Humanitarian needs are growing at an alarming rate, outstripping available resources and leaving tens of millions of disaster-affected people without the support they need. In order to cope, we must now go much farther, building on successes and applying the lessons learned under the Hyogo Framework for Action.

One such lesson is that understanding risk is necessary, but not sufficient to change the behaviours and environments that contribute to vulnerabilities. Policy makers, communities and individuals must be inspired and engaged with a sense of their own responsibility and power to reduce risks. This is essential to a resilience agenda and central to the concept of the “One Billion Coalition for Resilience” that the IFRC is building with partners around the world.

Another is that we must localize DRR. National systems and investments for DRR must reach local communities and enable early action on the ground. This means, for instance, connecting national climate and weather information, with early warning systems that effectively reach at-risk communities and channel funding to community-based organizations. Connecting national data and scientific information to communities enable local actors to be at the driver’s seat of the disaster risk management cycle.

It is imperative to fully integrate DRR into our legal and policy frameworks. In 2014, the IFRC and UNDP published the largest ever comparative study of law and DRR, finding that even recently updated national disaster management Acts often went only skin deep when it came to shifting to a whole-of-society approach to risk. In this regard, we must ensure the integration of DRR principles and considerations into sectoral laws as they are the pillars of disaster risk management.

With climate related disasters doubling in the past 40 years, and climate change giving rise to increased uncertainty and more extreme weather and climate events, we will need to accelerate the pace of our innovation in addressing risk. Forecast-based financing is an example of this innovative thinking that is needed. Under this approach, humanitarian funding is released based on forecasts of impending natural hazards. Funds go to activities designed to reduce the risk of the particular hazard turning into a disaster once the triggers are met, ensuring that people are informed and ready to act when the need arises.

Lastly, let us not forget that gender inequality is killing women and girls in disasters. Too often, women and girls are excluded from warning systems, are uninformed about risks, or are prevented from taking part in preparedness activities. During the DRR Global Platform held in 2017, IFRC, UNISDR and UN Women launched a new global initiative to encourage
governments and partners to address the gender inequalities of risk, and to promote women's leadership in disaster risk reduction.

We must work towards addressing the gender and diversity of risk making sure no one is left behind, promoting the participation of vulnerable groups and minorities in decision making bodies.

The National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Africa in full respect of the Fundamental Principles, through the continental, national and local humanitarian network, remain strongly committed to continuing the work on disaster risk reduction, strengthening community and institutional resilience and reaffirming their commitment to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030 ("Sendai Framework").

As IFRC, we commit ourselves to work together with external partners and the 49 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in sub-Saharan Africa on the following actions:

- We will advocate for the enhancement and consolidation of a culture of safety and resilience that is action-oriented and respects local realities, cultures and ancestral practices to contribute to a better understanding of risks and reduce vulnerability,
- We will prioritize actions based on the needs of people living in high-risk or belonging to traditionally excluded groups, in particular those who live in geographically remote areas, in areas affected by insecurity and conflict, migrant populations, those affected by the impact of climate change and women and girls,
- In their auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are committed to joining forces with local and national authorities to develop local risk management policies and practices, to promoting community resilience and sustainability,
- Aligned with the Sendai Framework, we recognize the significant role of legal and institutional frameworks in strengthening DRR governance, in creating an enabling environment for DRR, preventing the emergence of new risks and making communities safer,
- Aligned with the IFRC Framework for Building Community Resilience and the One Billion Coalition for Community Resilience, we will strengthen the collaboration and coordination with civil society organizations, and with their respective national and local governments.

The National Societies of sub-Saharan Africa and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies call upon African States:

- To review their legislative, institutional and other frameworks (policies, plans, strategies) for DRR in the light of the "Law and DRR Checklist" developed by the IFRC in conjunction with UNDP, to align them with the Sendai Framework,
- To actively promote, support and recognize community-based volunteers to maximize the potential of these agents of change for their community,
- To make available to local authorities, who play a fundamental role in risk management, the technical, financial and political support necessary to develop local plans that exemplify a sustainable development approach,
- To promote inclusive education and training at all levels and in all sectors through innovative learning tools, both face-to-face and virtual, to achieve universal access to humanitarian education that ensures learning about risk reduction.
Promote local early warning and early action mechanisms, integrated into national systems, that describe the roles, functions and responsibilities of all stakeholders, including those at the end of the information chain, to ensure that they arrive in a timely manner and are easily accessible to, and understandable by, local counterparts.

To promote investments that enhance knowledge, innovation, access to information and the sustainability of processes, ensuring that the funds are used to complement and catalyze local investment and resources.

The IFRC stands ready to support states and work with partners to ensure implementation of these commitments is reaching the local level, where disasters are most severely felt, and improving the safety and resilience of those most vulnerable.

Given in Tunis on the X day of October, 2018.