



## **Bust of General George Saint-Paul**

**Gift from the government of Cameroon  
to ICDO in 2021**

Surgeon-General

Founding President of "Lieux de Genève" from 1931-37

Former head of divisional stretcher bearers

Director of the Saarland Troop Health Service

Director of the Health Service of the 30<sup>th</sup> Army Corps (Rhineland)

Director of the 20<sup>th</sup> Army Corps and the 20<sup>th</sup> Region (Nancy)

### **Distinctions**

Commander of the Legion of Honour

Croix de Guerre



International  
Civil Defence  
Organisation

**90 years**  
serving  
the population





Stanislav BELIAEV



Sergey LEDENTSOV



Hayet MEJRI



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# Foreword



The whole world is marked by crises of natural or anthropogenic origin, made manifest through violent and recurrent phenomena such as floods, landslides, mudslides, epidemics and pandemics, the disastrous consequences of which exacerbate poverty. Humanity itself is endangered. Rich countries and poor countries are suffering alike. It is therefore important, vital even, to develop mutually-beneficial approaches to reducing these vulnerabilities and catastrophes.

One man, a visionary, in the form of General Georges Saint-Paul, was prompted through his exposure to the suffering inflicted on civilians during the wars to found an association, “Lieux de Genève”, to protect humankind and cultural monuments in 1931. Forty-one years later this Association became the International Civil Defence

Organisation with the wider missions of protecting people and safeguarding property and the environment against catastrophes of natural and man-made origins.

Over the course of its 90 years of existence, the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) has distinguished itself under the leadership of six General Secretaries in addition to its Founder, and on the international scene in general, and in particular with its Member States, through numerous concrete works aimed at the development of national Civil Defence structures. These works are all the more effective for providing a prompt solution to the specific needs of the States. This makes this organisation, which has both development and humanitarian

**“It is therefore important, vital even, to develop mutually-beneficial approaches to reducing these vulnerabilities and catastrophes.”**

missions, a close and reliable friend of States in the current context where no one can claim to have all the necessary means to face the risk of existing and emerging disasters alone. The current Covid-19 pandemic is proof of that.

The ICDO intends to continue its actions by playing its part in the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, mainly in an environment marked by demographic explosion coupled with the phenomenon of uncontrolled urbanisation and climate change, all of which increase the vulnerability of communities.

The effectiveness of ICDO missions will be proportional to the number and quality of the stakeholders involved. The more members and strategic partners there are, the more effective the prevention, preparation, intervention

and rehabilitation actions will be for more resilient communities.

This document is in many ways a biography of this institution with bold ideas, whose driving preoccupation is the resilience of communities.

**Mariatou N. YAP**  
*General Secretary*

## Management team



Our Organisation has been going through troubled times recently, largely as a result of weak management.

The last elections, which resulted in renewed governing bodies, are a source of hope for better things to come.

For my part, I will spare no effort to work with the new Secretary General to restore its image.

Happy Anniversary to the extended family of global civil defence.

**Colonel-Major Lazare Yago,**  
*General Director  
of Civil Defence  
for the Republic of Burkina Faso  
President of the General Meeting  
of the ICDO.*



On the eve of the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the International Civil Defence Organisation, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the employees of civil defence and other emergency services worldwide for their courage and bravery in carrying out the noble mission of protecting the population! Thanks to your dedication, thousands of lives have been saved. With all sincerity, I wish you prosperity and well-being!

**Boobek E. Azhikeev**  
*Minister for emergency situations  
in Kyrgyzstan  
President of the ICDO  
Executive Council*



As in any human endeavour, there is scope for improvement within the ICDO. Indeed, it intends to take advantage of the shortcomings that have plagued its operations over the past three years to improve its image in the international community. To this end, ICDO is counting on the contribution of each and everyone to continue to play its role as a "nurse" at the bedside of state communities through concrete and tangible actions.

**Mariatou N. Yap**  
*General Secretary*



I would like to make the most of the 90th anniversary of the ICDO to congratulate all Member States. The ideas and principles on which our organisation was founded have evolved over time, and new trends have been added. Today, the ICDO brings together 60 countries and promotes the principles of developing national civil protection services.

As we celebrate this historic event, I hope that the Organisation will go from strength to strength so that we can contribute to improving our members' ability to save lives!

**Andrey Kudinov**  
*Deputy Secretary General*

# Introduction



A large, light orange watermark with the text "90 years" is positioned diagonally across the upper half of the page.

The International Civil Defence  
Organisation (ICDO) is 90 in 2021.

The Organisation  
was founded in 1931 by Surgeon  
General Georges Saint-Paul.

The Organisation has evolved over 90 years,  
reflecting the challenges of the time, and  
particularly those associated  
with globalisation and the effects of  
climate change.

Thus, ICDO has evolved from an  
Association created to protect people,  
property and historical monuments against  
the evils of war, to an Organisation that  
works for the protection and assistance of  
people as well as the safeguarding of property  
and the environment against disasters of both  
natural and man-made origin.

# Origins of the ICDO

The origins of the ICDO can be  
viewed in two phases,  
the first from 1931 to 1958  
and the second from 1958 to  
1972.

# **Transitioning from an Association to a Non- Governmental Organisation (1931-1958)**

# Images from the Great W



**The idea for the “Lieu de Genève”  
occurred to me in Soissons  
during the winter of 1914-1915  
and consolidated itself in my  
soul in 1918 when I witnessed  
the populations of an area of the  
Somme fleeing under fire.**

\* Soissons is one of the martyr towns of the First World War.





# War

**Some of you may not  
have lived through war.  
In combat, death is  
present for hours,  
for weeks and sometimes  
even months.**



## The creation of the Association

In 1931, retired Surgeon General Dr. Georges Saint-Paul founded the Association “Les Lieux de Genève” in Paris. It was an association dedicated to the protection of civilians and historic monuments in armed conflict situations. It was a revolutionary idea. Until that time, no one had thought about the collateral damage caused to civilians in armed conflicts.

Focusing on the protection of the civilian population was an avant-garde idea. Over time, war would increasingly impact civilian life. Indeed, the International Committee of the Red Cross estimates that as many as 97% of the victims of any armed conflict are civilians.

“The idea for the “Lieu de Genève” occurred to be in Soissons<sup>1</sup> during the winter of 1914-1915 and consolidated itself in my soul in 1918 when I witnessed

the populations of an area of the Somme fleeing under fire”.

Surgeon General Saint-Paul had served in many military campaigns in the colonies - in Algeria, Tunisia, Indochina, and Morocco. In 1914, he was put in charge of the Red Cross service across an extensive part of the French front. He led his troops into some of the hardest hit areas of France (the Marne, Verdun...) and was wounded three times, but refused to leave his troops behind. He even stayed in the trenches for four months with his soldiers. Trench warfare was particularly harsh and dangerous for the soldiers and is probably the dominant feature of the First World War.

Frightened by the prospect of future wars and aware of what doctors owe to peace, he campaigned for the Red Cross to cover not only ambulances and hospitals

<sup>1</sup> Soissons was one of the martyred cities of the First World War.



in the future, but also for certain places, demarcated in advance, declared and marked on maps where children, the elderly and women could take refuge from the bombing and gas. Today, these areas are called human corridors.

Surgeon General Saint-Paul's idea was as follows: in application of an international convention, there should be an agreement between the various countries during peacetime, before an era of war, on neutral zones in order to shelter women, and especially pregnant women, nursing women, infants, babies, the elderly, the infirm there in the event of war.

These areas would be marked on military maps, and they would be exempt from any bombing. He came up with the name "Lieux de Genève" for these areas.

General Saint-Paul, under the pseudonyms of Georges Espé de Metz and Dr Lauppts, had a busy intellectual life, ranging from writing poetry to scientific books on subjects that were controversial at the time, such as homosexuality, psychology, consciousness and memory. However, the development of the Association quickly became his overriding purpose in life.

**On 28 May 1931, the legal existence of "Le Lieu de Genève pour la protection des populations civiles en cas de guerre" (Lieu de Genève for the protection of civil populations in the event of war) was recognised by the French Chamber of Deputies.**





*Geneva, quai des Bergues:  
crowd waiting for the  
delegates of the 1st Assembly  
of the LoN. Photo: LoN  
historical archives*

As soon as the idea of safe areas and the possibility of their practical implementation matured in his mind, General Saint-Paul continued to develop the concept of "Lieux de Genève" from military, legal, psychological, moral and philosophical perspectives.

In an article entitled "I appeal to the civilised world: the Lieu de Genève" published in the "Progrès Médical" on 27 April 1929, he outlined his idea and developed it in a series of other articles, as well as in his books and pamphlets and in public lectures.

In 1930, General Saint-Paul wrote the text of the report that was presented to the French Chamber of Deputies by the parliamentarian Maurice Robert, who was the first person to have presented a proposal to parliament in favour of the "Lieux de Genève".

On 28 May 1931, the legal existence of "Le Lieu de Genève pour la protection des populations civiles en cas de guerre" (Lieu de Genève for the protection of civil populations in the event of war) was recognised by the French Chamber of Deputies.

The Association quickly became a huge success, and in a very short time had more than 5,000 members, men and women of various nationalities, conditions, opinions and religions.

In the aftermath of the First World War, and with the creation of the League of Nations (LoN) and the presence of the Red Cross, the city of Geneva became a reference for humanitarian, health and



## **“Never again” was the key slogan of the various pacifist movements!**

international law issues and consequently the centre *par excellence* of multilateralism.

The Association of the Lieux de Genève and the LoN were the hope of the people in that the former would protect them from the effects of war while the latter would be able, through peaceful negotiations, to avoid war, and thus create a new era and a new world order.

Until the 1930s, the LoN was highly effective, but the existing major powers soon reverted to old habits of secret diplomacy, and with the economic crisis of 1929, it paid a heavy price. Subsequently, the Organisation became less and less important.

The various peace movements in Europe continued their struggle. People had suffered greatly from the horrors of the 1914-1918 war, and many were determined never to see another war again. “Never again” was the key slogan of the various pacifist movements!

France was the country that suffered the most in terms of causality from the First World War, from which it emerged economically, socially and politically affected. Governments changed often, and it was not easy to get approval for new ideas, but General Saint-Paul had managed to get his through.

