

Beijing Youth Commitments 2014

“Young Humanitarians in Action”



We, the delegates of the 2nd Asia Pacific Youth Summit have gathered in Beijing from all corners of the Asia Pacific and Middle East at a time when the world is rapidly changing, where protracted crises and the combined impacts of natural disasters, climate change, urbanisation and emerging health threats are causing new levels of vulnerability; and yet young people of the Asia Pacific and Middle East are proudly and courageously meeting these challenges and delivering Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes and services aimed at making the world a better place for all, often putting their own lives at risk.

During our gathering, we have referred to the notion of “**Strong Youth for Strong National Societies and Resilient Communities**” and argued how to effectively apply IFRC policies and strategic frameworks which aim for meaningful youth engagement in the contexts of the Asia Pacific and Middle East.

Any assumptions about youth engagement approaches are obsolete in a complex world where we are confronted by emerging threats and evolving challenges. Adapting to this environment, we have re-affirmed the importance of regional RCRC Youth Networks, “**Youth-led and National Societies-owned**” **platforms**, which have significant potential to strengthen individual National Societies in their efforts to advance their humanitarian mission and to elevate our common values and shared identity as we work with local communities to strengthen their resilience.

With this vision and willingness to **Do more, Do better, and Reach further**, we, as the privileged representatives of thousands of young humanitarians of the Asia Pacific and Middle East, are therefore committing to:

- 1 Contributing to the humanitarian diplomacy efforts of our National Societies for respect of the emblem and the safety and security of volunteers and their safer-access to vulnerable people.
- 2 Championing the innovative use of social media and communications technologies to increase the effectiveness of our services and how we manage and share knowledge.
- 3 Taking a lead in our National Societies’ efforts in developing and / or revising national Youth Policies and Youth Engagement Strategies, while being informed by approaches applied in our sister National Societies.
- 4 Designing “Youth-led and National Society-owned” projects across all programmes and services of our National Societies, especially in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Safe Schools Framework.
- 5 Participating in development of the Global Toolkit for Youth Leadership and creation of Youth-led governance structures to foster youth participation in decision-making of our National Societies.
- 6 Participating in the IFRC global processes such as the Constitutional review, Strategy 2020 review, and the Fundamental Principles consultation to voice and elevate our regional needs.
- 7 Effectively preparing, participating, and following-up regional and international meetings through active engagement with our National Society leadership and peers.

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- 8 Working with National Societies to continue organising Youth meetings prior to our Regional Conferences as a means to enhance and develop the role of young humanitarians as equal contributors towards shaping strategic direction of our humanitarian efforts in the Asia Pacific and Middle East.
- 9 Following-up and contributing to the implementation of commitments endorsed by the Asia Pacific Regional Conference.

Further, to implement the **Beijing Youth Commitments 2014** and the vision of “Strong Youth for Strong National Societies and Resilient Communities”, we fully recognise that the recently endorsed IFRC Youth Policy and Youth Engagement Strategy testify to a profound shift in collective perception of the complexities of meaningful youth engagement within the IFRC and more specifically to the aspects and importance of equal partnership between young people and adults for ensuring inter-generational transfer of experience that is vital to both progress and stability in society.

Therefore, as the delegates of the second Asia Pacific Youth Summit, we declare our willingness to tenaciously work together with our senior leadership as equal partners on the journey towards delivering our collective humanitarian mission more robustly. From this position and in order to act on our pledges, commitments from the National Societies’ decision-makers in the following areas are essential:

1. Effective participation of National Society youth representatives in the Regional Youth Networks,
2. Technical and expert support for the implementation of the Regional Youth Networks’ Action plans to be provided through the IFRC Secretariat structures,
3. Integration of Youth development into IFRC Secretariat’s technical departments’ operational plans at all levels to be ensured by the IFRC Secretariat structures,
4. Technical and expert support for the implementation of the zone-level priorities of the IFRC Youth Commission work-plan to be provided through the IFRC Secretariat structures, and lastly,
5. Continuous organisation of Youth Summits prior to Statutory Regional Conferences and inclusion of youth leaders into National Societies’ delegations at Regional Conferences.