

No. 14376

MULTILATERAL

Constitution of the International Civil Defence Organization (with Statutes dated 10 January 1958). Concluded at Monaco on 17 October 1966

Authentic texts of the Constitution: Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Authentic text of the Statutes: French.

Registered by Mauritania on 10 October 1975.

MULTILATÉRAL

Constitution de l'Organisation internationale de protection civile (avec Statuts en date du 10 janvier 1958). Conclue à Monaco le 17 octobre 1966

Textes authentiques de la Constitution : chinois, anglais, français, russe et espagnol.

Texte authentique des Statuts : français.

Enregistrée par la Mauritanie le 10 octobre 1975.

CONSTITUTION¹ OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL DEFENCE ORGANIZATION

PREAMBLE

With a view to intensifying and co-ordinating 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

Art. 1. The International Civil Defence Organization (hereinafter called the "Organization") shall be established by the present Constitution.

PART II. FUNCTIONS

Art. 2. The functions of the Organization shall be:

- (a) to develop and maintain close co-operation among the agencies entrusted with the protection and rescue of the populations and property;

¹ Came into force on 1 March 1972 in respect of the following States, on whose behalf instruments of ratification or accession had been deposited with the International Civil Defence Organization, in accordance with the resolution adopted on that date by the General Assembly of the Organization and with the provisions of article 52 of the Constitution:

State	Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification or accession (a)	State	Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification or accession (a)
Liberia	17 October 1966 a	Spain	20 March 1970 a
Saudi Arabia	17 October 1966 a	Tunisia	24 July 1970 a
Iran	14 June 1967 a	Lebanon	30 July 1970 a
Dahomey	20 January 1968 a	Thailand	5 December 1970 a
Cyprus	7 March 1968 a	Venezuela	24 June 1971 a
Yugoslavia	15 March 1968	Trinidad and Tobago	9 September 1971 a
Mauritania	29 April 1968 a	Qatar	31 January 1972 a
Republic of Viet Nam	21 June 1968	Chad	24 February 1972 a
Egypt	23 October 1968		

Subsequently, the Constitution came into force in respect of the following States on the thirtieth day after the deposit of their instrument of ratification or accession with the International Civil Defence Organization, in accordance with article 53:

State	Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification or accession (a)	State	Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification or accession (a)
Syrian Arab Republic*	14 August 1972 (With effect from 13 September 1972.)	Ghana	7 July 1974 a (With effect from 6 August 1974.)
Libyan Arab Republic	29 August 1972 a (With effect from 28 September 1972.)	Laos	12 August 1974 a (With effect from 11 September 1974.)
Philippines	15 July 1973 (With effect from 14 August 1973.)	Senegal	26 May 1975 a (With effect from 25 June 1975.)
Zaire	14 October 1973 (With effect from 13 November 1973.)	Pakistan	10 October 1975 a (With effect from 9 November 1975.)
Mali	15 February 1974 a (With effect from 17 March 1974.)		

*For the text of the reservation made upon ratification see p. 49 of this volume.

- (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

Art. 3. Membership in the Organization shall be open to all States.

Art. 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.

Art. 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.

Art. 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

Art. 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

Art. 8. The Assembly is the supreme authority of the Organization and shall be composed of delegates representing Member-States.

Art. 9. Each Member-State shall be represented by one delegate.

Art. 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 of a majority of the Members.

Art. 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.

Art. 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.

Art. 13. The Assembly shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Art. 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 Art. 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 co-operation 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, governmental or non-governmental, 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 conference 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;
- (l) to determine the location of the Secretariat of the Organization;
- (m) to take any other appropriate action to further the aims of the Organization.

Art. 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.

Art. 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

Art. 17. The Executive Council is the executive body of the Organization.

Art. 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.

Art. 19. The Members of the Council shall be elected for four years; one half shall be renewed every two years.

Art. 20. The Council shall meet at least once a year and shall determine the place of each meeting.

Art. 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 of requests from a majority of the Members of the Executive Council.

Art. 22. The Council shall elect its Chairman and its Vice-Chairman from among its members.

Art. 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 body 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;

- (h) to submit to the Assembly for consideration and approval a general programme of work covering a specific period;
- (i) to study all questions within its competence;
- (j) to take emergency measures within the functions and financial resources of the Organization to deal with events requiring immediate action;
- (k) to authorize the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps for rescue action in case of disaster;
- (l) to undertake studies and research the urgency of which has been drawn to the attention of the Council by any Member or by the Secretary-General;
- (m) to perform such other functions as may be conferred on it by the Assembly.

