

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE
PROTECTION CIVILE

ORGANIZACIÓN INTERNACIONAL
DE PROTECCIÓN CIVIL

国际民防组织



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL DEFENCE
ORGANIZATION

МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ
ГРАЖДАНСКОЙ ОБОРОНЫ

المنظمة الدولية للحماية المدنية والدفاع المدني

World Civil Defence Day 2020 “Civil Defence and First Aider in Every Home”

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

In spite of the technological development and urbanization, not to mention the rapid changes that have been introduced in the lifestyle, certain social norms and professionalism are well established and fundamentally crucial, most relatedly is first aid and emergency doctrine. Since its emergence in the 15th Century, the concept of first aid has introduced revolutionary outcomes, particularly in regards to lifesaving assistance, and it has brought a paradigm shift towards a more sophisticated era of emergency medicine.

However, humanity is receiving red flags as natural disasters intensify leading to devastating earthquakes, torrential rains causing sweeping floods, and massive forest fires never witnessed before. In the meantime, people working in emergency services are expected more than ever to keep up with the fast pace of development, and what such changing challenges have in store. Given the fact that emergency service, overall, operates under the umbrella of civil defence – civil protection, it was essential to dedicate a year in which the international community devotes its efforts to reflect the vital role of civilians’ involvement in emergency services.

By a general assembly resolution, the theme of the World Civil Defence Day for the year 2020 was decided to be “Civil Defence and First Aider in Every Home.” The significance of this theme is great. Although first aid is considered to be within the sphere and mandate of civil defence and other related authorities, the actions for first aid and bailout usually begin by calling for help before the arrival of competent bodies and authorities. With that being said, at least a member of a family must be ready for such occurrences, which requires them to be familiar with the notions of first aid and ambulance services.

The constitutional role of the ICDO is reflected by supporting and coordinating the efforts devoted for the most part to educate, train and equip individuals so they can become better assistants to real professionals. In fact, several countries, under the direct supervision of the civil defense-protection bodies, have already launched programs of similar nature, training thousands of civilians and creating various educational and awareness-raising programs, having in mind the ultimate goal – to obtain a first aider in every home. Moreover, the ICDO will be working towards creating unified national and international networks specialized in awareness raising besides organizing distance-learning programs in order to handle better emergency's occurrence using modern technology.

The idea of enabling individuals with a multidimensional suite of skills and education to become first aiders is one of 21st century's imperatives and a great motivator to encourage civilians to take an active part in their national systems of prevention while nourishing their disaster resilience. To that end, the ICDO calls upon all member states to celebrate 1st of March 2020 by organizing and intensifying awareness-raising campaigns with reference to first aiders. This could be one of the most expressive ways to reveal one's societal solidarity and citizenship.

Finally, on this auspicious occasion, I would be remiss if I did not single out the considerable role and the sacrifices made by all men and women of civil protection worldwide to protect the life and property. On the eve of the World Civil Defense Day, I cannot also fail to recall the victims of duty of all officers, personnel and employees of civil protection and civil defense, without whom we have not reached this level of security, safety and peace. I wish to pay tribute to their contributions made and wish solace and speedy recovery to the injured ones.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Belkacem Elketroussi", is written over a thin blue line that extends from the signature towards the right.

Belkacem Elketroussi
Secretary-General a.i