



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

Delegation to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY SECRETARY GENERAL ELHADJ AS SY
OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

UN Summit for Adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda
New York, 25 September 2015

Mr. President,

On behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, thank you for the opportunity to address this historic Summit. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is ambitious, universal, holistic and more inclusive than the approaches that have come before it.

We are pleased with the emphasis that is placed on the most vulnerable and most marginalized. We welcome as well the strong focus on resilience, recognizing that the risks of disaster, humanitarian crises, and global health epidemics have the potential to reverse hard-won development gains. These issues, as well as forced displacement, migration, violence, peace, and human rights and human dignity must be addressed if we are to achieve sustainable development.

Mr. President,

There are an estimated 250 million people affected by humanitarian crises. We are seeing an increase in the intensity, frequency and unpredictability of disasters, often as a result of climate change and unplanned urbanization. Over the past two years, we have been reminded yet again of the threat posed by international health emergencies that are a result of underdeveloped health sectors. Tens of millions of people are affected by conflicts that are becoming more and more protracted, stretching the capacity and imagination of humanitarian organizations. There are an estimated 60 million people who are forcibly displaced, half of whom are children. This is the highest level since the end of the Second World War. In recent weeks, I have visited the borders of Serbia, Hungary and Croatia, and seen first-hand the terrible human toll of a crisis that is testing our shared humanity. If we are to truly “leave no one behind”, then this new post-2015 agenda must address the needs of people affected by humanitarian crises.

Mr. President,

This ambitious agenda needs to be backed by sufficient resources. As the World Bank and IMF have said, we must go “from billions to trillions” if we have any hope of delivering on the promises we are making here. In order to do this, we will have to scale up our ambition and diversify our sources of funding. However, it is not only the quantity of funding that is critical—but where and to whom it is allocated.

If we are to deliver on this agenda, then more resources must be driven to the local level, where needs are greatest. International cooperation must support local action, including through local authorities and national organizations that deliver services and promote sustainable development on the ground.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will play a critical role. Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, through their trained staff and 17 million volunteers, are permanently present in communities.

They are present at all points of what we might term the humanitarian and development continuum. They are there before a crisis hits, when a community is struggling to address structural vulnerabilities including poor access to water and sanitation. They are there when a disaster approaches, helping communities prepare for the seemingly inevitable. They are there after the crisis, well before external actors arrive, providing the initial wave of relief, first aid and other critical services. And they are there when the international responders have gone, accompanying communities along the road to recovery, helping them minimize the risks that were exploited by the disaster. And because of all this: they are trusted.

This unparalleled presence is enhanced by their auxiliary status to their public authorities, and complemented by the solidarity and universality of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It means they are uniquely and powerfully placed to drive meaningful and sustainable change at the community level, by building and strengthening resilience.

Mr. President,

We happily endorse the 2030 Agenda, and our network stands ready to partner with governments, UN agencies, civil society, the corporate sector and communities themselves to turn this ambition into a reality.

Thank you.