

**1st International Conference
for the follow-up of the Framework
Convention on Civil Defence Assistance
Geneva, 03 October 2002**

VOLUNTARY FUNDS FOR ASSISTANCE AND RESCUE.

The creation by the International Civil Protection Organisation (ICDO) of a voluntary fund for assistance and rescue (to be referred to hereafter as "The Fund") constitutes an instrument of promotion and is a complement to the convention concerned with assistance in the matter of civil defence held on 22nd May 2000.

The setting up and putting into action of this fund takes its inspiration from the fund for mutual aid and rescue of the ICDO created in 1974 by resolution of the Second General Assembly of the International Civil Protection Organisation (ICDO) (Doc. A.2/Res.1).

The fund will have, as its essential function, the provision of aid (with the collaboration of the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations (OCHA), to member states of ICDO involved in a catastrophe or accident of any kind by providing them with appropriate financial or material support.

In order to be able to realise its objectives, this fund will be sustained by voluntary contributions from exterior donors from essentially non-governmental entities. The objective is to obtain, as quickly as possible, a sufficient financial reserve to meet essential demands, assistance formulated by the member states of ICDO.

The capacity of ICDO to meet the expectations and requests of its member states when affected by emergency situations, in the most efficient and effective manner, depends to a great extent upon the above proposed fund, in the same manner as its predecessor of 1974.

This is why the permanent secretary of ICDO will not relinquish his efforts to re-evaluate and then pursue a strong campaign of lobbying aimed at these potential donors, operations on an order to finance such a programme, and he invites the whole group of member states to promote the financing of this fund through their various interlocutors.