

## **Digital Emblem: A commitment to digital protections**

The Red Cross emblem is one of the most iconic symbols in the world, epitomizing hope, protection, and humanity. The emblem's primary purpose is to provide protection in armed conflicts, including marking medical personnel, buildings, and equipment that are not part of the fight but are there to offer impartial aid to the wounded and sick.

But technology has transformed how wars are fought. The war in Ukraine as well as other conflicts around the globe have demonstrated the effectiveness and efficiency of hybrid conflicts. Coupled with increasing investments in cyber military capabilities around the world, we can only assume most future conflict will have a cyber component. Our protections need to reflect this new reality.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has repeatedly warned of the human toll of cyber operations. With that threat in mind, they have begun exploring the creation of a **digital emblem**. This emblem would serve as a cyberspace analog to the traditional red cross, red crescent, and red crystal emblems, an appropriate adaptation to warfare in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. However, for it to be effective, it needs to be granted the same legal protections under international humanitarian law, ensuring it remains a symbol of safety and aid in times of need.

It is imperative that the technical solution be straightforward and user friendly, as well as maintainable at low cost. This will, in turn, facilitate its incorporation into international law. The solution must be readily implementable across the diverse digital infrastructure used in regions impacted by armed conflict, with minimal resources and across languages, technologies, and cultures.

To realize this objective, the undersigned commit to supporting the ICRC in actualizing the digital emblem initiative. We are dedicated to fostering a cyberspace that is inherently secure, stable, and upholds the sanctity of rights, both in times of peace and conflict. We are committed to championing the following principles to ensure our vision becomes a tangible reality:

1. **Respecting international humanitarian law in cyberspace:** We will ensure that our technology products and services are developed, designed, distributed, and used in compliance with the principles and rules of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. We will not assist or enable any government or non-state actor to violate these norms through cyberattacks or other means against civilians and protected objects.

2. **Championing the digital emblem:** We advocate for the establishment and widespread adoption of a Red Cross/Red Crescent digital emblem – a clear and recognizable symbol representing our commitment to respect human rights and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in cyberspace. In line with their commitments agreed to at the 34<sup>th</sup> International Conference ([Resolution 2](#)), we call on states to actively engage with the International Committee of the Red Cross to (1) further assess and clarify the specific purpose and technical feasibility of a digital emblem, (2) provide, where feasible, capacity-building for its potential use in relation to armed conflict, and (3) study possible legal and diplomatic avenues for the incorporation of the digital emblem into IHL.
3. **Partnering for success:** We will engage in collaborative activities that advance the digital emblem, taking into account the different cultural and technical perspectives. In addition, we will work with other relevant stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, civil society, and academia, to encourage its implementation and enforcement.