*General Saint-Paul*



**It has been said, it has been repeated,  
that there were terrible breaches of  
the Geneva Convention during the  
last war. It's possible.**

He continued to defend his ideas, despite the obstacles and criticism he faced, particularly from ultra-pacifists. In responding to these critics, who ignored the evidence of reality, Saint-Paul disarmed the arguments of these distrustful people with irrefutable reasoning.

Saint-Paul wrote, "It has been said, it has been repeated, that there were terrible breaches of the Geneva Convention during the last war. It's possible. It has been said that there were misunderstandings. It's likely. Which undertaking does not experience them? But does that stop us from taking the train because disasters are sometimes caused on the railways by mistakes, negligence, crimes or attacks?"

To see his project through, Saint-Paul was able to surround himself with faithful collaborators, the oldest and most active of whom were Colonel Roffidal, Miss Nelly Delain, Count Henry de Roffignac, Mr. Pol Henry, Valentin Bresle, Maître Roger de Saint-Chamas, Lawyer at the Court of Paris and legal advisor of the Association.

On 8 June 1935, at the instigation of the Association des Lieux de Genève, the French Chamber of Deputies unanimously adopted a resolution inviting the League of Nations to "study the means of constituting in each nation, by means of agreements ratified by the League of Nations, places or zones which



*Geneva: the arrival of a convoy of seriously wounded French. Photo credit: DR*

**But does that stop us from taking the train because disasters are sometimes caused on the railways by mistakes, negligence, crimes or attacks?**



should be withdrawn in the event of armed conflicts, from all military actions and purposes". His report was voted unanimously by the Chamber of Deputies on the same day; the successful outcome of his work is indisputable.

On 3 October 1935, a provisional International Committee was created in Geneva under the presidency of Mr. Henri George, a friend of Saint-Paul's, with the help of his Rotarian friends in Geneva, including the Fatio brothers and Louis Favre. The Association's work continued with the creation in Geneva in 1937, again on the initiative of General Saint-Paul, of the International Association for the Protection of Civilian Populations in the Event of Armed Conflict, which was to be the parent association of "Lieux de Genève".

The choice of the headquarters of the parent organisation was determined by the considerations of Saint-Paul. In his opinion, the humanitarian traditions, which have given Geneva's history a particular character, predestined this city to "take on the great work" of a new stage in the humanisation of war.

General Saint-Paul believed that the city of Geneva, where the "Dunant spirit" was born, would be able to "lead the newly entrusted work to success as quickly as possible". The tragic thing is that General Saint-Paul died on 7 April 1937 without having the chance to witness the organisation's achievements in Geneva.

**What is more interesting is to see the real legacy of Saint-Paul, his ideas and how these unique and forward-looking ideas laid the foundation for the Association...**

## **The legacy of Dr. Georges Saint-Paul**

To understand the legacy of the founder of "Lieux de Genève", we have to go back in time, to an era when the world was ruled by the colonial powers, England and France. In the 19th century, Germany under Bismarck also started to wake up and became increasingly aggressive. Germany also wanted a spot in the sun.

Georges Saint-Paul was born on 17 April 1870 in Metz, in Lorraine in north-east France, a geographical area largely influenced by the rivalry between French and German nationalists. He was born just a few months before the Franco-German war broke out in 1870.

The Treaty of Frankfurt of 10 May 1871 gave Germany most of Alsace and part of Lorraine, which became the imperial territory of Alsace-Lorraine.

Following this war, Bismarck enjoyed great authority in international affairs for two decades. French determination to reclaim Alsace-Lorraine and the fear of a new Franco-German war, as well as British apprehension about the balance of power, became factors in the causes of the First World War.

Despite the above-mentioned circumstances, Georges Saint-Paul, who was a brilliant student, continued his studies. He graduated from the Faculties in Lille and Lyon. He chose to devote his thesis to the brain functions of artists and writers, under the supervision of Alexandre Lacassagne, professor of forensic medicine at the Faculty of Lyon.



*Georges Saint-Paul, a student at the Faculty of Medicine in Lyon*



In 1893, Saint-Paul joined the French army where he became assistant major of the 91st infantry regiment. First appointed to Mézières, he was promoted in 1895 before being sent to Algiers, to the Dey hospital where soldiers being repatriated arrived from Madagascar. He was later sent to Tunisia, and later became Chief medical stretcher-bearer in 1914 during the First World War. In 1926, he became Director of the Military Health Service in Nancy with the rank of General Physician.

Much has been said about Saint-Paul's experience in the war and in the colonies, so we will not dwell on these facts. Instead it is more interesting to view the true legacy of Saint-Paul, his ideas and how these unique and pioneering ideas laid the foundation for the Association that became the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) over the years.

The first Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Fighting Armies was drafted on 22 August 1864. This was the first of a series of four treaties called the Geneva Convention. It provides "the foundation for the rules of international law for the protection of victims of armed conflict."

This first Treaty was extensively revised and amended in 1906, then in 1929, and finally in 1949. It is inextricably linked to the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which instigated it, and which also called for its wider application.



*Georges Saint-Paul,  
a student in Lyon*

## **He was a doctor and a soldier and had witnessed horrors during the First World War.**

envelopment by the poisoned waves of air whose venom slowly embraces and burns the lungs.”

It is likely that the first Geneva Convention served as a catalyst for Saint-Paul to create his "Lieux de Genève" Association. He was a doctor and a soldier and had witnessed horrors during the First World War. He said “Some of you may not have lived through war. In combat, death is present for hours, for weeks and sometimes even months. Death constantly brushes up against humans. There is nothing more disturbing than the long or precipitous whistles of the shell, the tremors with which it shakes the earth, if not perhaps the rustle of the invisible bullet, nothing more poignant than the sharp snap of the shot and the light flight of the invisible bullet, if not perhaps the slow envelopment, the gradual

The International Committee, founded in Geneva in 1935 by Henri George, received moral support from the International Committee of the Red Cross. This collaboration is reflected in a number of facts. There is, for example, the presentation made by Dr Grieder-Tschudi on 2 December 1935 to the Rotary Club of Glarus on the Red Cross and the Lieux de Genève.\*

It is clear that the Rotary club movement<sup>2</sup> supported Saint-Paul and the Geneva branch of "Lieux de Genève". At this time, the Rotary Clubs were a relatively new phenomenon. Over the years, Rotary International has helped

2 The Rotary came into being thanks to Paul Harris. On 23 February 1905, this Chicago lawyer decided to bring together businessmen from different backgrounds on a mission: to exchange ideas and create sincere and lasting friendships. Over time, the scope and vision of the Rotary has gradually expanded to include humanitarian work. Their members have extensive experience in solving problems, locally and globally.



“...Let us now take a look at the "Lieux de Genève". Their important role can only be fully appreciated when one is aware of the tasks performed by the Red Cross. The reasons for supporting this work are as follows: despite the bans (most recently in 1925), "Gas Warfare" is of great significance in the future. What is more serious is the fact that it also threatens civilian populations and is even intended to be used against them in order to spread terror and demoralisation. According to General Dr Saint-Paul, these "Lieux de Genève" will have to meet the following conditions:

- a) They shall be sufficiently distant from any centre which may be exposed to bombardment and from any military works;
- b) They must offer all guarantees from the point of view of hygiene and lend themselves to the possibility of receiving an unexpected influx of occupants;
- c) The "Lieux de Genève" shall be designated in times of peace, on all geographical maps;
- (d) They shall, from the outbreak of war, be placed under the control of persons recruited in neutral countries, who shall have been designated in times of peace. These neutrals will be responsible for reporting any breaches of the Convention or the use of a "Lieu de Genève" for military purposes. Any violation of a "Lieu de Genève" will result in sanctions. And he continues in his presentation...

### Is the idea of these "Lieux de Genève" achievable?

I think, after a moment of hesitation, that we can reply affirmatively. Every country has the greatest interest in ensuring that the least protected parts of its population are kept safe during the war. Who would benefit from the destruction of a neutral zone of this kind? Nobody! On the other hand, the moral responsibility would be enormous for an aggressor, since the victims would be exclusively innocent and defenceless people. Who makes the mistake of provoking retaliatory action with an attack? Although the last war gave rise to many acts of barbarism, it can nevertheless be said that the Geneva Convention was largely respected with regard to the protection of the sick and wounded. Moreover, this was in the interests of both parties. It made it possible to save hundreds of thousands of lives. Nowadays, there are foolproof ways to make neutral territories of this kind known by day or night. The Rotarian Vuilleumier, who has discussed this subject in his Club in Montreux-Vevey, does not understand (and rightly so) that the League, which for 5 years has been promoting the idea of "Lieux de Genève", has only gathered about 5,000 members, despite the captivating content of its programme. As he mentions, the French Government was invited to interest the League of Nations in the cause of the "Lieux de Genève"...

Personally, I would welcome a decision to establish the "Lieux de Genève". There is no doubt as to their appropriateness or rather their necessity. But above all I would be happy to see the Rotarian Movement take this cause seriously. This is an issue for the whole of humanity as well as for each of us!

**Dr W. Grieder-Tschudi**  
*Rotary Club of Glarus*

## **Over the years, Rotary International has helped spread humanitarian work around the world.**

spread humanitarian work around the world. In Saint-Paul's time, it was an organisation that had its roots in the upper classes. Just looking at the list of Geneva members at the time makes it clear that the Association had strong support.

There is a notice for one of their conferences in the historical archives of the LoN. It reads "On Wednesday 3 June 1936, a public conference on the "Lieux de Genève" and the foundation in Geneva of an association for the humanisation of armed conflicts by Dr. G. Saint-Paul (of Paris) ...took place in the Salle Centrale, Place de La Madeleine in Geneva."

The Geneva-based team was dynamic and worked hard to promote the organisation's cause. Less than a year later, in 1936, an Executive Committee of Swiss citizens

was formed, of which Professor Léopold Boissier, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, accepted the presidency.

