

High-level review meeting of the 65th session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

**Interactive Dialogue on Cross-Regional Perspectives
New York, 25 September 2010**

**Statement by Marwan Jilani
Permanent Observer of the
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
to the United Nations**

Chairman, distinguished panellists, delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me, from the perspective of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to add to this dialogue, by stressing the importance of increased solidarity and international support for small island developing States (SIDS).

The IFRC and its 186 member national societies as auxiliaries to public authorities, make up a worldwide network that is at once global and community-based. In island states, experienced Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers are active on even the remotest islands, bringing best practice to their home communities and increasing resilience through community participation.

We urge governments to make use of this grass-roots knowledge and to include national societies in the consultation and implementation process of national development planning. National societies are valuable partners in implementation and can offer helpful perspectives on community based risk reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives.

Strategic partnerships continue to be important in achieving sustainable development goals. We need to work jointly to ensure that humanitarian challenges of climate change are acknowledged and addressed.

Working with non-traditional partners in areas such as public communication should also be encouraged. For example, working with the private sector, we are using new technology to spread vital messages among communities threatened or affected by disaster, such as in post-earthquake Haiti.

IFRC assures you of our continued commitment to building community preparedness and resilience across the many islands represented in this room.

Thank you.