Art. 24. In a vote in Council each Member shall have one vote. Decisions shall be by simple majority of the votes cast.

Art. 25. The presence of two-thirds of the Members shall be required to constitute the quorum for meetings of the Council.

PART VII. THE SECRETARIAT

Art. 26. The permanent Secretariat of the Organization shall be composed of a Secretary-General and such technical and administrative staff as may be required for the work of the Organization.

Art. 27. The Secretary-General shall be appointed by the Assembly on the nomination of the Council on such terms as the Assembly may determine. The Secretary-General shall be the chief technical and administrative officer of the Organization.

Art. 28. The Secretary-General shall be *ex-officio* Secretary of the Assembly and of the Council, and shall attend *ex-officio* all commissions of the Organization. He may delegate these functions.

Art. 29. The Secretary-General shall prepare and submit annually to the Council the financial statements and budget estimates of the Organization.

Art. 30. The Secretary-General shall appoint the staff of the Secretariat in accordance with staff regulations established by the Assembly. The paramount consideration in the employment of the staff shall be to assure that the efficiency, integrity and internationally representative character of the Secretariat shall be maintained at the highest level. Due regard shall be paid also to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

Art. 31. The conditions of service of the staff of the Organization shall conform as far as possible with those of other international organizations.

Art. 32. In the performance of their duties, the Secretary-General and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any authority external to the Organization. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international officers. Each Member of the Organization on its part shall respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and the staff and not seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities to the Organization.

PART VIII. CONFERENCES

Art. 33. The Organization shall carry out the tasks listed in Art. 2 also by organizing general and local conferences, symposia, seminars and other technical meetings. Representatives of non-member States may attend these meetings as

observers, as well as delegates of international and national organizations, governmental or non-governmental. The manner of such representation shall be determined by the Assembly or the Council.

Art. 34. The Council and the Secretary-General may provide for representation of the Organization at conferences in which they consider that the Organization has an interest.

PART IX. COMMISSIONS

Art. 35. The Council shall establish such technical commissions as the Assembly may direct and, on its own initiative or on the proposal of the Secretary-General, may establish any other commissions considered desirable to serve any purpose within the competence of the Organization.

Art. 36. The Council, from time to time and in any event annually, shall review the necessity for continuing each technical Commission.

Art. 37. Members of the Organization have the right to be represented on the Technical Commissions.

Art. 38. Each Technical Commission shall elect its President. He may participate, without the right of vote, in the meetings of the Assembly and of the Council.

Art. 39. The Council may provide for the creation of or the participation by the Organization in joint or mixed commissions with other organizations and for the representation of the Organization in commissions established by such other organizations.

PART X. FINANCES

Art. 40. The Secretary-General shall prepare and submit to the Council the annual budget estimates of the Organization. The Council shall consider and submit to the Assembly such budget estimates, together with any recommendations the Council may deem advisable.

Art. 41. The Assembly shall determine the maximum expenditure which may be incurred by the Organization on the basis of the estimates submitted by the Executive Council.

Art. 42. The expenditures of the Organization shall be apportioned among the Members of the Organization in accordance with a scale to be fixed by the Assembly.

Art. 43. The Assembly shall delegate to the Executive Council such authority as may be required to approve the annual expenditures of the Organization within the limitations determined by the Assembly.

Art. 44. The Assembly or the Council acting on behalf of the Assembly may accept and administer gifts and bequests made to the Organization provided that the conditions attached to such gifts or bequests are acceptable to the Assembly or the Council and are consistent with the aims and policies of the Organization.

PART XI. DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS

Art. 45. Each Member shall communicate to the Organization laws, regulations, official reports and statistical data pertaining to protection and rescue of the populations and property which have been published in the country concerned.

PART XII. LEGAL STATUS

Art. 46. The Organization shall enjoy in the country of its headquarters such legal capacity and facilities as may be necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes and for the exercise of its functions.

Art. 47. The Organization shall enjoy in the country of its headquarters such privileges as may be necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes and for the exercise of its functions.

Art. 48. Officers and officials of the Organization shall similarly enjoy in the country of its headquarters such facilities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connexion with the Organization.

PART XIII. AMENDMENTS

Art. 49. Texts of proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to Members at least six months in advance of their consideration by the Assembly. Amendments shall come into force for all Members when adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly and accepted by two-thirds of the Members in accordance with their respective constitutional processes.