In the Association's newsletter of October to December 1936, General Saint-Paul wrote: "Under the presidency of one of Switzerland's most eminent men, Léopold Boissier, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Vice-President of the Swiss Association for the S. D. N., the definitive Committee for the



*Japanese invasion of Manchuria. Photo: DR*



*Poster. The Spanish Civil War Photo: DR*

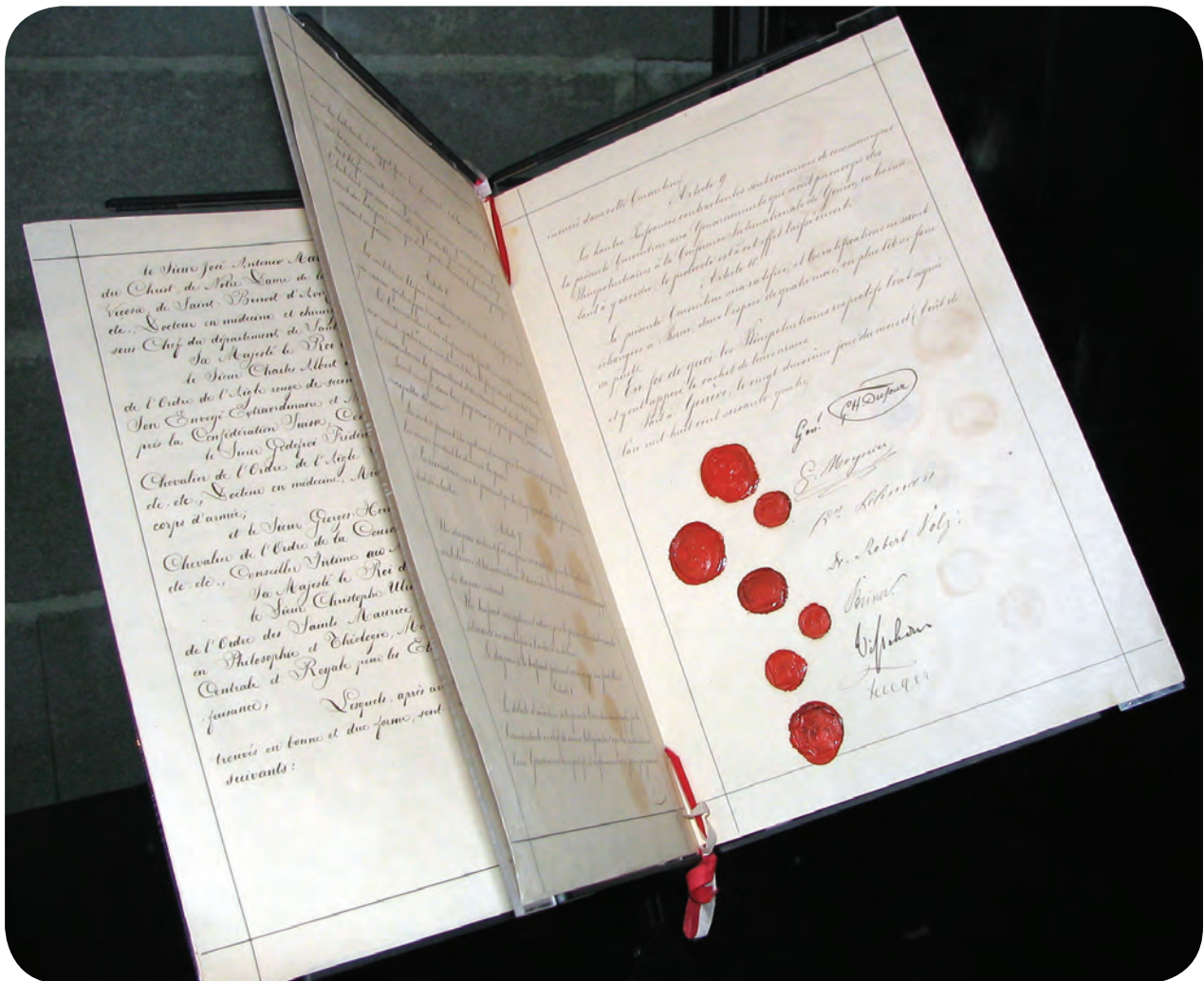


Lieux de Genève was set up on 8 October in Geneva. Needless to say, we will come back to this very important creation and will express our deep appreciation and gratitude to our Swiss friends. Let us simply say today that the Swiss Committee for Lieux de Genève will act independently, in complete autonomy and will not be influenced in any way by the actions and controversies that I have and will have to face. But the Committee can be reassured in the knowledge, that should they have need of us, they will find the Parisian Association and its president dedicated to the cause and ready to collaborate.

It should be noted that - even though the definitive Committee had not yet been constituted - the provisional Geneva Committee chaired by our indefatigable friend Henri George intervened in the events in Spain<sup>3</sup>. Whilst the present

difficulties in relations with this country do not allow us to give details of the results of this attempt, at least we have reason to believe that it is contributing to some relief. However - and we repeat this for the thousandth time - it is before armed conflicts are unleashed that the Lieux de Genève must be considered and preparations made.”

<sup>3</sup> The Spanish War (also known as the Spanish Civil War) was a conflict in Spain from 17 July 1936 to 1 April 1939 between, on the one hand, the republican camp, oriented to the left and extreme left, composed of loyalists to the legally established government of the Second Republic, communists, Leninists and anarchist revolutionaries, and, on the other hand, the nationalist, right-wing and extreme right-wing rebel putschists led by General Franco.



*The Geneva Convention of 1949*  
*Photo: DR Red Cross*

In the Journal de Genève of 8 October, 1936, we read "...today, Thursday, a committee was formed to bring about the creation of the Lieux de Genève, places where, in the event of war, women, children and the infirm would be placed in safety. Mr Léopold Boissier has agreed to chair the committee for this initiative. The humanitarian work undertaken has a tragic topicality because of the Spanish Civil War: how many innocent victims could have been avoided if the Lieux de Genève had been organised as soon as the hostilities began!

This committee, founded for the Lieux de Genève and for the humanisation of armed conflicts, intervened in the Spanish Civil War with appeals to the President of the Spanish Republic in Madrid, to the President of the National Junta in Burgos and to the Argentine Ambassador in Hendaye."

As for Mr. Henri George, he gave up the presidency of the organisation in order to devote himself exclusively to the active part of the work as Secretary General. The honorary presidency was accepted

**The torch was taken up by  
Henri George, who became  
the first Secretary General of  
the Association.**

by Colonel Guillaume Favre, First Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"Surgeon-General Georges Saint-Paul, who by his generous initiative acquired the right to the title of "benefactor of humanity", unfortunately succumbed on 7 April 1937 to angina pectoris at his château de Rassay in Genillé in Indre-et-Loire, France. Despite the death of General Saint-Paul, his friends and loyal collaborators continued to fight for his ideas.

The torch was taken up by Henri George, who became the first Secretary General of the Association. On 24 June 1937, the Geneva branch was formalised with the

adoption of the statutes and the definitive formation of the Executive Committee, presidency of which, at the request of M. Boissier, passed to Professor Louis Favre.

The involvement of his work in conflicts is characterised by successes. First, in 1936, the creation of the refugee zones in Spain during the civil war, then in 1937, the Shanghai, Nantao, Hankeou and Nankin zones following the Japanese attack<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> The Second Sino-Japanese War was a military conflict that lasted from 1937 to 1945, and began with the invasion of the eastern part of China by the Imperial Japanese Army. Six years after the invasion of Manchuria, the Japanese Empire continued its expansionist policy in China. The Japanese attack brought about a truce in the decade-long civil war between the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist Party, with both movements forming an alliance against the invader. The Sino-Japanese conflict, which was particularly deadly, had serious consequences on the history of China and on the geopolitical balance of the region in the following decades

*Joseph Avenol Secretary General  
of the League of Nations from  
3 July 1933 to 31 August 1940*



## Lobbying the League of Nations (LoN)

In 1938, Monsieur Favre and Henri George finally held a meeting with Joseph Avenol<sup>5</sup>, the Secretary General of the LoN in Geneva, after having tried in vain to meet with him on many previous occasions.

In the first letter dated 1 May 1938, we read:

“Dear Secretary-General, Assuming that it may be of interest to you to be informed of our programme of action, which is being carried out in complete agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross, and with the support of the Federal Political Department in the person of Mr. Motta, we request that you kindly indicate the day and time when it would be convenient for you to meet with our President, Prof Louis Favre, as well as the undersigned.

In the meantime, please accept, Mr Secretary General, the assurance of our highest consideration. Letter signed Henri George with a postscript, so that you can already get a general idea of our organisation we are taking the liberty of providing you with the attached documents. (Including the list of people on the committee).”

Not receiving a reply, Mr. Henri George redoubled his efforts. In a letter dated 18 May 1938, we read: "Dear Secretary General, Please allow us to confirm our letter of the 1st of this month and to share with you, concerning our activity, the attached article which appeared in the “Journal de Genève” We hope that you will be able to receive us one of these days. Please accept, Mr Secretary General, the assurance of our highest

<sup>5</sup> Joseph Avenol, was a senior French official, diplomat and Secretary General of the League of Nations from 3 July 1933 to 31 August 1940. A contentious figure, with Petainist and fascist sympathies, he was ejected from the League of Nations by his own staff in 1940.



*Disarmament Conference  
British political caricature  
Historical archives of the League of Nations*



consideration. Letter signed For the International Committee, the Secretary General, Henri George".

A few days later, Henri George and Mr Louis Favre obtained the appointment with Joseph Avenol, and we found this note written by Avenol himself in which he writes: "The League of Nations and the Lieux de Genève. 23 May 1938. "I received Mr Favre and Mr George who explained and developed their requests. I replied that, while the League of Nations had hitherto deliberately refrained from dealing with the operations of war and their consequences, the protection of civilian populations from aerial bombardment had recently been the object of its concern on many occasions.

If they want another study to be done, the best way to achieve this would be for one or more delegations to bring this issue to the attention of the Assembly."

In July of the same year, an international civil servant, Mr Friis, transmitted the file to Mr Thanassis Aghnides, Under-Secretary General of the LoN with a small note written in English...

"I think it should be noted among the files that are of particular interest in the case of investigations concerning aerial bombardments and the protection of the civilian population. The "Lieux de Genève" Committee, called an international organisation, consists entirely of Swiss nationals. Several members are in close contact with other international organisations in Geneva (Red Cross, Inter-Parliamentary Union, etc.).

The purpose of the organisation is to work towards the establishment of places of refuge for non-combatants in international or civil war (Lieux de Genève), to place them under neutral tutelage. Agreements on the establishment



*Extraordinary meeting of the League of Nations General Meeting in 1937 Photo credit: DR*

of such places of refuge should, as far as possible, be concluded and arrangements made in peacetime.

