

IFRC statement, World Leaders Summit

For delivery by Dr. Ramy El Nazer, Secretary General of the Egyptian Red Cross

The 27th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27)

Excellencies,

On behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) its 192 National Society members and the 15 million volunteers who carry out their work, I thank our host, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for bringing us here to increase the urgency of our climate action together.

Humanitarian and development organisations, including my own Society, the Egyptian Red Crescent, are confronting the impacts of intersecting and compounding crises - climate and weather disasters, continued health risks, conflicts, and the rising cost of living - like never before.

The impacts of these crises are not only looming over the future of our children, they are threatening our communities already today.

The most vulnerable countries – and the most vulnerable people in every country – are hit the hardest. The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme events, such as droughts, floods, and hurricanes is not merely a headline. They reverse development successes and lead to communities stuck in a pattern of response and recovery to ever-larger disasters.

Excellencies,

We are the world's largest humanitarian network, one also deeply engaged in building local resilience and strengthening community development. So, please listen when we tell you that, without swift action from the states represented here, we will be overwhelmed. Already today, the global humanitarian system is reaching less than half of those who have been identified in urgent need. This needs gap will grow unless we start investing now in adaptation, at scale, with funds actually getting to the community level.

Our volunteers are acting to support communities to prepare for, adapt to and deal with the impacts of climate extremes.

At this COP, the IFRC has **launched its Global Climate Resilience Platform, aiming to strengthen the climate resilience of 500 million people over the next five years. With your support, we will** scale up effective locally led climate action with a focus on early warning and early action, social protection, and nature-based solutions. We will also continue to support interested governments through our disaster law mandate and expertise to better incorporate climate-smart approaches and disaster risk reduction measures into their national laws and policies.

In this connection, IFRC welcomes the UN Secretary-General's Early Warning for All Initiative. We look forward to continuing to work with partners to ensure that we have improved early warning systems that are connected to early actions at the local level to save lives.

Excellencies,

In the coming days, it is our hope that the international community will endorse a new climate outcome - one that embraces greater ambition, action, and is accountable to those on the frontlines.

If we aim to overcome our collective crises, we need to trust again. **Global leaders need to be steadfast and turn their political commitments into urgent actions.**

We look to all governments to invest in mitigation and community-level adaptation at home. Those with the means to do so must also increase the quantity, quality and accessibility of finance they provide internationally, particularly to those at the local level, to enable more ambitious adaptation. We call on these governments to ensure that any finance for addressing rising losses and damages is new and additional to the existing levels they provide.

These **global financial commitments need to prioritize the most climate vulnerable and fragile countries**, including Small Island Developing States, and African countries, and **need to reach local actors**, who are working on the frontlines to create resilient communities.

It is only with appropriate financing in place that can we seriously tackle food and water insecurity, rising health risks, and climate-induced displacement.

Let COP27 be the moment that we turn talk into implementation, so we can live in a world where hurricanes do not make headlines and all people are safe and protected from the impacts of climate change.