



Our Vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Geneva, 30 June 2017

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

More than a year has passed since the adoption of the bold and inspiring *Vision for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement* at the Council of Delegates in December 2015. As the chair of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, we would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the value – and the galvanizing power – of our shared vision.

To this end, we call upon all of you, as Movement leaders and decision-makers, to fully familiarize yourselves with the vision and promote it in your respective institutions. We ask you to use it as a source of inspiration to guide your strategic and operational decisions, and as the foundation of all your individual and collective endeavours. And we ask you to help ensure that it is dynamic in nature, adapting it to the changing realities of our complex global environment in a relevant, innovative and exemplary way.

The vision is premised on the assertion that “the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is a unique global humanitarian network that serves to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found”. This ambitious statement essentially serves as a motto, encapsulating our aspirations and values, as well as the scale of the challenges facing us. And the desire to uphold human dignity, even in the midst of armed conflict or disaster, remains as strong today as it was 150 years ago.

The vision has perhaps never been more resonant than it is today, given the sheer scale and complexity of humanitarian needs in a great number of concurrent crises around the world, widespread violations of international humanitarian law, increasing risks from disasters that exacerbate vulnerabilities, and the many challenges facing humanitarian actors in responding effectively.

Let us unite in the spirit of the Movement, urging people everywhere and from every walk of life to be humane, inspiring them to mobilize and offer voluntary services to prevent, and ultimately to bring relief to, the suffering of others. The onus is on all of us to turn the words of the vision into a meaningful reality on the ground. We must prove ourselves to be true champions of humanity, through the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of our preventive action and response, and ultimately by making a real difference for people suffering the effects of armed conflicts, natural disasters and other crises. The magnitude of humanitarian needs around the world today demands nothing less.

Yours faithfully,

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of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Eva von Oelreich
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Peter Maurer
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