Some practical results seem to have been achieved both in Spain and in China. During a visit by two of the organisation's leaders to Mr Avenol on 23 May, he expressed the view that if it were considered desirable for the Society to go further in this particular area than had been the case until now, the issue could be raised by one or more delegations to the Assembly."

The year 1938 was full of political events, and the crisis within the LoN only worsened. In Germany, the events of 1938 marked the culmination of pressure from Germany and the Austrian Nazis to unify the German and Austrian populations into one nation. In the years leading up to

the Anschluss, Nazi Germany supported the Austrian Nazi Party in its attempt to gain power and provide Austria with a Nazi government.

Despite the tense international situation, the members of the Organisation did not give up. In July 1938, they had created a section in Luxembourg. In a press article published in the radical press, dated 9 November 1938, we read: "The International Committee for Information and Action for the Protection of the Civilian Population in Time of War, created in Luxembourg on 4 July, met on 28 October at the Grand Ducal Palace, under the presidency of H.R.H. the Prince of Luxembourg, its head.

*The Disarmament Conference,  
Political Caricature 1932, Historical  
Archives of the League of Nations*



The next meeting of the Committee will take place in Luxembourg in January 1939 ”

Despite the difficult, if not impossible, context, and with the LoN in deep crisis, the friends of Saint-Paul continued their battle for their ideas. They were still to be found in the LoN in 1941. Secretary General Avenol had been removed from office because of his Nazi sympathies. The staff was reduced, and some activities were transferred to the United States, notably Princeton University, making Henri George's work even more difficult, yet he continued to work and promote Saint-Paul's ideas.

In 1940, the Lieux de Genève had sent a neutral commission to Finland, while during the last phase of the First World War, the French Association of the "Lieux de Genève" managed to make

local arrangements between the opposing parties. At the time, the Association created by General Saint-Paul was a private humanitarian organisation, with national sections in France, Germany and Italy.

In 1944, the victors of the war decided to replace the League of Nations with the United Nations. In Geneva, the remaining staff members were doing their best to oversee the transition and the last letter from the LoN to Henri George can be found.

Later, their interventions were unfortunately unsuccessful. So, with the Second World War over, everyone wanted to forget about it as quickly as possible and with it the protection of civilians.



GENEVA, 30 July 1945

Dear Sir,

*I have the honour of acknowledging receipt of your letter of 20 July concerning the question of the protection of civilian populations in the event of war.*

*In reply, I would like to refer to the letter sent to you by the Secretariat on 16 October 1941, in which you were given certain documents relating to the above-mentioned matter, including the Special Supplement N.186 to the Official Journal: Minutes of the 3rd Committee of the 19th Assembly, whose agenda included the question of the protection of civilian populations in the event of war.*

*In particular, with regard to the resolution of the French Chamber of Deputies of 8 June 1935, it does not appear that the French Government has followed up on this initiative.*

*On the other hand, the matter was placed on the Assembly's agenda following a telegram from the Spanish Government dated 10 August 1938 (Appendix I, page 37 of the above-mentioned document). A communication on the same subject had previously been transmitted to the Secretary General by the Government of Cuba on 2 June 1938 (Appendix I of the same document).*

*Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.*

*Peter ANKER. Section Member, Department.*

## Post-War

In 1946, the mayor of St. Gallen, Mr. Anderegg, a member of the Swiss Federal Parliament, presented a postulate based on the humanitarian work of Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, and on the actions undertaken at the instigation of the "Lieux de Genève". He asked the Swiss government to examine the problem of the neutralisation of cities, areas and regions in the event of war. This was followed by the convening of the Geneva Diplomatic Conference in 1949, where delegates and experts from over 60 countries drew up the new conventions known as the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.

General Saint-Paul's idea found some international legal realisation in the Convention relating to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, the so-called Fourth Geneva Convention.



*Signature of the Geneva Convention during the  
Geneva Diplomatic Conference 1949.  
J. Cadoux/ICRC Archives*



In 1949, after the signing of the four diplomatic Geneva Conventions, the Lieux de Genève turned their attention to the practical implementation of refuge areas for the protection of non-combatants.

It was during this jubilee year, 1951, that Milan Bodi, Deputy Secretary General, was called to succeed Henri George, who died on 6 May 1951, after a short illness, at the age of 77. Mr Bodi was Secretary General of ICDO from 1951 to 1986.

The new Secretary General took over the leadership of the Association in the middle of the Korean War, a war which, just a few months later, highlighted the limits of the implementation of the International Agreements. And this marks the beginning of the second phase of the activity of the "Lieux de Genève" Association. The aim was to study the practical implementation of

the evacuation and the advance planning of the places where the evacuees would be housed. In 1951, the Municipality of Lausanne in Switzerland welcomed this practical action and, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the "Lieux de Genève", drew up detailed plans for the organisation and construction of a place of refuge for the population of Lausanne. In addition, the General Secretariat continued its work on the organisation of local civil protection services, industrial protection and, among other things, it adapted, in French, a brochure published by the American civil protection administration on protection against atomic weapons.

**This meeting was later  
to be known in the ICDO  
chronology as the 1st World  
Conference on Civil Defence.**



## Geneva Conventions

The first Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Fighting Armies was drafted on 22 August 1864. This was the first of a series of four treaties called the “Geneva Convention”. It provides “the foundation for the rules of international law for the protection of victims of armed conflict.” This first treaty was extensively revised and amended in 1906, then in 1929, and finally in 1949. It is inextricably linked to the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which instigated it but also called for its wider application.

It is likely that the first Geneva Convention served as a source of inspiration for Saint-Paul to create his “Lieux de Genève” association. He was a doctor and a soldier and had witnessed horrors during the First World War. He said “Some of you may not have experienced war. In combat, death is present for hours, for weeks and sometimes even months. Death constantly brushes up against humans. There is nothing more disturbing than the long or precipitous whistles of the shell, the tremors with which it shakes the earth, if not perhaps the rustle of the invisible bullet, nothing more poignant than the sharp snap of the shot and the light flight of the invisible bullet, if not perhaps the slow envelopment, the gradual

envelopment by the poisoned waves of air whose venom slowly embraces and burns the lungs.”

General Saint-Paul's idea found some international legal fulfilment in the Convention relating to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, the so-called Fourth Geneva Convention.

In 1949, after the signing of the four Geneva Diplomatic Conventions, the Lieux de Genève turned their attention to the practical realisation of refuge areas for the protection of non-combatants

In 1951, twenty years after its foundation, the Association internationale des Lieux de Genève was still trying to implement the ideas of its founder to prepare and develop places of refuge for the civilian population during peacetime, these “zones of safety” that warring nations would undertake to respect by virtue of humanitarian law, explicitly expressed in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.

*First international conference,  
Berlin June 1954*



To this end, an international conference was held in Berlin in 1954 on "The Problem of Protecting Civilian Populations in Time of War through the Creation and Recognition of Neutralized Zones and Open Cities". This meeting was later to be known in the ICDO chronology as the 1st World Conference on Civil Defence.

Following the resolutions adopted by the Berlin congressmen, the International Association proceeded to make many countries aware of the principle of preparing places of refuge in collaboration with national civil protection institutions.

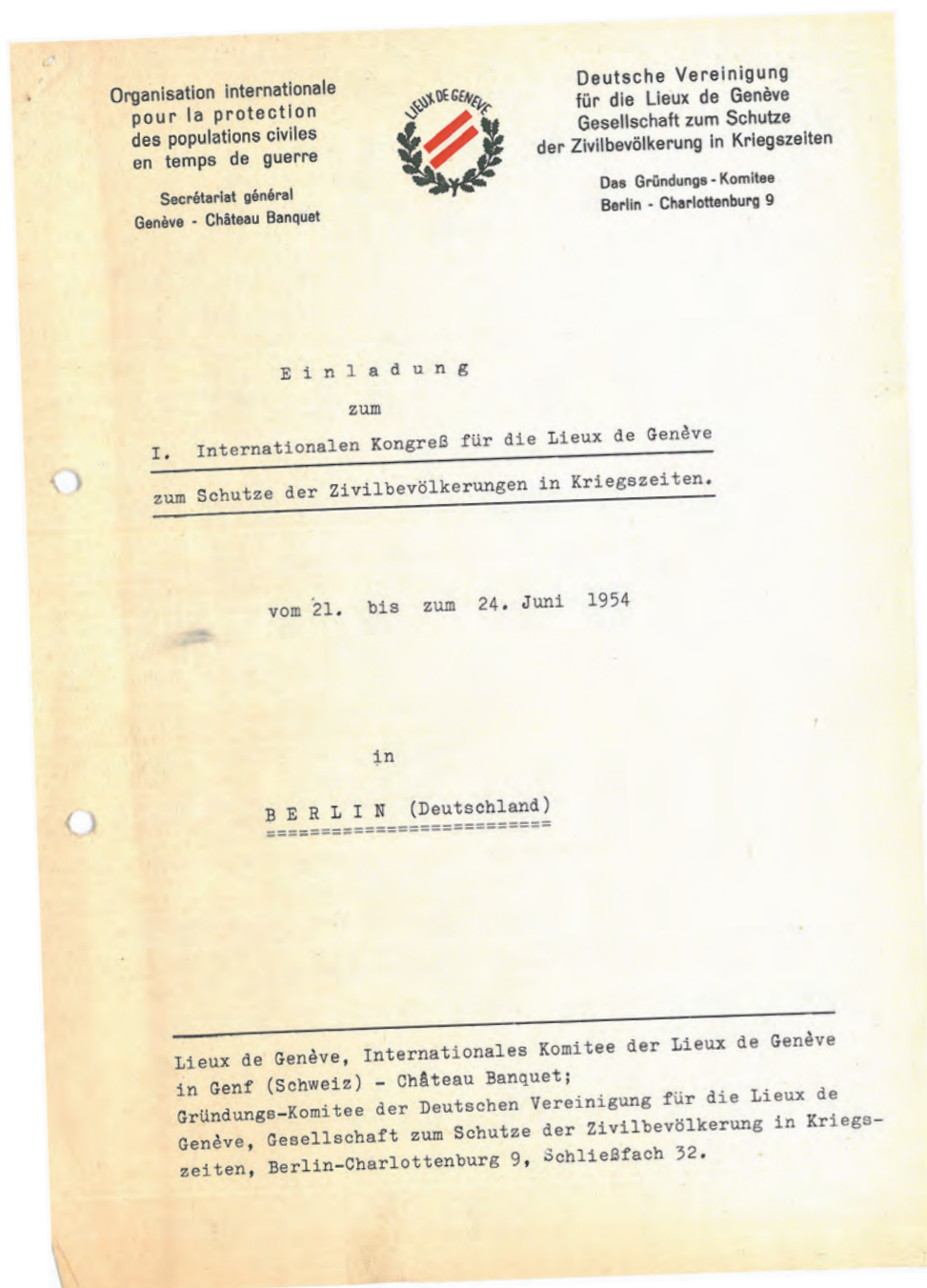
In July 1956, the "Bulletin d'information des Lieux de Genève" was entitled PROTECTION CIVILE and its editorial heralded the transformation of the Association with the development of

national civil defence organisations in the various countries.

