

Declaration

**of the
Ministers and Directors-General
responsible for
Civil Protection,
Civil Defence,
Civil Safety
and the management of emergency situations**

adopted at the close of

the 12th World Conference on Civil Defence

**“Civil Defence, a tool for international solidarity
against natural and man-made disasters in the 21st century”**

Geneva

25-27 June 2001

***We, Ministers and Directors-General responsible for Civil Protection, Civil Defence, Civil Safety and the management of emergency situations, meeting on the occasion of the 12th World Conference on Civil Defence
“ Civil Defence, a tool for international solidarity against natural and man-made disasters in the 21st century”
convened in Geneva from 25 to 27 June 2001,
by the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO)***

RECALLING the terms of the Resolution No.2034 “Assistance in cases of natural disaster” taken by the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation (UN) at its twentieth Session (1390th plenary session, 7 December 1965),

- «inviting States Members of the UN or members of the specialised agencies which have not already done so to consider the advisability of setting up appropriate national planning and operating machinery most suited to their own conditions, and designed to determine the degree and character of the relief required and to give unified direction to relief operations » (...) and
- « requesting Member States, when offering emergency assistance in cases of natural disasters, to inform and make use of the appropriate standing machinery set up in the stricken countries » (...),

ADDING that when offering emergency assistance, the authorities of the beneficiary State should be informed in the first instance,

RECALLING the Amman and Beijing Declarations (10th and 11th Civil Defence World Conferences, 1994 and 1998), as well as the Geneva Declaration (Ministerial Conference « Civil Defence, a tool for sustainable development », 2000),

RECALLING that Civil Defence is recognized and protected by International Humanitarian Law established under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977,

CONSIDERING that international cooperation in matters of Civil Protection, Civil Defence, Civil Safety and the management of emergency situations is such as to strengthen the capacity of States to face natural and technological and man-

made disasters, in the realms of prevention and preparedness as well as intervention and post-crisis management,

RECOGNISING the major role of the United Nations System, of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, of non-governmental organisations active in the field of humanitarian assistance and sustainable development as well as of the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) which is the federation of national Civil Protection, Civil Defence, Civil Safety and emergencies' management structures:

1. REAFFIRM that national Civil Protection, Civil Defence, Civil Safety and emergencies' management structures are the ideal instruments of international solidarity against natural and technological and man-made disasters.

2. INVITE Governments to promote and disseminate International Humanitarian Law relating to Civil Defence, especially in the schools and in the academic circles, and to adhere to the basic principles of Civil Defence proposed by the ICDO.

3. REQUEST the Members of the International Community to consider the Framework Convention on Civil Defence Assistance of 22 May 2000, as the technical instrument aiming at facilitating the implementation of international cooperation between national Civil Defence structures.

4. ENCOURAGE the ICDO and the United Nations System to continue and strengthen their collaboration in the field of sustainable development and of the protection of the populations.

5. REQUEST the ICDO Secretary General to consider the consequences, especially in the legal and financial fields, of the modification of the status of the Organisation and to launch in due time all necessary measures in the view of the admission of ICDO to the status of specialised organisation linked to the United Organisation System and to invite States to support this action.

6. RECOMMEND to the ICDO to intensify its efforts as regards the development of national Civil Protection, Civil Defence, Civil Safety and emergencies' management structures, and to continue to this end to bring its support to the creation and reinforcement of ICDO Regional Centres and to examine the possibility of establishing, with the support of the International Community an International Civil Defence Academy in charge of training, research and exchange in the field of the management of disaster situations.

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