

# GENEVA DECLARATION

Ministerial conference  
« *Civil Defence : a tool for sustainable development* »

Geneva  
30 October - 1<sup>st</sup> November 2000

We,  
*Ministers and Directors-General responsible for Civil defence,  
Civil Defence, Civil Safety and Emergency Management,  
meeting on the occasion of the Ministerial Conference  
“Civil Defence, a tool for sustainable development”  
convened by the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO),  
in Geneva from 30 October to 1 November 2000,*

**CONSIDERING** that the structures of national Civil defence, Civil Defence, Civil Safety and Emergency Management are the tools which States have given themselves to implement their sustainable development policies in the face of disasters and accidents,

**CONSIDERING** that investing in the development and reinforcement of national Civil defence, Civil Defence, Civil Safety and Emergency Management structures are essential for the successful accomplishment of their mission, namely to ensure protection and assistance to populations and safeguard property and the environment from disasters and other emergency situations,

**RECOGNISING** the major role in the field of humanitarian assistance and the sustainable development of human societies of the United Nations system, of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and of the non-governmental organisations concerned by natural and man-made disasters in the field of humanitarian assistance as well as in the field of sustainable development of our human societies,

**RECOGNISING** the major role played by the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) in the development and reinforcement of national Civil Protection, Civil Defence, Civil Safety and Emergency Management structures as an intergovernmental organisation federating these structures and collaborating with the United Nations' system in matters of disaster prevention, preparedness and intervention,

**1. INVITE** the International Community to concentrate its efforts as regards disaster and accident prevention, preparedness and intervention in the first instance on the development and reinforcement of the capacities of national Civil Protection, Civil Defence, Civil Safety and Emergency Management so as to make them more effective,

**2. SUPPORT** the ICDO plan of financing relating to the development and reinforcement of the capacities of national Civil Protection, Civil Defence, Civil Safety and Emergency Management structures, invite the ICDO to contact the different bodies able to finance it and specially those in charge of sustainable development in the international community, and extend to it our full and entire support for all the steps which will be taken in this respect,

**3. DECIDE** to intensify, through the ICDO, the co-operation between national Civil Protection, Civil Defence, Civil Safety and Emergency Management structures as regards disasters and other emergency situations prevention, preparedness and intervention,

**4. EXPRESS** the major concern of the accession of the ICDO to the status of United Nations' Specialised Agency so as to reinforce at the institutional level the existing synergies and to develop new ones to the extent, in particular that the ICDO works in conjunction with several bodies of the United Nations system such as the Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UN/AIDS), or the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR),

**5. REQUEST** to this end the ICDO Secretary General to approach the UN Secretary general in order to take all necessary steps and urge all States to support this question,

**6. and INVITE** the UN Economic and Social Council to examine this question on the occasion of one of its earliest session.