In addition to the Newsletter, a documentation service was created, thus expanding the sources of information and intelligence in the various fields of civil protection.

The Association, in spite of some difficulties linked to its size and its voluntary nature, was able to organise the 2nd International Conference on Civil Defence in January 1957, in Florence, Italy, under the theme "Civil Defence in the face of mass destruction". Twelve countries, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Yugoslavia, were represented as well as five organisations, namely the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, the

**The then International Committee  
was composed of the following four  
countries: Philippines, United Arab  
Republic, Turkey and Union of  
South Africa.**



International Academy of Medicine, the International Institute of Historic Castles, the Union Légion d'ORO and the Latin Medical Union. Several important resolutions were voted on and adopted, including the Florence Charter and the resolution on the protection of cultural property. This Conference also assigned to the International Association of the "Lieux de Genève" a new task, namely that of extending its activity to all problems concerning the protection of



*The conference took place in the Hotel  
L'Esplanade in Berlin in June 1954.*



humankind and its environment, by becoming an International Organisation specialising in the problems of civil protection. Thus, in one of its resolutions, the Conference requested the Organisation to welcome into its midst national civil defence organisations to which rights and duties would be granted, to set up a governing body composed of representatives officially delegated by the various countries and to thereby become a genuine international civil defence organisation.

Following this, the Association des Lieux de Genève profoundly modified its structure at the General Assembly of 10 January 1958, by creating a true International Committee, thus renouncing its title whose local consonance often led to confusion. In the same vein, it extended its tasks beyond the evacuation of civilians to include all protective measures and provided for the involvement of national civil protection bodies, which would be granted rights and duties.

This is how a non-governmental organisation called the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) came into being and Mr Pierre Guinard became its President, replacing Mr Edmond Fatio, one of the founders of the organisation.

This name is the one recommended by the Florence Conference as it is more in line with the tasks assigned to the new Organisation which refer to establishing close liaison between civil defence organisations, encouraging and undertaking studies on the various problems of protection, as well as facilitating the exchange of experience and the co-ordination of efforts with a view to the establishment of effective civil defence covering the fields of prevention, preparedness and response to disasters.



*Organised visit to CERN\*, Geneva*

*\*The European Organisation for Nuclear Research, commonly referred to as CERN (named after the Conseil européen pour la recherche nucléaire, the world's largest particle physics centre)*

In addition, the new statutes of 10 January 1958 provided for two categories of membership: active, with voting rights, reserved for civil defence organisations; and associate, without voting rights, reserved for private individuals and groups interested in civil defence problems.

The highest executive body, the International Committee, was composed of one member per country, while the Executive Bureau and the General Secretariat respectively assumed the tasks of management and implementation between sessions of the International Committee. The then International Committee was composed of the following four countries: Philippines, United Arab Republic, Turkey and Union of South Africa. To facilitate the study of specific problems and the realisation of the assigned tasks, the International Committee created permanent commissions of experts.

On the basis of its new statutes, the ICDO organised in May 1958, the 3rd World

Conference on Civil Defence in Geneva, which brought together 130 participants from 33 countries, namely Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, France, Great Britain, Guatemala, Hungary, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, El Salvador, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Arab Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Yugoslavia. Many international organisations were also present.

This 3rd International Conference on Civil Defence was the culmination of the efforts of the "Lieux de Genève" Association and the ICDO over the first

*"Civil Defence" stamp*



*Radioactivity danger*



*Organised visit to  
CERN, Geneva*



27 years of its existence. However, threats persisted as disaster risks multiplied, increasing the responsibilities of civil protection in each country.

The agenda of this conference, whose theme was "Prevention and Protection against Radioactivity", covered atmospheric radioactivity; decentralisation; evacuation and sheltering of populations in the event of war; the international status of civil protection personnel and the protection of cultural property. Extensive and frank discussions led the participants to lay the foundations for a global radioactivity warning system, which at the time was vital not only for the people of the world but also for future generations in view of the ever-increasing use of nuclear energy in medicine, science and industry, not to mention the possibility of its use for military purposes.

With the help of experts from several countries, the Centre was able to overcome several technical obstacles and, with the help of numerous European bodies, to draw up the first synoptic map of radioactivity. In light of these concerns at the time, it is gratifying to note that 63 years later, nuclear testing in the atmosphere remains prohibited.

As a further outcome of the Conference, civil protection personnel enjoyed international status under International Humanitarian Law and cultural property was protected under international agreements.

The ICDO's approach to the issue of radioactivity shows that the Organisation was ahead of its time. This is further demonstrated by the creation of the World Radioactivity Warning Centre, of which Professor Dr Albert R. Jentzer was president.









*First ICDO Constituent Assembly, Monaco 1966*

# Transition from Non-Governmental Organisation to an International Organisation (1958-1972)

*First ICDO  
Constituent Assembly in  
Monaco in 1966*



## Transition from Non-Governmental Organisation to an International Organisation (1958-1972)

In 1966, in Monaco, following the 2nd International Symposium on Radiological Protection, the representatives of the ICDO Member States, meeting in a Constituent Assembly, adopted the text of the present Constitution which gives it the status of an Intergovernmental Organisation under the same name. This Constitution is in fact an international Convention binding on the High Contracting Parties and subsequently on each country which, by depositing its instruments of ratification, has acceded to it as a Member State. Subsequently, the Constitution was registered in 1975 at the United Nations Secretariat in New York in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter and published in the United Nations Treaty Series.

The preamble to the Constitution defines the aims of the Organisation and reads as follows: “To intensify and co-ordinate worldwide the development and improvement of the

organisation, methods and technical means of preventing and mitigating the consequences of natural disasters in times of peace, or of the use of weapons in times of conflict.” The Constitution effectively came into force on 1 March 1972 at the first General Assembly of its Member States. Subsequently, the ICDO Constitution was registered in 1975 at the United Nations Secretariat in New York in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter and published in the United Nations Treaty Series. Finally, the Agreement signed on 10 March 1976 between the Swiss Federal Council and the ICDO regulated the legal status of the Organisation in Switzerland.

The Constitution of 17 October 1966 confers on the ICDO a certain number of tasks which in fact result in it assuming, at an international level, the responsibility for promoting the protection and safety of persons and property in the face of disasters of all kinds and for bringing



**Symposium on  
Radioactivity in  
Monaco in 1964**





*Milan Bodi, ICDO Secretary General  
(right) in the presence of HRH  
Prince Rainier III of Monaco*



together within it the National Authorities of the member countries, responsible for implementing the said measures.

In Article 52 the text stipulates that the new Constitution would enter into force when 10 States had become parties to it. So it was not until 1972, at the Organisation's first General Assembly held in Geneva from 1 to 3 March, that it entered into force with the filing of instruments of ratification or accession by the following 22 countries: Argentina, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Finland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Liberia, Monaco, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Republic, Vietnam, Yugoslavia.

Thereafter, until 1975, the Constitution entered into force in respect of the following States which deposited their instruments of accession or ratification with ICDO thirty days earlier, in

accordance with Article 53 of the Constitution: Syrian Arab Republic, Libyan Arab Republic, Philippines, Zaire, Mali, Ghana, Laos, Senegal and Pakistan.

The ICDO was also involved in the drafting of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions by taking part in the meetings of experts that led to the final drafting of these Protocols in 1977. The role of the ICDO and its Member States in defining Civil Defence in the new Humanitarian Law and its precise tasks has been decisive. In addition, a specific article (Protocol I, Chapter VI, Article 64) extends the protection afforded by warring nations to national civil defence organisations "to competent international bodies" as well. As can be seen, the concept of International Civil Defence has also been introduced into humanitarian law.

**Conference  
of Monaco  
1966**



*Secretary General Milan Bodi in Monaco*



However, this Humanitarian Law, as derived from the Geneva Conventions, only applied in times of war. Much remained to be done to facilitate and, if necessary, legalise humanitarian action in peacetime, i.e. international disaster relief. The ICDO, which, by the will of its Member States, had become an organisation specialising in the protection of humans and their property in the face of disasters of all kinds, was essentially committed to working towards intervention and international aid in times of peace.

In parallel with the legal and statutory development of the Organisation and its contribution to the formulation of the new Humanitarian Law, its leaders worked tirelessly to promote techniques and knowledge in prevention, preparedness and response.

As part of the promotion of techniques and knowledge, ICDO organised

numerous conferences, exhibitions and seminars which have made it a platform for exchange where civil protection professionals from both industrialised and developing countries share knowledge and experience.

At this point, if we summarise the evolution that had taken place over the first 50 years between General Saint-Paul's "Lieux de Genève" and today's International Civil Defence Organisation, we can see that the notion of protection of civilians in times of war has been extended to the protection and security of populations in general, thanks to the intensification, coordination and planning, at an international level, of the methods, means and technologies for preventing, combating and alleviating the consequences of all kinds of accidents, disasters and calamities.

# Symbols of the Organisation



## Symbols of the Organisation

A logo was created to identify the Organisation. It has evolved over the years from the "Lieux de Genève" Association to the International Civil Defence Organisation. At the beginning it was two diagonal red lines on a white background. These two red bars, symbolising opposing beliefs that go on forever, were inserted into Article 6 of Annex 1 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

In 1937, the logo was replaced by two diagonal red stripes on a white background, surrounded by two oak branches signifying power, crowned by the inscription LIEUX DE GENÈVE, symbolising the safety of civilians.

