



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

Background information sheet

Representative International Instruments on Disaster Response

There is currently no comprehensive international legal framework governing international relief in non-conflict disasters. However, there are some relevant multilateral treaties, a multitude of bilateral agreements, as well as an important number of resolutions, declarations, guidelines, models and other non-binding but nevertheless authoritative instruments.



Photo: Virgil Grandfield/International Federation

These instruments have been collected and are publicly available online on the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies'

International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) Database (available at www.ifrc.org/idrl).

A representative sample of some of the major multilateral instruments follows:

Global Treaties and Agreements

- [Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations](#) of 1998
- ["Kyoto" Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures](#) of 1973 (annexes B.2 and F.5) and as amended in 1999 (specific annexes B and J.5)
- [Framework Convention on Civil Defense Assistance](#) of 2000
- [Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency](#) of 1986
- [Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters](#) of 2000
- Convention on International Civil Aviation of 1944 ("Chicago Convention"), [Annex 9](#) secs. 8.8-8.9
- [Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic](#) of 1965 annex 1, sections 5.11-5.12

Regional Treaties and Agreements

- [ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response](#) of 2005
- [Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance](#) of 1984
- [Constitution Agreement of the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America \(CEPREDENAC\)](#) of 1993
- [Agreement Establishing the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development](#) of 1996

- [EU Council Resolution 87\(2\) Open, Partial Agreement the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters](#) of 1987
- [EU Council Decision of 23 October 2001 establishing a Community mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions](#)
- [Council of Europe Regulation No. 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid](#)
- [Agreement among the Governments of the Participating States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation \(BSEC\) on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters](#) of 1998

Resolutions and Declarations

- ["Measures to expedite international relief"](#), XXIIIrd International Conference of the Red Cross and Crescent, Resolution VI of 1977 & ECOSOC Resolution 2012(LXIII) of 1977
- Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance, [United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/150](#) of 2002
- Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations, [United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/182](#) of 1991
- [Declaration of Principles for International Humanitarian Relief to the Civilian Population in Disaster Situations](#), XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, Resolution XXVI of 1969

Guidelines, Codes and Models

- [Code of Conduct for the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations in Disaster Response Programmes](#) of 1994
- [Sphere Project Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) of 2000 (and as updated in 2004)
- [Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship](#) of 2003
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research, [Model Rules for Disaster Relief Operations](#) of 1982
- [Resolution on Humanitarian Assistance](#), Institute of International Law of 2003
- Max Planck Institute for International Law and Comparative Law, [Draft International Guidelines for Humanitarian Assistance Operations](#) of 1990

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For more information

See the IDRL web site and online legal database at www.ifrc.org/idrl or contact us at:

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