



## Bangkok Call for Action on Labour Migration

We, the members of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, have gathered in Bangkok, Thailand for the Red Cross Red Crescent Conference on Labour Migration, from 20 to 21 June 2018, to advance our shared efforts to address humanitarian needs in the context of labour migration

*Acknowledging*, in accordance with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement principle of humanity, the importance of respect for the human dignity of all migrants, irrespective of legal status, including migrant workers,

*Expressing*, in accordance with the principle of humanity, deep concern about the continued vulnerability and risks faced by many migrant workers, in Asia Pacific, Middle East and North Africa, in regard to their dignity, safety, access to protection as well as access to essential services, including health and care, and specific concerns faced by those who have been trafficked,

*Expressing* also concern about migrant workers, who face risks associated with disaster and crisis, and those being driven to migrate by environmental changes, including the effects of climate change,

*Recalling* that, as neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian actors, we take no position on whether there should be more or less migration, but recognising, nonetheless, the social, economic and cultural contributions of migrants, including migrant workers, to countries of origin and destination,

*Recalling*, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Doha Dialogue Initiative, from 2014 to 2015, with events held in Qatar, Myanmar and the Philippines, the 31st International Conference 2011: Resolution 3 - Migration: Ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion, and its commitment that states will ensure our safe and effective access to all migrants in need; recalling, the Manila Declaration on Women Household Service Workers, endorsed in Manila, Philippines on 13 May 2015; recalling, the Movement's call for action on the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants of the 2017 Council of Delegates; recalling, the IFRC Global Strategy on Migration 2018-2022, recalling also the IFRC Asia Pacific Framework for Action on Migration and Displacement 2017 to 2022,

*Recalling* further, the Declaration 'Together for Humanity' adopted by the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent which acknowledged "the role of governments, within the framework of national laws and international law, especially international human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law, to address the humanitarian needs of persons negatively affected by migration, including families and communities, and to take effective measures",

*Reaffirming*, the humanitarian approach of the Red Cross Red Crescent to work with and for all migrants, focused on needs, vulnerabilities and potentials and irrespective of legal status or category, including migrant workers and those affected in the context of labour migration,

*Reaffirming*, that our work with and for migrant workers reflects our capacity and national context,

*Reaffirming* also, that our work with and for migrants is in line with International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement resolutions and approaches, and that we do not endanger beneficiaries, or the reputation of staff and volunteers of National Societies or other Movement Components,

## **We hereby declare and agree to:**

**Continue** to provide integrated and impartial assistance and protection, and to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable migrant workers, recognising, that protection activities may encompass a wide range of initiatives, and the existence of the Protection within the Movement framework, to further clarify possible approaches to protection activities for migrants,

**Consider** developing further assistance, protection and advocacy activities for migrant workers, and those affected in the context of labour migration and trafficking, especially children, including also raising awareness of the humanitarian risks for irregular migrants and those who have been trafficked,

**Enhance**, together with the support of the other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the capacity of staff and volunteers of our National Societies to deliver stronger programmes for the most at risk in the context of labour

migration and trafficking, including, recognising the importance of having strong capacity within local branches, and especially those branches along migratory routes,

**Support**, together with the other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the development of strategic plans of action on migration, in line with the IFRC Global Strategy on Migration 2018-2022,

**Raise** awareness and ensure respect of the Code of Conduct for Data Protection, including taking special care with pictures and information relating to beneficiaries,

**In countries of origin**, continue and enhance our work to reduce vulnerability, and enhance the resilience of migrant workers, including through safe migration and pre-departure messaging and initiatives, including measures to reduce the risks of trafficking, and to better prepare migrant workers for their journey and living in host countries; also, to assist and support family members staying behind, including the children of migrant workers,

**Along migratory routes**, including across borders and across regions, seek to ensure access to assistance and protection, including for the most at risk, and develop agreements with each other to coordinate our services and share relevant information to and about migrants on their journeys,

**In countries of destination**, in cooperation with public authorities, seek to support access to our humanitarian services, including essential health and care, and protection services, without fear of arrest,

**In countries of destination**, encourage the social inclusion, cohesion and integration of migrant workers and host communities, including through initiatives to counter intolerance, prejudice and discrimination and to promote respect for diversity, enhancing cultural awareness between migrants and local communities,

**On return**, continue and consider developing further support for the immediate and longer-term reintegration needs of migrant workers, including through addressing health and any psychosocial support needs,

**Continue** to explore ways in which Restoring Family Links (RFL) can be implemented to better support those affected in the context of labour migration, recognising that addressing the Restoring Family Links needs of migrants is a key element of the Family Links Network's RFL Strategy 2018+,

**Undertake** humanitarian diplomacy initiatives to seek to ensure that authorities and other actors respect their obligations towards protecting the lives, the rights and the dignity of migrant workers, including their access to essential services and humanitarian assistance,

**Strengthen**, together with the support of the other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, our partnerships within and across countries and regions, including between National Societies in countries of origin and in countries of destination, including bilateral or collective initiatives and projects among National Societies, in order to better assist, protect and advocate for the humanitarian needs of migrant workers, consistent with the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including recognising and supporting the roles of Red Cross Red Crescent networks, including the Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN),

### **Following endorsement of this statement, we agree to:**

**Create** an informal Cross-Regional Labour Migration Steering Group, comprised of National Societies from the Asia Pacific and Middle East North Africa regions, supported by the IFRC and ICRC, and hosted by the Qatar Red Crescent Society, to continue to review progress against the actions called for in the Bangkok Call for Action, to coordinate with relevant Red Cross Red Crescent working groups and initiatives, including the APMN Working Group on Labour Migration and Trafficking, consider resource mobilisation opportunities to support the work of the IFRC and National Societies, to share information on relevant contextual, legal and policy changes, and to periodically produce informal reports and make recommendations on how to strengthen our collective initiatives to ensure safety, dignity and respect for migrant workers, and those affected by labour migration, including through links with the forthcoming Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2018, the International Conference in 2019 and the development of Strategy 2030.

### **Gathered Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies:**

Afghan Red Crescent Society, Australian Red Cross, Bahrain Red Crescent Society, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Cambodian Red Cross Society, Fiji Red Cross Society, Indonesian Red Cross Society (PMI), Jordan Red Crescent, The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Lao Red Cross, Lebanese Red Cross, Malaysian Red Crescent Society, Maldivian Red Crescent, Mongolian Red Cross, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Nepal Red Cross Society, New Zealand Red Cross, Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, Philippine Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Singapore Red Cross Society, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, The Thai Red Cross Society, Viet Nam Red Cross Society

### **Including, Partner National Societies:**

American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross,

### **Together, with:**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)