From 1958, and in accordance with the recommendations of the Florence Conference, the ICDO logo became a schematic globe, bearing two red stripes and surrounded by two oak branches crossing at its base, all on a white background.

The current logo dates from 1998 and was adopted during the 11th World Conference on Civil Defence held in Beijing. It represents the distinctive international sign for Civil Defence, namely a blue equilateral triangle on an orange background, in accordance with the provisions of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.



# International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) from 1972 to today

*Chateau Banquet was the  
Association's headquarters  
until 1939*



*ICDO headquarters*



## **International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) from 1972 to today**

By virtue of its mandate, the ICDO is called upon to contribute to the development by States of systems to ensure protection and assistance to populations as well as to safeguard property and the environment against natural and man-made disasters.

ICDO federates the national systems created for this purpose with the aim of uniting them and promoting solidarity between them. The main names for Civil Protection are Civil Defence, Civil Security or Emergency Management.

Although the Organisation has evolved since 1937 in Geneva, a Headquarters Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the International Civil Defence Organisation, concluded on 10 March 1976 and entered into force on 16 March 1976, regulates its legal status, thus confirming its establishment in Geneva, Switzerland.

In the early years, the offices of the International Committee of the "Lieux de Genève" were located at 10 avenue Blanc and then moved to the Château Banquet, rue de Lausanne, when the latter was rented in 1939. It is a place with lots of history. Built in 1650, the castle was called Château Rozet. In 1712, the castle was bought by Etienne Banquet, and became Château Banquet. The Château, close to the Palais des Nations, where the LoN was based, was an ideal location for the Association, close to the diplomatic missions based in Geneva at the time. Since 1976, ICDO has established its offices in the Parc Chuit, at 10-12, Chemin de Surville in Petit-Lancy.

In order to achieve its objectives, this Organisation has put in place a strategy and a mechanism that is consistent on three levels, namely structural, operational and functional.



*The International Monitoring and Coordination Centre (IMCC)*

*General Assembly in Doha 2018*



### ***On a structural level***

Structurally, this Organisation evolved from an Association, "Lieux de Genève" in 1931, to a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in 1958 and to its current form, an International Organisation (IO) in 1972 with the entry into force of its Constitution.

### ***On an operational level***

In operational terms, this Organisation has broadened its scope from the protection of civilians and historical monuments in wartime to the protection of people, property and the environment against natural and man-made disasters.

In the same vein, in the face of climate change characterised by seasonal malfunctions with surprise effects on community planning, the ICDO has

developed forecasting mechanisms based on information technologies to reduce the vulnerability of people exposed to disasters that have become recurrent, increasingly violent and devastating, as well as to risks, some of which are emerging only now.

### ***On a functional level***

ICDO comprises three bodies, the General Assembly, the Executive Council and the Permanent Secretariat.

- The General Assembly is the supreme body; it comprises 60 Member States, 16 Observers and 22 Affiliate Members and is headed by a President. It meets at least every 2 years.





*A seminar in Cameroon  
on risk analysis*

*Training, Tunis 2018  
The role of women in civil protection  
in the media*



- The Executive Council, the secular arm of the Organisation, is currently made up of 25 members whose mandate is renewable every four years. It is overseen by a president. It meets every year in ordinary sessions and as many times as necessary in extraordinary sessions.

- The Permanent Secretariat, based in Geneva, Switzerland, is the backbone of the organisation. Indeed, headed by a Secretary General, this body is responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly and the Executive Council.

The ICDO has a long record of achievements in building the managerial and physical capacity of member and non-member countries to deal with disaster risks.

Furthermore, as part of its response preparedness, particularly in terms of proactive decision-making by communities at risk, the ICDO has developed a permanent monitoring tool, the International Monitoring and Coordination Centre (IMCC), with branches in certain countries. The Centre provides States with information on the situation regarding risks of disaster and offers related training.



*Training of Swiss  
rescue troops in 2010*

# ICDO ICDO achievements achievements

*Civil protection exercise  
in Azerbaijan in 2013*



## ICDO achievements

Over the course of its ninety years, the ICDO has worked to protect people, their property and their environment against threats of all kinds through multi-faceted capacity building initiatives in the fields of technical and humanitarian assistance and disaster risk management.

The first success of the Association was the creation of refugee zones in Spain during the civil war from 1936 to 1939.

In the historical archives of the League of Nations, there is a copy of a telegram sent by Henri George to General Franco dated 8 June 1943: “Henri George, Secretary General, sent the following telegram to General Franco on Monday in the name of the International Committee of the “Lieux de Genève”: After the first experiments carried out in 1937 by V.E. in Madrid and Bilbao with

such beneficial results, your chivalrous initiative to humanise aerial warfare by creating safety zones in the territories of the present belligerents generates feelings of admiration from our Association.

Responding to the best aspirations of global public opinion, this “initiative is indeed intended” to safeguard the existence of innocent non-combatants and thus alleviate the suffering of civilian populations. We congratulate you on this noble gesture and wish you every success”.

In addition to the 9 World Civil Defence Conferences (Berlin 1954, Florence 1957, Geneva 1958, Montreux 1961, Geneva 1963, Geneva 1972, Caracas 1974, Tunis 1978, Rabat 1980), ICDO organised 14 Technical Exhibitions of protective, rescue and safety equipment as well as



*Civil protection exercise in Azerbaijan in 2013*

International Conferences on Radiation Protection (Monaco 1964 and 1966), on the Protection of Establishments (Geneva 1960, Nancy 1970, Beirut 1975) and on Disaster Medicine (Geneva 1968, Mainz 1977, Monaco 1979). The organisation has also run various international seminars: for senior civil protection officials, on training for health services, on response to radioactive contamination.

But it is above all in the field of the training of executives of national civil protection organisations that the ICDO has been able to work concretely. In this respect, 150 trainees from 35 countries benefited from international courses for specialised instructors, organised in Geneva, with the

assistance of the Geneva Civil Defence, between 1969 and 1981. International courses for senior civil protection officers were also been set up. Model programmes for the organisation of courses and the design of training centres were developed and implemented.

At that time, too, a wealth of documentation was produced (technical documents, model plans, programmes, guidelines) and made available to Member States. Through its monthly newsletter "International Civil Defence" published in 4 languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish), ICDO regularly



**At that time, too, a wealth of  
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disseminated general information on all areas related to civil defence.

In terms of practical development of activities, it was possible to implement the following programmes:

- Communications and Information Systems: This programme was primarily concerned with promoting the direct international exchange of experience and information in the field of civil defence. It has resulted in the organisation of global conferences focusing on several or all Civil Defence issues, and specialised conferences, symposia and seminars dealing with a particular branch of Civil Defence: Disaster medicine, promotion and information, emergency care, etc. (see annexe).
- Strengthening of national bodies: the development of various activities oriented towards the development of guidelines and the provision of standard technical material to be used by countries, with the

necessary adjustments, for their national programmes; also in direct cooperation with national development programmes.

Three documents have been written and distributed:

- the study on the organisation of a national civil protection system providing information on the research of civil protection doctrines, the structuring of civil protection organisations, personal and unit equipment, various constructions and water reserves.
- a proposal for a model national disaster response plan for Civil Protection in schematic form, including a national emergency plan cataloguing measures before, during and after a disaster.

**In the field of  
disaster response, ICDO  
has also expanded its activity  
and strengthened  
its means of assistance.**

- a staff training plan based on courses for teachers and courses for senior managers. In this respect, three objectives are pursued: the diversification of teaching; the opening of courses to a wider audience; and the multiplication of regional training centres.

In the field of disaster response, ICDO has also expanded its activity and strengthened its means of assistance. Direct intervention was based on the Mutual Aid and Relief Fund, which was financed by voluntary contributions from Member States and by donations. The purpose of the fund was to provide appropriate assistance to Member States affected by a disaster, to provide adequate relief to any other country requesting it and to finance urgent equipment purchases requested by Member States. These three programmes have remained constant elements in ICDO activities to this day.

In January 1987, Mr. Sadok ZNAÏDI, Director of the Tunisian Civil Protection, succeeded Mr. Milan Bodi. He was Secretary General of ICDO from 1987 to 2002. The 1990s were designated as the "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction" by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987. This growing international mobilisation for the prevention of natural and technological disasters strengthened the role of the ICDO, which was beginning

*Secretary General Nawaf B.S Al Sleibi receives  
Azerbaijan's highest award*





*Posters for the World Civil Defence Day*

to enjoy official relations with several organizations such as WHO and UNDRO (United Nations Disaster Relief Organization). In March 1989, an agreement was signed between the two organisations, with ICDO being invited to all UNDRO meetings and UNDRO having observer status with ICDO. Links were also established with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies which federates national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

The priorities of the new Secretary General's Organisation reaffirm the three essential areas of activity mentioned above, i.e. the collection and dissemination of all information relating to civil protection, which will be computerised by the Documentation Centre at a later date; the training of civil protection managers and personnel.

The Information Bulletin of the "Lieux de Genève" International Committee, published monthly in three languages for the first time in May 1951, became the ICDO International Civil Defence Review, a quarterly publication in four languages in 1988 under a new format. It was the Organisation's main information tool. Its main aim was to offer a wide range of information, topical issues, and to encourage the exchange of ideas, data, personal experiences, opinions and valuable elements relating to civil protection.

The ICDO, which, through the will of its Member States, had become an organisation specialising in the protection of humankind and their property in the





**Their main activities are emergency relief and training sessions for civil protection personnel, local authorities and the public.**

face of disasters of all kinds, therefore focused on working in this direction by developing specific cooperation with its Member States. The Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1993 between the Russian Federation and the ICDO and the Framework Convention on Civil Defence Assistance are part of this.

The Memorandum of Understanding provided Russia with a means of economic access to the markets of the Member States for the exchange of civil protection know-how, material and equipment, in the interest of promoting civil defence at an international level. To strengthen this Agreement, in 2007, a partnership between the Russian Federation for civil defence, emergencies and the elimination of the consequences of natural disasters, "EMERCOM of Russia", and ICDO

was established making the Russian Federation a Strategic Partner of the ICDO.

This has made it possible to implement many projects in the humanitarian field, work which is ongoing. Below is a list of countries where such projects have been or are being carried out.<sup>1</sup>

These capacity-building and/or humanitarian aid projects include the delivery of medical equipment, foodstuffs, rescue vehicles, demining operations, etc. For example, Nicaragua received one M8 helicopter for the fire service; Afghanistan received two helicopter ambulances, while Serbia, Lebanon and Sri Lanka benefited from demining operations.

