

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (RCM), of which the Canadian Red Cross is a member, is deeply alarmed by the increasing risk that nuclear weapons will again be used by intent, miscalculation or accident, and stresses that any risk of use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable given their catastrophic humanitarian consequences. Neither the RCM nor any other humanitarian actor or State could adequately address the needs of victims and the long-term humanitarian consequences of such use.

The RCM has appealed to all States to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again, regardless of their views on the legality of such weapons. Towards these ends, the RCM welcomes the adoption by 122 States on 7 July 2017 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as an essential step towards their total elimination. For those States that are nuclear possessors and nuclear-allied States, the RCM calls for urgent steps to reduce the risk of intentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, based on their existing international commitments.

In 2017, the RCM adopted a Plan of Action on the non-use, prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons for the period of 2018-2021. The Plan of Action can be found at http://rcrcconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CD-17-R4_clean.pdf.