



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

***Statement of
the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies***

*Thematic consultation on the Global Compact on Migration:
Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including
remittances and portability of earned benefits.*

New York, 24th July 2017

Mr. Chairman,

It is my pleasure to take the floor on behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, representing 190 National Societies and their 17 million community-based volunteers.

With the negotiation of the Global Compact on Migration, we are given a unique opportunity to create an enabling environment for sustainable development in a way that promotes and supports the aspirations, rights and dignity of migrants.

Migration is an opportunity, not just a challenge for our societies. It is widely understood that successfully integrated migrants bring economic value to a country. Economic benefits, social and cultural contributions strengthen both their countries of origin and their new homes.

Their skills, experience and resilience can be a valuable contribution to their host societies; migrants fill critical labour shortages, create jobs, contribute in terms of taxes and social security contributions, and enrich their host communities by promoting cultural diversity. In turn, countries of origin benefit from remittances transferred home by migrants.

Migrants often make these contributions even when all the odds are stacked against them. However, they can do much more when their contributions are facilitated and promoted.

For instance, the New Zealand Red Cross provides migrants with cultural orientation to make them aware of employment norms in New Zealand. Its programme helps migrants prepare professionally by offering services that include career planning support, skills assessment, referrals to language, higher education or vocational trainings, CV and cover letter assistance, and interview coaching. Employment assessors conduct in-depth, client-centered career paths, employment and language assessments to create an individualized plan for each person.

Likewise, through its Vocational Training Center, the Jordan Red Crescent aims to empower migrant women and girls with skills that enable them to create better jobs to improve their family income. The Jordan Red Crescent volunteers provide advice and guidance to trainees in the

basics of marketing, as well as to how to establish small income-generating projects. As such, they directly contribute to increase the confidence of migrant women and girls themselves.

To help us scale up these efforts, we call for increased collaboration among States, civil society and the private sector to increase the number of opportunities given to migrants to successfully integrate with their host communities' economies and – in return – benefit the society through their work, skills and individual contribution.