<sup>1</sup> Lebanon; Serbia; Afghanistan; Tajikistan; Kyrgyzstan; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Nicaragua; Haiti; Libya; Côte d'Ivoire; Sri Lanka; Guinea; Tuvalu; Lesotho; Palestine; South Korea; Liberia; Cameroon; Mali; Tunisia; Jordan; Armenia; Cuba and Azerbaijan



*A civil defence exercise*  
*Photo EMERCOM*



Another type of capacity building is the creation and equipping of humanitarian centres (HCs). The objective of the HCs is to support the activities of the protection, defence and civil security services at national and regional levels. Their main activities are emergency relief and training sessions for civil protection personnel, local authorities and the public. To date, the beneficiary countries of these centres are Cuba, Nicaragua, Serbia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In 2014, Russia, a strategic partner of ICDO, generously contributed to the establishment of the International Monitoring and Coordination Centre (IMCC) at ICDO headquarters. The IMCC provides information and analytical support to the national civil protection structures of ICDO Member States to assist in decision-making on ICDO missions. The Centre

trains managers and staff of disaster management centres and also organises exercises with these centres.

As regards the Framework Convention, the text was finalised and adopted at an international conference on 22 May 2000 in Geneva. This instrument of international law entered into force on 23 September 2001 and was registered in the International Treaties Section of the United Nations on 26 February 2002. The objective of the Convention was to encourage and facilitate collaboration between States in the field of Civil Protection. It was followed in 2002 by the 1st International Conference to follow up the Framework Convention on Civil Defence Assistance.

At the end of 2002, Mr Sadok Znaïdi retired and was replaced by Brigadier-General Nawaf Al Sleibi, retired from the Jordanian General Defence where he



## **In the 1990s, three regional centres were established in Pakistan, Egypt and Panama.**

was Director. He was Secretary General of ICDO from 2003 to 2013.

During the 2000s, a collaboration with the City of Geneva and its Director of Civil Protection, Mr. Jean-Charles Dedo, enabled ICDO to offer its Member States numerous training courses for trainers at the Richelien Training Competence Centre. In addition to the training courses in Switzerland, others were held in regional civil protection centres which allowed training to be adapted to the specific risks of these regions, thereby fulfilling the ICDO's requirement for efficiency. The main purpose of these Centres is to facilitate training by bringing users closer to distributors to take account of language, distance and the nature of the risks in the regions concerned, which has been approved by the Council. In accordance with the "Conditions of

Establishment and Guiding Principles of ICDO Regional Centres" adopted by the 11th ICDO General Assembly in 1994, it is the responsibility of the ICDO Executive Council to give approval for the establishment of an ICDO Regional Centre on the territory of a Member State. Once approval is given, it is up to the Government of the State concerned to confer on the future regional centre an ad hoc legal personality. Once the Centre is legally established in accordance with the legislation in force in the State concerned, the ICDO and the competent authorities sign an implementation agreement concerning the infrastructure, resources and management of the Centre.

In the 1990s, three regional centres were established in Pakistan, Egypt and Panama. In 2021, ICDO has 10 regional centres: Egypt, Cameroon, Pakistan, Jordan, Russia, Senegal, Tunisia, Serbia, Burkina Faso, Algeria. Today, the ICDO civil protection education and

*Civil defence  
explained through photos*



training programme covers all aspects of prevention, preparedness, response and rehabilitation to natural and man-made disasters. The training targets the following interest groups: senior civil protection and fire brigade personnel, junior professionals, trainers of trainers, government officials and other decision makers, information officers, volunteers, youth and the general public. The programmes offer a wide variety of educational forums including lectures, workshops, seminars, field exercises and internet-based learning. There are two types of training: International and mobile. International training courses are held and organised by ICDO Member States in specialised ICDO Partner Centres and Institutes, the list of which is overseen.

Mobile or national training courses are organised at the request of the Member States. Depending on the subject area, a mobile team of two to three people from academies and specialised institutions is sent on a temporary mission to the

country. This type of training enables the ICDO to train specialists at a national level in the various fields of expertise, and also at appropriate levels.

This training, primarily intended for civil protection practitioners, preferably takes place face-to-face. However, if necessary, it can be carried out remotely.

The International Conferences of Directors of Training and Educational Institutions of ICDO Member States, the most recent of which was held in Abu Dhabi in December 2019, resulted in the standardisation of international certificates and the creation of an





*Presentation of a mobile hospital in Azerbaijan.*

electronic window on the official ICDO website which is dedicated to training: an annual database of all trainees and trainers of training programmes. \*

In the 1990s, in partnership with the Swiss Federal Office of Civil Protection, ICDO initiated a technical assistance programme that enabled the Organisation to provide specialised equipment and surplus professional material to strengthen the capacities of the national civil protection/security structures of its Member and non-Member States to protect their populations and the environment from the effects of natural and man-made disasters. In 2021, 42 countries<sup>2</sup> benefited from this technical assistance, including

fire trucks, command post trucks, pioneer tool kits, motor pumps, compressors, water retention basins, drinking water tanks, emergency medical equipment, mobile hospitals and civil protection uniforms.

Taking into account the ICDO Strategic Development Programme (2015-2025), adopted by the 47th session of the Executive Council (Decision 6) and approved by the 21st session of the General Assembly (Resolution VI), in 2014 ICDO launched a Project for the establishment of Regional Depot Centres for emergency materials and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan as well as the Republic of Togo have each hosted one.

<sup>2</sup> Algeria, Armenia, Benin, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Senegal, Sudan, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Yemen, Belarus, Comoros, Serbia.



As part of its mandate, audit and advisory missions were carried out in a number of countries such as Cyprus, Mongolia, Guinea Conakry, Burundi, Gabon and Mauritania to assess risks, capacities and needs, as well as the possibility of restructuring the national civil protection system.

By resolution adopted on 18 December 1990, the 9th ICDO General Assembly designated 1 March of each year for the celebration of a World Civil Defence Day (WCDD), the date of entry into force of the ICDO Constitution (1 March 1972). The aim is to bring together all the Member States around a theme chosen by the Executive Council with a view to raising awareness of the tasks of the national civil protection services, i.e. the safeguarding of life, property and the environment in the face of disaster risks. WCDD is celebrated through the organisation of events such



## **Educational institutions in ICDO Member States**

*Civil Defence Academy*  
Saudi Arabia

*Civil Defence Academy*  
United Arab Emirates

*National School for Civil Defence*  
Algeria

*Civil Defence Training Institute*  
Egypt

**National Training School - FSD**  
Kuwait

*Civil Defence Training Academy*  
Malaysia

*Directorate General Operations and Training,*  
Oman

*Schwarzenburg Federal Training Centre*  
Switzerland

*Ras Laffan Emergency and Security School*  
Qatar

*Higher Institute of Civil Protection Studies*  
Burkina Faso

*St. Petersburg State University of Fire Services,*  
Russia

*National School for Civil Defence*  
Tunisia

*National School for Civil Defence*  
Morocco

*Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II Civil Defence Academy,*  
Jordan

*University of Civil Defence*  
Belarus

*Nis Russian-Serbian Humanitarian Centre*  
Serbia

*National Institute for Civil Protection and Disaster Management Training*  
South Korea



*An international team of rescue workers in Bam, Iran (2003)*

Civil Defence, particularly in the field of assistance and aid to populations.

as symposiums, conferences, radio and/or television debates, open doors etc. It is also an opportunity to pay tribute to key figures in civil protection for their efforts and sacrifices.\*

In 1990, following the decision of the Executive Council at its 24th session on the creation of an ICDO medal, the Organisation, with the assistance of the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergency Situations and Elimination of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM), created 250 medals like the one shown. The medal was awarded for the first time in 1997, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Organisation. Medals were awarded annually based on the decision of a Medal Committee. It was intended to recognise and reward outstanding service to the Organisation and the cause of

The International Order of Civil Defence is the award of the International Civil Defence Organisation. It is the reward and recognition of exceptional services rendered to the Organisation and to the cause of promoting civil defence on an international level, as well as acts of courage and dedication in the field of assistance and aid to populations.

There are two grades: "Knight" and "Officer" and a dignity: "Commander".

In October 1998, by decision of the 13th session of the ICDO General Assembly, Beijing, China, an ICDO Medal of Honour was created to honour Heads of State and Government who have promoted Civil Defence at national



- 1990 World Civil Defence Day, established by decision of the 9th ICDO General Assembly on 18 December 1990, is celebrated on 1 March each year.
- 1991 Civil Defence and the ICDO
- 1992 The role of civil protection services in disaster prevention
- 1993 Civil Defence working to protect the environment
- 1994 Civil Defence and safety at home
- 1995 Civil Defence: protecting life, heritage and the environment
- 1996 Risk analysis to prevent disasters more effectively: a key task for Civil Defence
- 1997 The role of Civil Defence services in international humanitarian law
- 1998 Civil Defence, a right and a duty for all
- 1999 Civil Defence in schools at the start of the 21st century
- 2000 Civil Defence, an instrument for sustainable development
- 2001 Volunteering as an act of solidarity and active citizenship
- 2002 The fundamental principles of Civil Defence
- 2003 Civil Defence, an instrument of international solidarity in the face of disasters
- 2004 Civil Defence and road safety
- 2005 Civil Defence and environmental protection
- 2006 Civil Defence in school
- 2007 Civil Defence and safety in the workplace
- 2008 Each minute counts! Civil Defence and life-saving actions
- 2009 Civil Defence: Preventive information and communication techniques
- 2010 Disaster Medicine
- 2011 The role of women in Civil Defence
- 2012 Civil Defence and domestic accidents
- 2013 Civil Defence and preparing civil society for the prevention of disaster risks
- 2014 Civil Defence and the culture of prevention for a safer society
- 2015 Civil Defence and disaster risk reduction in the context of sustainable development
- 2016 Civil Defence and new information technologies
- 2017 Together with Civil Defence in the face of disasters
- 2018 Civil Defence and national institutions for more effective disaster management
- 2019 Child protection is our responsibility
- 2020 Civil Defence for a first aider in each household
- 2021 Strong civil defence to preserve the national economy
- 2022 Civil Defence and displaced population management in the event of disaster and crisis including the role of volunteers and the fight against the pandemic



*Supreme Order of the International  
Civil Defence Organisation*

and international levels. A recipient of the Medal of Honour may be proposed by ICDO Member States and by the Secretary General. A Medal of Honour Committee composed of the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Executive Committee and the Secretary General decides who shall receive the Medal of Honour.

