

**October 17, 1966**

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL DEFENSE ORGANIZATION**

Done at Monaco 17 October 1966;

Entered into force for the Philippines 10 September 1973.

### **CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL DEFENSE ORGANIZATION**

#### **PREAMBLE**

With a view to intensifying and coordinating on a worldwide scale the development and improvement of organizations, means and techniques for preventing and reducing the consequences of natural disasters in peacetime or of the use of weapons in time of conflict, the contracting States have agreed to the following Constitution:

#### **PART I — ESTABLISHMENT**

##### **ARTICLE I**

The International Civil Defence Organization (hereinafter called the "Organization") shall be established by the present Constitution.

#### **PART II — FUNCTIONS**

##### **ARTICLE 2**

The functions of the Organization shall be:

- a. to develop and maintain close cooperation among the agencies entrusted with the protection and rescue of the populations and property;
- b. to encourage the establishment and development of a Civil Defence organization in countries where such an organization does not exist, in particular in developing countries, and to assist countries, upon their request, in establishing and developing organizations for protection and rescue of the populations and property;
- c. to establish and maintain effective collaboration with specialized agencies, Government services, professional groups and such other organizations as may be deemed appropriate;
- d. to foster and ensure the exchange of information, experience, personnel and experts among the various countries in the field of protection and rescue of the populations and property;
- e. to furnish, upon the request of Members, appropriate technical assistance, including organization plans, instructors, experts, equipment and material as may be necessary;

- f. to establish and maintain such technical services as may be required, including documentation, study, research, equipment, and other Centres;
- g. to gather and provide information on organization, protection and operation principles with respect to the hazards threatening populations in case of floods, earthquakes, avalanches, major fires, hurricanes, dam bursts and other kinds of destruction as well as from air and water pollution or attacks with modern means of warfare;
- h. to gather and provide reports, studies, research work and specialized documents on the protection and rescue of the populations and property;
- i. to gather and provide information on the modern equipment and material to be used for operations in case of hazards such as listed under (g);
- j. to assist Members in developing an informed public opinion among all peoples on the vital necessity of prevention, protection and intervention in case of disaster;
- k. to study and to contribute to the exchange of knowledge and experience on appropriate preventive measures against damage through disasters;
- l. to intensify, in the event of large-scale disasters, the efforts of various rescue and relief organizations and groups;
- m. to undertake among Members initiatives and to contribute to relief actions in the event of large-scale disasters;
- n. to study and disseminate knowledge on teaching, training and equipping of personnel for protection and rescue agencies;
- o. to stimulate research on the protection and rescue of the populations and property by way of information, publication of studies and any other appropriate means.

### **PART III — MEMBERSHIP**

#### **ARTICLE 3**

Membership in the Organization shall be open to all States.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

The States may become Members of the Organization by accepting this Constitution in accordance with the provisions of Part XV and in accordance with their constitutional processes.

#### **ARTICLE 5**

If any member fails to meet its financial obligations to the Organization or otherwise fails in its obligations under the present Constitution the General Assembly may by resolution suspend it from exercising its rights and enjoying privileges as a Member of the Organization until it has met such financial or other obligations.

#### **ARTICLE 6**

Any Member may withdraw from the Organization on twelve months notice in writing given by it to the Secretary-General of the Organization, who shall at once inform all the Members of the Organization of such notice of withdrawal.

#### PART IV — ORGANS

##### ARTICLE 7

The work of the Organization shall be carried out by:

- a. the General Assembly (hereinafter called the "Assembly")
- b. the Executive Council (hereinafter called the "Council")
- c. the Secretariat

#### PART V — GENERAL ASSEMBLY

##### ARTICLE 8

The Assembly is the supreme authority of the Organization and shall be composed of delegates representing Member-States.

##### ARTICLE 9

Each Member-State shall be represented by one delegate.

##### ARTICLE 10

The Assembly shall meet in ordinary sessions in intervals not exceeding two years, and in such special sessions as may be necessary. Special sessions shall be convened at the request of the Council or a majority of the Members.

##### ARTICLE 11

The Assembly, at each ordinary session, shall select the country in which the next ordinary session shall be held, the Council subsequently fixing the place. The Council shall determine the place where a special session shall be held.

##### ARTICLE 12

The Assembly shall elect a President and a Vice President as well as other officers at the beginning of each ordinary session. They shall hold office until their successors are elected.

##### ARTICLE 13

The Assembly shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

##### ARTICLE 14

In addition to functions set out in other Articles of the Constitution, the primary duties of the Assembly shall be:

- a. to determine general policies for the fulfilment of the functions of the Organization as set forth in Article 2;

- b. to name the Members entitled to designate a representative to the Executive Council:
- c. to appoint the Secretary-General;
- d. to review and approve reports and activities of the Council and of the Secretary-General;
- e. to instruct the Council where necessary and establish such commissions as may be considered necessary for the work of the Organization;
- f. to supervise the financial policies of the Organization and to review and approve the budget;
- g. to promote and conduct research in the field of protection and rescue work by the personnel of the Organization, by the establishment of its own study and research institutions or by cooperation with official or non-official institutions of any Member-State with the consent of its Government;
- h. to establish such other institutions as may be considered desirable;
- i. to invite any organization, international or national, government or nongovernmental, which has responsibilities related to those of the Organization, to appoint representatives to participate, without the right of vote, in its meetings or in those of the committees and conferences convened under its authority, on conditions prescribed by the General Assembly; invitations shall be issued only with the consent of the Government concerned;
- j. to establish regulations prescribing the procedures to be adopted by the various bodies of the Organization, and in particular the general regulations, the regulations on finance, and the regulations on the staff of the Organization;
- k. to establish technical commissions in conformity with the provisions of Part IX, to define their functions, co-ordinate their activities and consider their recommendations;
- 1. to determine the location of the Secretariat of the Organization;
- m. to take any other appropriate action to further the aims of the Organization.

#### ARTICLE 15

In a vote in Assembly each Member shall have one vote. Decisions shall be by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast for and against.

#### ARTICLE 16

The presence of delegates of a majority of the Members shall be required to constitute a quorum for meetings of the Assembly.

### **PART VI — EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

## ARTICLE 17

The Executive Council is the executive body of the Organization.

## ARTICLE 18

The Assembly shall determine the number of the Members of the Executive Council and shall elect the Members entitled to designate a person to serve on the Council, taking into account an equitable geographical distribution.

## ARTICLE 19

The Members of the Council shall be elected for four years; one half shall be renewed every two years.

## ARTICLE 20

The Council shall meet at least once a year and shall determine the place of each meeting.

## ARTICLE 21

A special session of the Executive Council shall be convened according to the procedures contained in the Regulations, after receipt by the Secretary-General 6i requests from a majority of the Members of the Executive Council.

## ARTICLE 22

The Council shall elect its Chairman and its Vice-Chairman from among its members.

## ARTICLE 23

In addition to functions set out in other Articles of the Constitution, the primary functions of the Executive Council shall be:

- a. to implement the decisions taken by the Assembly and to conduct the activities of the Organization in accordance with the intention of such decisions;
- b. to study all questions concerning the protection and rescue of populations and property on an international scale;
- c. to prepare the agenda for the Assembly and to give guidance to the technical commissions in the preparation of their agenda;
- d. to report on its activities to each session of the Assembly;
- e. to administer the finances of the Organization in accordance with the provisions of Part X of the Constitution;
- f. to advise the Assembly on questions referred to it by that and on matters assigned to the Organization by conventions, agreements and regulations;
- g. to submit advice or proposals to the Assembly on its own initiative;