaches to governments on a regional basis.

## **2. GLOBAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT**

To achieve the objectives of this action plan, there is a need for consistent messages, a smooth flow of updated information, and concerted action by every component of the Movement. To this end, a global humanitarian advocacy strategy on nuclear weapons will be implemented through a range of practical actions that will result in: (a) a significant increase in professional communication materials in a variety of languages; (b) regional workshops to facilitate national action; (c) continuous communication and follow-up on activities planned or implemented; and (d) more regular updates for all components of the Movement active on this issue.

The following specific actions will support the global humanitarian advocacy strategy:

- A Movement Support Group, including dedicated National Societies, the ICRC and the IFRC will be established to support and guide implementation of the action plan.
- At the global level, the ICRC will lead the promotion of adherence to and faithful implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as well as other international agreements with similar objectives, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including through participation in relevant global, regional and national events, and support to National Societies as needed.
- The IFRC will act as focal point for sharing information on National Society activities, outputs and needs and for maintaining an up-to-date database of all National Society focal points on nuclear weapons, and will support National Societies in maintaining and developing the international network of National Societies active in promoting the Movement's objectives on nuclear weapons.
- Red Cross and Red Crescent youth sections are invited to consider how to integrate the Movement's objectives on nuclear weapons into global Red Cross and Red Crescent youth conferences and other events to raise the awareness of new generations of the risks of nuclear weapons and of the need for their prohibition and elimination.
- The ICRC will provide interactive briefings on the content of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the formulation of key messages for National Societies in specific regions and contexts, to promote and facilitate timely national action among authorities and the public.
- The ICRC, with the assistance of the Movement Support Group, will prepare professional communication materials, including social and traditional media tools, model letters, talking points and opinion editorials to support National Societies in reaching out to their audiences.
- The ICRC will maintain its lead role in representing the Movement in relevant multilateral forums and provide timely reports on results achieved, next steps and opportunities for action by National Societies.

- In recognition of the role foreseen in Article 8(5) of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the IFRC will, on behalf of and through National Societies, coordinate the involvement of its membership in meetings of the States party to the treaty.

### **3. IMPLEMENTATION**

The ICRC maintains a lead role within the Movement in promoting and monitoring the implementation of the present action plan.

All National Societies in a position to do so are requested to contribute material, financial and expert support to the common effort of implementing this action plan.