

## **IC 5.2 Migration: ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion, 31<sup>st</sup> International Conference (Commission A) Tuesday 29 November**

### **Statement Swedish Red Cross, Martina Anlér**

Thank you Mr Chair,

Migration is a global phenomenon which concerns us all.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is one of few humanitarian actors that are present along the whole migratory trail. Every day our Movement witnesses the extreme vulnerabilities many migrants face.

As I speak, thousands of migrants risk, and may even lose, their lives along international borders in the search of protection and a better life. Many go missing without their families ever finding out their destiny.

The Swedish Red Cross has a long-standing tradition working with refugees, asylum-seekers and other migrants. Based on the principles of humanity and impartiality we seek to address vulnerabilities caused by migration, by means of direct assistance and humanitarian diplomacy. Crucial tools in this work are international human rights law and refugee law.

In Sweden, the Red Cross does not face any legal barriers in accessing or assisting migrants, regardless of their legal status. However, we do have difficulties in reaching particular vulnerable groups such as victims of trafficking, irregular migrants and migrants detained.

However, with regards to migrants' access to basic needs and rights, the Swedish Red Cross has identified several legal constraints in our country.

Examples include:

- Lack of health care for irregular migrants and access to education for their children
- Lack of access to due procedures in relation to family reunification.

We have raised these issues with our government in our continuous open dialogue on humanitarian concerns relating to migration.

Mr Chair,

It is not only within the legal area that the Swedish Red Cross has identified humanitarian challenges.

We see a pressing need for increased cooperation and action on both the local and national level to promote respect for diversity and the social inclusion of migrants.

The Swedish Red Cross is worried about the discrimination, xenophobia, marginalization and other forms of exclusion faced by migrants, a tendency we see both in Sweden and in the rest of Europe.

The lack of knowledge and understanding for migration and refugees threatens our Movement's work to promote humanity. The Swedish Red Cross works to create platforms for intercultural

dialogue and increased understanding through engaging volunteers and local communities for humanity.

To raise awareness and spread knowledge amongst young people the Swedish Red Cross Youth is reaching out to schools with an interactive role-play, "On the Run", initially an initiative by our Nordic sister organisations. In the last two years we have reached about 2000 young people.

Mr Chair,

We see a need for increased cooperation in the field of migration, between the components of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement but also between the Movement and governments.

By working together we can shape normative frameworks to adequately ensure human dignity and safety for all migrants and we can also build societies based on non-discrimination, respect and diversity and thus promote social inclusion, non-violence and peace.

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement consists of millions of engaged humanitarians, devoted to making the world a better place for everyone.

Let us together make the most out of this power of humanity.

Thank you