



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



ICRC

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Statement
Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the
Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
Bangkok, Thailand, 6-8 November 2017

Madam Chair,

It is my pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, consisting of the world's 190 National Societies, 160,000 local Red Cross and Red Crescent offices and 14 million active community-based volunteers, the Secretariat of the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

For many, migration and its consequences are a daily part of life. While migration can offer many benefits, we also see migrants exposed to negative humanitarian consequences of existing legal frameworks and practices in the Asia Pacific region.

We see migrants facing abuse, persecution and death.

Many migrants are pushed to the margins of society and face discrimination and social exclusion, unable to enjoy their fundamental human rights. We see migrants facing barriers to accessing life-saving health services.

The Movement calls upon States to undertake measures to address and prevent these negative consequences.

The Global Compact on Migration provides an important opportunity to lead to real and tangible progress on:

- Protecting migrants from violence, abuse and other violations of their fundamental rights,
- Guaranteeing migrants effective access to essential basic services, irrespective of their legal status,
- Recognising the rights and specific needs of children and other vulnerable people on the move.
- Reforming the practice of immigration detention. Recognising the right of States to regulate immigration to their territories, the Movement invites States to commit to:
 - Avoiding immigration detention, unless as a matter of last resort;
 - Ending the detention of children, and family separation, for immigration-related reasons; and
 - Recognising that the principle of *non-refoulement* applies to migrants, irrespective of their legal status.
- Addressing the humanitarian consequences of migrants going missing, or dying, at any stage of the migratory route. The Movement calls upon States to take necessary measures to:
 - Prevent migrants from going missing;

- Facilitate the search and identification of missing migrants; and
- Address the specific needs of families of missing migrants.

State authorities bear the primary responsibility to address the protection and assistance needs of migrants, and to protect the lives and dignity of those who travel through or to their territories.

The Movement, present at the local level in 38 countries throughout the region and along migratory routes, stands ready to offer, or increase, our support, consistent with our Fundamental Principles.

Already, Movement components are carrying out a range of context-specific activities, which include offering migrants help to reconnect with their relatives through the Restoring Family Links Network; informing migrants on “safe migration” in countries of origin; organising social inclusion and cohesion activities in countries of destination; and supporting authorities in ensuring access to healthcare for migrants.

Some Movement components offer support to returning migrants, including psychosocial assistance.

The Asia Pacific Migration Network of Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies, facilitates the sharing of information and good practices, and enhances cooperation between National Societies to better assist and protect the most vulnerable migrants.

We all can and must do more. Governments need not act alone - States may consider the expertise and capabilities offered by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and others, and collaborate to help ensure that people can choose to migrate in safety and in dignity, and that the most vulnerable are protected.

Building on the current efforts of many National Societies, the Movement is committed to working with all relevant stakeholders in the Asia Pacific region to address the humanitarian concerns of migrants in need.

Thank you.
