IDRL occupies a prominent place on the 30th International Conference’s agenda under its 4th objective entitled: “Strengthening the legal frameworks for international response to disasters”. It will be addressed from 28-30 November.

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<th>IDRL</th>
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<td>Discussion in Commission C</td>
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<td>Drafting Committee discusses IDRL Resolution</td>
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<td>IDRL Resolution adopted in plenary</td>
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3 official documents will be delivered to the 30th IC:
6 IDRL Background document 30IC/07/9.1 (progress report from 2003 to 2007) – already submitted
6 IDRL Guidelines – will be available on 26 October at www.ifrc.org/idrl and www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/conf30
6 IDRL draft Resolution – will be available on 26 October at www.ifrc.org/idrl and www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/conf30

The Guidelines were developed through an extensive, one and a half year multi-stakeholder consultation process, which started in May 2006. They benefited from the active input of RC/RC National Societies, States, UN agencies and IOs, NGOs and academic experts. In the 5 regional IDRL forums organised from May 2006 to June 2007 in Antalya, Kuala Lumpur, Panama City, Nairobi and Abu Dhabi, 84 States, 119 RC/RC National Societies and over 40 UN agencies and NGOs took part. Bilateral meetings with 85 Geneva Permanent Missions and regional briefings were conducted. The Draft Guidelines were also presented at major RC/RC Conferences, and positively welcomed by the IASC and NGO networks, such as ICVA, VOICE and SCHR. Many States, RC/RC National Societies, UN agencies and NGOs have also provided individual feedback.

To date, the IDRL Programme has consulted with 132 States and 144 RC/RC National Societies, as illustrated by the maps below.

Most recent consultative meetings
6 Open IDRL Meeting, 2nd October. Fifty Permanent Missions and 15 National Societies world-wide came together to share ideas and perspectives on the Draft IDRL Guidelines. Statements of support were made by several Governments and National Societies. Additionally, there was discussion on how best to take IDRL and the Guidelines forward after the International Conference.
6 Briefings to the African Union (July), Asia-Pacific Region (September) and Eurasian members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (October), Geneva.
FAQ on the IDRL Guidelines

What is the scope of the Guidelines? They provide recommendations on domestic regulation of international assistance in disasters, excluding conflict situations.

Are the Guidelines binding? No, they are not. They are a technical tool of reference for policymakers interested in enhancing legal preparedness through strengthening national institutional, policy or legal frameworks.

On which existing legal instruments are the Guidelines based? They are anchored in existing norms and standards. Its pillars are: UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182 (1991); the Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, the Sphere Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, Code of Conduct for the Red Cross/Red Crescent and NGOs in Disaster Relief, Good Humanitarian Donorship Principles.

Mobilising support for IDRL in the 30th International Conference

The European Parliament’s Committee on Development adopted on 9 October the report on a European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (2007/2139(INI)), which refers to the IDRL Guidelines as follows:

"The European Parliament supports the efforts by the International Federation and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to identify problems and make recommendations in the field of International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL), and looks forward to the results of the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to be held in November 2007""

Commonwealth States and RC/RC National Societies pledge to work together in support of further work on IDRL in its outcome report, Wellington, New Zealand, 29-31 August. www.redcross.org.nz/ihl

Southeast Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies develop a position paper on IDRL outlining the contributions that Southeast Asian National Societies can make to the objectives of the IDRL Programme leading up to and beyond the 30th International Conference, Phnom Penh, 11-12 September.

Most recent consultative meetings (ctd)

RC/RC National Society Legal Advisors Meeting, 3-5 September, Geneva

Second Commonwealth Red Cross and Red Crescent IHL Conference, August, New Zealand

East Asia National Society Leadership Meeting, September, Mongolia

IDRL Legal Preparedness and Consultation Workshop, Wellington, August, New Zealand IDRL Orientation Workshop and Sensitisation Session, September, New Delhi, India

IDRL LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ireland accedes to Tampere Convention, on 16 August, thereby becoming the 37th member state.

Austria ratifies Optional Protocol

South Asian countries adopt the “Thimphu Declaration on International Health Security” Health Ministers from 11 members States of WHO’s South East Asia Region pledged to implement the International Health Regulations and to respond systematically to health emergencies in New Kerala on 1st September. http://www.newkerala.com/july.php?action=fullnews&id=56883

Pakistan floods, August 2007. A woman and child brave the flood water to make their way from their ruined home to the area where their community has been relocated in Qubo Saeed Khan, Pakistan.

Photo: Stacey M. Winston/International Federation
New IDRL Programme documents & publications

- Programme Update 3

- Law and Legal Issues in International Disaster Response: a Desk Study (finalised, publication forthcoming and to be launched in November 2007)

- IDRL article in the International Aid + Trade Review

- IDRL paper in the report from the Asian Development Bank entitled “Small-Group Workshop on Preparing for Large-Scale Emergencies”

Peru earthquake, August 2007, Thousands of residents have been left with just a few belongings and are still mourning the loss of their loved ones as they start down the arduous road to recovery.

Photo: International Federation

IDRL IN TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS

- EU Civil Protection Mechanism Training, Snekkersten, Denmark, September

- International Disaster Reduction Conference (IDRC), Harbin, China, August

- IDRL Training Session for HelpAge Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop, Chiang Mai, Thailand, August

- UN/RC/NGO Donor Meeting on Indonesia Ancillary Regulations for International Cooperation for Disaster, Jakarta, Indonesia, August

- ASEAN Regional Forum IPC, Darwin, Australia, September

- The Role of International Institutions and International Non-Governmental Institutions in Disaster Management, Jakarta, Indonesia, September

- SOPAC: 13th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting, Majura, Marshall Islands, September

SPECIAL THANKS

For their commitment and precious support in:

- Funding the development of the IDRL Comprehensive Desk Study: Government of Denmark

- Perfecting the Arabic translation of the Draft IDRL Guidelines: Dr. M.H. Elasbali, Legal Advisor, Libyan Agency for Relief and Humanitarian Assistance (Libaid)

For their recent financial contribution:

- Austrian Red Cross
- Jordan Red Crescent Society
Your Contributions have made a difference!

IDRL Programme budget of 2007:
851,000 CHF

86% covered
96% expenditure rate

About the IFRC IDRL Programme

The IDRL Programme seeks to reduce the vulnerability and suffering of people affected by non-conflict disasters by raising awareness, promoting the implementation, and strengthening the laws, rules and principles that ensure a timely, adequate and efficient international response to disasters, where international involvement is needed.

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