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## **International Charter for Voluntary Service in Civil Defence**

*Considering the Tunis Declaration adopted in 1999 in the course of the International Conference on Voluntary Service in Civil Defence, the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) recommends to States that Voluntary Service be inscribed within national civil protection, civil defence, civil security and emergency situations' management structures as a means for contributing to the Protection and Assistance of populations and to the safeguard of property and the environment from natural and man-made disasters.*

*To this end, the present Charter lays down a set of directives likely to favour the adoption by States of a legal and political framework for voluntary service.*

### **PREAMBLE**

CONSIDERING the scope and severity of disasters which have struck the planet in recent years,

CONSIDERING that national civil protection, civil defence, civil security and emergency situations' management structures are ever increasingly solicited

CONSIDERING the necessity of reinforcing relations between the State and the citizens in view of implementing the sustainable development of our societies

CONSIDERING that voluntary service is an essential component for the effectiveness of national civil protection, civil defence, civil security and emergency situations' management structures

Article 1: Volunteer means every person who makes herself voluntarily available to the community for assistance and rescue services, not excluding possible pecuniary indemnisation.

Article 2 : The State must organise the social recognition of volunteers at the service of civil defence and promote the spirit of solidarity.

Article 3: The State must support the development of voluntary service in civil defence by facilitating voluntary commitment and implementing a policy of support to voluntary service through school programmes and in collaboration with the associations concerned.

Article 4: Volunteers must benefit from a special legal status defining the conditions of their admission to the ranks of civil defence (age, intellectual, physical and moral aptitude, motivation ...) together with their rights and obligations.

Article 5: A volunteer's vocation is to participate in all civil defence's missions (safeguard of individuals, property and the environment)

Article 6: A volunteer has the right to an initial and ongoing training .  
The State will see to the uniformity of civil defence volunteers' training across all its territory.

Article 7: The State will agree with the private and public sectors the modalities of the volunteer's availability.

Article 8: The volunteer is entitled to compensation for his activities in favour of civil protection (social benefits, indemnity, pension, allowance ...)

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