

**19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
**20 March 2024**

**Reaffirmation of Principles**

*General Assembly expected adoption by consensus*

The General Assembly hereby reaffirms its commitment to the following set of principles and standards:

- The [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief](#)
- [Principles of Partnership](#)
- The [ICVA GA 2018 Motion to Action on PSEA](#), and the [Statement of Commitment on Eliminating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN and Non-UN Personnel](#)
- [ICVA Commitment and Motion to Action on Climate and Environment](#)
- [Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) and the Core Humanitarian Standards

Humanitarian principles and standards are essential for principled and effective humanitarian action. They emphasize the importance of humanity, neutrality impartiality and independence. They also provide a framework for meeting the basic needs of people affected by crisis and encourage coordination and collaboration among humanitarian actors.

All ICVA members have committed to upholding these principles and standards as part of the membership criteria.

These humanitarian principles and standards serve as a foundation for field practices and inform policy setting and advocacy efforts. They are essential for ensuring that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a way that is consistent with the needs and rights of affected populations.

## *Why these commitments?*

### **1. Upholding Humanitarian Standards :** [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief](#)

Since 1992 the Code of Conduct for humanitarian organizations, providing a guide for principled and effective disaster relief. It has ten core principles and includes suggestions for governments of affected states, donor governments and intergovernmental organizations.

At the core of all humanitarian action are the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence- collectively called the [Humanitarian Principles](#). These principles rooted in international humanitarian law, are supported by the UN and are highlighted in both the Code of Conduct and in the Core humanitarian Standards.

While ICVA does not make its members to sign the code, it strongly encourages them to show commitment to these principles in all their activities. By following these standards, humanitarian organizations help promote principled and effective humanitarian action worldwide.

### **2. Commitment to Effective Humanitarian Partnerships: Embracing the** [Principles of Partnership](#)

ICVA is dedicated to fostering collaboration within the humanitarian community. It played a key role in the Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP), bring together NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and UN agencies. In 2007, ICVA endorsed the Principles of Partnership in 2007 to strengthen the idea of working together. These principles based on equality, transparency, results orientation, responsibility, and complementarity, aim to improve how humanitarian work is done. They encourage building strong partnerships by recognizing and appreciating diversity.

ICVA encourages all its members to use these Principles of Partnership in their organizations. These principles guide fair, positive and clear interactions among different groups, including governments, academia, the private sector and people affected by crises.

As the humanitarian sector changes with more diverse actors involved, the Principles of Partnership stay important. They help start, develop, put into action and review partnerships, stressing the need for fairness in all collaborations. In summary, ICVA supports a fair and inclusive humanitarian community by following these Principles of Partnership.

### **3. A pledge to protect: ICVA's** [Commitment and Motion to Action on Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and Sexual Harassment](#) :

ICVA has long been concerned about preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by aid worker. In December 2006, various UN agencies and NGOs endorsed the [Statement of Commitment on Eliminating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN and Non-UN personnel](#).

ICVA encourages its members to support this important statement. It outlines the ten steps organizations must take to prevent and address SEA by their staff, aligning with the [IASC Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#)

Building on this, at the ICVA 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in March 2018, ICVA members endorsed a commitment to safeguard the communities they work with and their employees from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. This commitment requires both the ICVA secretariat and its members to establish strong systems to prevent, detect, and respond to instances of abuse and misconduct. By reaffirming this commitment, ICVA and its members stand together to create a safer and more respectful humanitarian environment.

#### **4. ICVA's [Commitment and motion to action on climate and environment](#)**

In May 2021, at the 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, ICVA members formally adopted a commitment and motion to action on climate and the environment. Recognising the urgent threats posed by these crises, ICVA prioritised their inclusion in its 2030 strategy, emphasizing its dedication to tackling these important issues.

This commitment shows ICVA's strong dedication to adopting a flexible and context-aware approach, understanding the crucial role of humanitarian organisations in responding to climate change. As part of this commitment, ICVA has endorsed the [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations](#). [Providing clear](#) principles for guiding humanitarian action during climate and environment crises.

ICVA encourages its members to consider signing the Charter, demonstrating a practical commitment to measure its implementation. By adopting of this Commitment, ICVA and its members confirm their active role in addressing climate and environmental challenges, not only in the programmes they carry out but also in their day-to-day operations. This initiative represents a collective effort within the ICVA network to make a meaningful contribution to the global response to these urgent challenges.

#### **5. Ensuring Quality and Accountability in humanitarian action.**

Ensuring quality and accountability in humanitarian action is a key goal for ICVA. We focus on using important frameworks such as the [Core Humanitarian Standard \(CHS\)](#) and the [Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#).

The CHS outlines nine commitments that organizations should follow to provide people affected by crises with high quality, effective, and accountable support.

In parallel, the Sphere Handbook, a crucial publication, sets out minimum standards in vital areas like WASH, Food security and nutrition, Shelter and settlement, and Health. This handbook is globally recognized as a valuable tool for delivering excellent humanitarian responses.

ICVA expects its members to uphold the highest ethical standards when interacting with affected populations. Both the CHS and the Sphere Handbook stress a people-centered approach in meeting the urgent survival needs of individuals affected by disaster and conflict.