PART XIV. RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Art. 50. The Organization shall establish effective relations and co-operate closely with such other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as may be desirable. Any formal agreement entered into with such organizations shall be approved by the Executive Council.

PART XV. ENTRY INTO FORCE

Art. 51. Subject to the provisions of Part III, this Constitution shall remain open to all States for signature or acceptance.

Art. 52. This Constitution shall come into force when ten States have become parties to it.

Art. 53. The present Constitution shall come into force for each State ratifying or acceding after that date on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its instrument of ratification or accession.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present Constitution.¹

DONE at Monaco, the seventeenth day of October, nineteen hundred and sixty-six, in a single copy in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages, each text being equally authentic, the original of which shall be deposited in the archives of the Secretariat of the International Civil Defence Organization which shall transmit certified copies to all the signatory and acceding States.

Original copy of the Constitution adopted at the Constitutive Assembly held on 17th October, 1966, in Monaco.

The President:

[Signed]

Lt. Colonel M. H. SEDDIK

The Secretary-General:

[Signed]

MILAN M. BODI

¹ In fact, the adoption of the Constitution was witnessed by a procès-verbal signed by the President and the Secretary General of the Conference of plenipotentiaries.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL DEFENCE ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

Document No. 71
10 January 1958

S T A T U T E S

PART I. CONSTITUTION

Article 1. An international association, to be known as the “Organisation internationale de protection civile—OIPC”, “International Civil Defence Organization—ICDO”, “Internationale Organisation für Zivilverteidigung—IOZV”, is hereby established; it is organized as a corporation possessing legal personality, in accordance with articles 60 *et seq.* of the Swiss Civil Code.

The International Civil Defence Organization (hereinafter referred to as ICDO) is successor to the International Organization of Geneva Zones, founded in 1931 by Surgeon-General Saint-Paul of France.

ICDO is non-political, non-ethnic and undernominational.

Its emblem consists of a stylized globe of the earth, overlaid with two diagonal red bands and surrounded by two oak branches crossed at the base, all on a white ground.

Article 2. The headquarters of ICDO shall be at Geneva.

PART II. FIELD OF ACTIVITY AND OBJECTIVES

Article 3. The field of activity of ICDO shall extend to every country of the world.

Article 4. The purposes of ICDO are:

- (a) to maintain close liaison between bodies concerned with civil defence;
- (b) to encourage and undertake studies and research on the various problems of civil defence and to place the information collected at the disposal of its members;
- (c) to continue the studies undertaken by Geneva Zones on the evacuation of civilian population and the constitution of places of refuge and safety zones in accordance with article 14 of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;¹
- (d) to facilitate the exchange of experience and the co-ordination of efforts with a view to establishing effective civil defence.

PART III. MEMBERSHIP

Article 5. The following may become members of ICDO:

- (A) Executive members: any agency concerned with civil defence;
- (B) Associate members, without the right to vote: individuals interested in problems of civil defence.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, p. 287.

The signatories to these Statutes shall be founding members. Founding members shall have the same rights as executive members.

Article 6. Application for membership shall be addressed to the Secretariat. The International Committee shall decide on the admission of new members.

Article 7. Members failing to fulfil statutory obligations may be expelled, if the International Committee so decides. An appeal may be made to the General Assembly.

PART IV. FINANCES AND ASSETS

Article 8. The resources of ICDO shall comprise:

- (a) Members' dues;
- (b) Income from exhibitions, publications, etc.;
- (c) Legacies, grants and donations for general or special purposes.

Article 9. The dues payable shall be determined by the International Committee.

PART V. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 10. The regular General Assembly shall be the supreme authority of ICDO. It shall meet once a year, normally during the International Conference. Notice of the convening of the General Assembly, together with the agenda and the relevant documents, shall be distributed as least two months prior to the date of the Assembly.

Article 11. The International Committee may invite non-members to attend the General Assembly as observers.

Article 12. The General Assembly shall be empowered:

- (a) to elect the International Committee and the President of ICDO for a term of three years; the meeting at which the election is held shall be presided over by the senior participant by age;
- (b) to take decisions concerning the Statutes and the revision thereof;
- (c) to study general problems in accordance with the agenda proposed by the International Committee;
- (d) to set general lines of action;
- (e) to dissolve the organization;
- (f) to appoint the auditors;
- (g) to approve the annual report of the International Committee.

PART VI. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Article 13. The International Committee shall be the executive organ of ICDO. It shall be convened by the Secretariat in regular session at least twice a year, when the Executive Board so decides or at the written request of one half of the members of the International Committee.

