



**Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22)
THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

November 7th to November 18th 2016

On behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), its 190 member National Societies and their more than 16 million volunteers, we would like to convey our deep appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco for their hospitality and leadership in hosting this important conference, the COP 22, the COP of action.

The IFRC has welcomed the commitment demonstrated by States during this conference to implementing the Paris Agreement, and looks forward to seeing this commitment translate into action, particularly for those most vulnerable to climate change. In doing so, we commend States for the balance that was struck between mitigation and adaptation in the Paris Agreement, and emphasize how critical it will be to maintain this balance in the implementation phase.

In 190 countries around the world, our volunteers are witnessing the impacts of climate change on their communities, ranging from more frequent and more intense disasters, to accelerating health risks, to loss of productive land, among many others.

As community- and neighborhood-level humanitarians, our volunteers are at the front lines of the climate adaptation challenge.

The adoption of the Paris Agreement has rekindled our belief that the international community can come together, both to halt the march toward ever-increasing global temperatures and to adequately respond to the heightened risks and vulnerabilities that climate change is already producing today.

Many of our National Societies are already contributing to the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, through their community-based disaster risk reduction and adaptation activities, their contribution to national and local level adaptation planning, and their advocacy and social mobilization efforts to promote sustainable community development that optimizes communities' carbon footprints.

The aim of publishing our external position is to call on States to take the following steps:

Firstly, **deliver results for the most vulnerable**. Climate change is affecting everyone, but no one more than the most vulnerable. While some countries are more exposed than others, in every country it is the poor and marginalized who are most exposed.

Governments need to put the vulnerable front and center in their adaptation efforts. To achieve this, national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions should devote specific attention to how adaptation initiatives will address the most vulnerable people in each country.

Likewise, international adaptation finance should encourage adaptation and mitigation activities that build the resilience of vulnerable persons.

Secondly, we encourage States to **invest in local action and climate-smart preparedness**. Adaptation is needed at the community and neighborhood level. This can only be achieved by empowered communities that are supported to strengthen their own resilience in the face of the shocks and stressors that climate change is accelerating. Adaptation measures should be developed and financed based on sound understanding of local needs and challenges, connected to national and global adaptation goals.

International climate adaptation finance therefore needs to invest much more in local and community levels. Local actors, in particular local government and civil society, have a critical role to play in community resilience – and in responding to climate-driven disasters.

Thirdly, **we need to break down the siloes that can hamper implementation**. Climate change knows no borders. Our efforts to adapt must therefore break down traditional siloes, both at the international and domestic levels. One such silo has been between climate change adaptation and development processes. With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals last year, the international community has clearly recognized the importance of this link.

But collective efforts are further needed to break down traditional silos between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, as well as with humanitarian action. The World Humanitarian Summit signaled the need for the humanitarian and development communities to work more closely together on such issues. We stand ready to support that stronger engagement between the UNFCCC and the humanitarian system.

And lastly, as a global community, **we need to increase our ambition on all fronts** if we are to deliver the promises of the Paris Agreement. The IFRC stands ready to support ambitious action, not only by contributing to adaptation planning and implementation, but also by raising awareness about rising risks and highlighting the need for mitigation.
