

**IFRC Statement**  
**Open-ended Informal Consultative Meeting**  
**Section C: Guiding Principles**  
**18 September, 2014**

Mr. Chair,  
Excellencies, distinguished representatives,

The IFRC would like to thank the Co-chairs for the opportunity to contribute to the Informal Consultations. As an auxiliary to National Governments, Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies are working hand in hand with Member States to reduce disaster risk and vulnerability and strengthen the resilience of communities. Based on our experience and the feedback from our National Societies, I want to share our views on the Guiding Principles.

In general I think the current version has touched upon most of important principles. However, by grouping them around the key themes of DRR, I think they would better serve the purpose of setting the clear rules to be followed by all stakeholders. Broadly these themes may include responsibility; governance; comprehensive risk management; linkage between DRR and development; accountability and transparency; resource allocation; partnership and cooperation. Besides, since the guiding principles are not optional consideration but must be followed in all circumstances, we suggest that appropriate verbs be used consistently.

Managing disaster risk is the primary responsibility of States and it is also the shared responsibility of individuals and communities alike. Therefore, we recommend the principle (Paragraph 12.a) to mention not only the States' international legal obligation, but also the responsibility of individuals and communities to contribute to their own safety and resilience.

With regard to the principle of an all-of-society engagement and empowerment for DRM, we want the principle (Paragraph 12.d) to also underline the importance of transferring necessary authority and resources to the local level.

When spelling out certain population groups, guiding principles mention children, youth, disabled and indigenous here and there but overlook other marginalized groups, for instance, minorities affected by religious or cultural discrimination, or socially disfranchised. So we suggest a wording like *“all groups of society, especially the poor and vulnerable”*.

Organised and trained volunteer groups such as Red Cross Red Crescent teams play an important role in DRR. Capacitated volunteers working in coordination with local authorities can reach further and wider groups; which is beyond the capacity of most local authorities. Therefore, in addition to the recognition of their responsibilities, we suggest the principle (Paragraph 12. F) calls for creating an enabling environment for civil society organisations and local stakeholders to be involved in the full spectrum of DRM.

Last but not least, effective partnership and cooperation is required at all levels. So, highlighting only the global partnership and international cooperation (Paragraph 12. m) is a bit misleading.

The IFRC will continue to be actively engaged in the process of developing the post-2015 framework for DRR, as well as its implementation.

Thank you for your attention.