Article 14. The date and place of the session of the International Committee shall be determined by the Executive Bureau. Notice of its convening, together with

the agenda and the relevant documents, shall be distributed by the Secretariat at least one month prior to the date of the session.

Article 15. Members of the International Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly on the nomination of national delegations, one member being elected from each country represented by executive members.

Article 16. Subject to the powers vested in the General Assembly, the International Committee shall have the broadest authority. It shall direct ICDO and shall decide, *inter alia*, on the following matters:

- (a) the appointment of members of the Executive Board;
- (b) the appointment of the Secretary-General;
- (c) the establishment of standing committees, *ad hoc* committees and other bodies, if any, and the designation of their chairmen;
- (d) the determination of the scale of dues.

Article 17. The President of ICDO shall also serve as President of the International Committee and the Executive Bureau.

If the President is absent or otherwise unable to attend, he shall delegate his powers to a member of the International Committee.

PART VII. THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU

Article 18. The Executive Bureau shall perform the duties of directing ICDO between sessions of the International Committee. It shall be convened by the Secretariat, when the President so decides or at the request of three of its members.

Article 19. The Bureau shall meet at ICDO headquarters. Notice of its convening, together with the agenda and the relevant documents, shall be transmitted by the Secretariat at least two weeks in advance.

Article 20. The Bureau shall be composed of the President of ICDO and four members appointed by the International Committee for a term of two years. The President of ICDO and members of the Executive Bureau shall be required to reside in Switzerland during their term of office. Meetings of the Executive Bureau shall be attended by founding members, the Secretary-General and the chairmen of standing committees.

Article 21. The duties of the Executive Bureau shall include:

- (a) taking decisions on the management of current business, with the assistance of the Secretariat;
- (b) undertaking the work needed to carry out the ICDO programme of action;
- (c) co-ordinating the activities of standing committees;
- (d) implementing the decisions of the General Assembly and the International Committee;
- (e) administering the assets of ICDO;
- (f) performing such other duties as are assigned to it by the International Committee.

PART VIII. THE SECRETARIAT

Article 22. The Secretariat shall be headed by a Secretary-General, assisted by the necessary staff, whom he shall appoint. The Secretary-General shall be appointed

by the International Committee for a term of five years. He shall be entitled to attend all meetings of ICDO bodies, with the right to speak.

Article 23. The duties of the Secretariat shall be the following:

- (a) to manage current ICDO business in accordance with the directives it receives;
- (b) to provide liaison between the members of ICDO;
- (c) to assist in finding ways and means of carrying out the ICDO programme of action;
- (d) to handle external relations;
- (e) to ensure that the resolutions of ICDO bodies are implemented;
- (f) to collect dues;
- (g) to accept grants, donations and legacies;
- (h) to keep accounts and disburse funds;
- (i) to issue documentation, bulletins, brochures, magazines, press release and the like.

PART IX. THE AUDITORS

Article 24. The auditors shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly. They shall have access at any time to all the books and files of ICDO.

PART X. STANDING COMMITTEES

Article 25. The International Committee shall establish standing committees to study specific questions.

Article 26. Standing committees shall be composed of a chairman and members appointed by the International Committee on the nomination of national delegations.

Article 27. Standing committees shall submit their programme of work to the Executive Bureau and shall report to it on their activities.

Article 28. The date and place of meetings of a standing committee shall be decided by the chairman of the committee, with the agreement of the Secretary-General.

The President of ICDO and the Secretary-General shall have the right *ex officio* to attend meetings of standing committees; they may also present at any time written or oral statements on questions which are under study.

PART XI. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 29. Any decision concerning amendment of the Statutes on the merger or dissolution of ICDO shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

Article 30. The authentic text of the Statutes is the text in the French language.

DONE at Geneva, on 10 January 1958.

RESERVATION MADE
UPON RATIFICATION*SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

The ratification of the said Constitution by the Syrian Arab Republic may not under any circumstances be interpreted as constituting recognition of what is called "Israel". Moreover, ratification of the Constitution will not commit the Syrian Arab Republic to establishing relations of any kind with the aforementioned.

RÉSERVE FAITE
LORS DE LA RATIFICATION*RÉPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE*

«La ratification de ladite Constitution par la République Arabe Syrienne ne peut être interprétée en aucun cas comme une reconnaissance de ce qui est appelé «Israël». De plus, elle ne saurait lier la République Arabe Syrienne à entrer en relations, de quelque nature que ce soit, avec le précité.»