In 2013, Brigadier-General Nawaf Al-Sleibi retired and was succeeded by Deputy Secretary General Vladimir V. Kuvshinov, who held the post from 2014 to 2018.

Another award is the Supreme Order of the International Civil Defence Organisation "for the contribution to the protection of the world against disasters". It was created and adopted by the 50th session of the ICDO Executive Council

in May 2017 (decision 12). The Order is awarded to senior officials of ICDO Member States and other outstanding personalities in recognition of their unwavering support for ICDO activities, the promotion of ICDO's ideas and authority, the implementation of civil defence programmes and the provision of financial and other assistance to the Organisation.

In 2016, a series of regulations were established and approved by the 22nd ICDO General Assembly (Resolution VII) held in Kyrgyzstan. These are the Development and Assistance Fund, the Goodwill Ambassadors Regulations, the Honorary Members Regulations, the Donors Group Regulations and the Regulations for the Victims of Duty Remembrance Book.

The ICDO Development and Assistance Fund is a financial tool set up to support





*Medals of the International Order of Civil Defence: Knight, Officer and Commander*



ICDO activities. It is supported by direct contributions from donors.

The Fund's objectives are as follows:

- to develop and implement international humanitarian programmes and technical assistance projects in line with the Fund's capacity;
- to develop and implement measures to protect people, property and the environment against natural and man-made disasters;
- to develop and implement measures to support the development of the national civil protection systems of ICDO Member States;
- to provide additional financial support for the staff of the ICDO Permanent Secretariat and representatives of ICDO Member States who have contributed to the development and improvement of the Organisation;

- to interact with Swiss and local authorities, legal and natural persons, including international organisations, to achieve the objectives of ICDO effectively;
- to organise and hold international and cultural events, charity entertainment, auctions, festivals, exhibitions and fairs, aimed at achieving the objectives of ICDO;
- to develop cooperation and exchange of experience with interested parties who share the objectives of ICDO;
- to carry out printing and publishing activities, including books, brochures, magazines, audio and video materials to raise awareness and implement programmes to promote the objectives of ICDO;
- to create and support electronic information resources on the Internet to provide information on ICDO activities;
- to develop and implement research



*Humanitarian assistance*

and education programmes and events, including conferences, seminars and distance learning programmes, as well as other training courses in the field of defence/security/civil protection;

- to support initiatives related to the protection of people, property and the environment against natural and man-made disasters;
- to carry out other activities to further the objectives of the ICDO.

The aim of the "Goodwill Ambassadors" is to raise awareness of ICDO's mandate and activities at national, regional and international levels.

The aim of the "Honorary Members Regulations" is to pay tribute to all those who have performed outstanding services to the ICDO and to draw on their experience for the image of the ICDO and its mandate.

The "Donor Group Regulations" consist in establishing an official list of donors who have contributed to the development of ICDO in order to immortalise their role in the history of ICDO, and to classify the donors according to their degree of involvement.

The aim of the "Regulations for the Victims of Duty Remembrance Book" is to pay tribute to all victims of duty and to immortalise the names and actions of those who have sacrificed their lives for the protection of the population. The victim of duty will receive the Medal of the International Order of Civil Defence.

In addition, in 2017, the ICDO Anthem, composed by Sergey Zharinov of the Russian EMERCOM Ceremonial Band

**"Let us live together  
as brothers  
and sisters,  
Under the same sun  
that warms us".**

was adopted by Decision 12 of the 50th ICDO Executive Council. The lyrics were written in French by the Permanent Secretariat.<sup>3</sup>

On 18 October 2018, Mr Vladimir V. Kuvshinov resigned from his position. In April 2019, the Deputy Secretary General Belkacem El Ketrroussi was appointed by the Executive Council to act as interim Secretary General until the next General Assembly session.

On 14 October 2020, at the end of the 53rd session of the Executive Council and the 24th session of the General Assembly, Ms. Yap Mariatou was elected Secretary General of ICDO.

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<sup>3</sup> To listen to the anthem (without lyrics): <http://www.icdo.org/icdo-anthem-without-lyrics.mp3>

## ICDO anthem

*Hand in hand all the  
People of the world  
United against the threats  
That abound  
Aware of the right of all  
To a life without danger  
Let us overcome the challenges  
That await us*

## Chorus

*Let us live together  
As brothers and sisters  
Under the same sun  
That warms us  
Responding to appeals for help  
From here and there  
To fight against  
disaster*

*The damage and loss inflicted  
On us is heavy  
Suffering makes life  
Difficult  
We will be there to  
Help you,  
The guardians  
Of civil defence.*

# Challenges



*Participants in a rescue exercise*



## Challenges

The Organisation's dynamism should not mask the constraints it faces, however. These constraints are threefold: financial, the effects of climate change and internal organisational issues.

The resources of the ICDO consist of membership fees, legacies, grants and donations. Insufficient contributions make it impossible to maintain a healthy financial situation. Although contributions to ICDO are very low, some States still fail to pay their contributions properly. This can be explained either by the fact that some States are weakened by internal crises; or by a lack of communication and/or awareness raising.

To compensate in part for this situation, the Organisation is resorting to voluntary contributions from Member States, an initiative that has met with a positive response from certain States, including the Russian Federation, a Strategic

Partner, the People's Republic of China and the Swiss Confederation.

The effects of climate change and the consequent increase in the frequency and severity of disasters, as well as the difficulties in predicting them based on conventional timetables, require new strategies for risk prevention.

Between 2018 and 2020 the Organisation experienced internal circumstantial problems that have tarnished its image. All human endeavours can be improved, and the new team in place is working hard to get the train back on track and to pursue ICDO's noble mission.

# Perspectives

## Perspectives

The new management team, consisting of the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Executive Council and the Secretary General, has taken action to revitalise the Organisation.

This new start for the Organisation will be achieved by raising awareness among States about statutory and voluntary contributions and by advocating for more Strategic Partners. The team understands that the more of us there are, the better we will be able to face the new challenges linked to disasters, and is therefore striving to increase the number of Member States and Affiliate Members.

With this in mind, the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) has embarked on a project enabling it to be closer to the Member States in terms of physical and operational proximity in the framework of regional platforms and international assistance. To this end, the ICDO intends to build on existing structures to develop integrated disaster risk management platforms. These platforms will include monitoring, prevention, preparedness and response tools tailored to the disaster risks of the countries concerned. It is envisaged that sub-regional platforms will be set up by 2026 and the circle of members of the Organisation will be enlarged.

The platforms will be integrated frameworks for risk monitoring, Civil Protection stakeholder training and logistics appropriate to the region concerned. These platforms target West, Central and North African States, Middle Eastern States and Central Asian States.

International assistance aims to form an emergency response pool comprising a set of volunteer countries registered on an emergency platform for a prompt and smooth response in a Member State affected by an emergency or disaster.

On another level, the management team is committed to putting the Organisation back at the service of the Member States in a transparent manner in order to restore the image of this Organisation, which, by virtue of its mandate, is the one that is closest to the communities, like a nurse in the hospital who "administers first and final aid".

The revival of activities for the protection of cultural monuments is also one of the concerns of the ICDO.

To this end, ICDO, through its operational networking in all its Member States, is open to future cooperation in this field.







*League of Nations*

## Composition of the Committee of the International Association of the “LIEUX DE GENEVE”

### **Honorary President:**

Colonel Guillaume FAVRE, First Vice-President of the International Committee of the RED CROSS.

### **Active President:**

Professor Louis FAVRE, Vice-President of the Standing Committee of the International Peace Bureau and Founder of the Swiss Association for the League of Nations

### **Vice-Presidents:**

Dr. Isaac REVERDIR, President of the Geneva branch of the RED CROSS.

Mr. Louis CARTIER, Member of the International Peace Bureau and President of the Geneva Association for the League of Nations, lawyer and Municipal Councillor of the City of Geneva.

### **General Secretary:**

Henri GEORGE, Initiator and first Administrator President of the International Committee.

### **Treasurer:**

Commandant William KELLER, Former Federal Commissioner and Vice-President in charge of the Geneva Cantonal Committee of the Passiva Air Defence.

### **Members:**

Colonel Carl DEMMER, President of the Society of Automobile Officers.

Professor Leopold BOISSIER, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

## Members of the Council of the International Association of "LIEUX DE GENEVE"

Georges BARBEY Director of the  
Société de Banque Suisse in Geneva,

Alfred BAUR, tea planter in Ceylon

Alfred Ernest BLANCO, Director of  
the Opium Information Bureau

Louis BLONDEL, Cantonal  
Archaeologist of Geneva.

Prof. Bernard BOUVIER, Former  
Rector of the University of Geneva and  
Member of the International Committee  
of the RED CROSS

François FERT, Director of the travel  
agency Blenk, Fert & Cie, President of  
the Rotary Club of Geneva.

Charles C Director of the Fabrique de  
Chronomètres Vacheron & Constantin,  
Geneva

Marc COUGNARD, Lawyer and  
President of the Association des Intérêts  
de Genève

Dr. Robert d'ERNST, Surgeon and  
President of the Association des  
Médecins, Geneva.

Eugène FABRE, Director and Editor-  
in-Chief of the newspaper "La Suisse"  
in Geneva

Edmond PATIO, Architect

Charles KUBICK, Director of the Swiss  
Telegraphic Agency in Geneva.

Colonel Jean MARTIN, Director and  
Editor-in-Chief of the "Journal de  
Genève".

Colonel Alex MARTIN-ACHARD,  
Lawyer, and Military Judge.

G.L. MEYFARTH, Engineer, Director  
of Ateliers de Sécheron S.A. in Geneva.

Colonel Dr. Georges PATRY, Surgeon  
and second Vice-President of the  
International Committee of the RED  
CROSS.

Jacques SALMANOWITZ, Director of  
the Société Générale de Surveillance.

Henri STUDER, Printer in Geneva

Charles TZAUT, Engineer, Deputy  
Member of the Governing Body of the  
International Labour Office.

Georges WAGNIERE Former  
Minister Plenipotentiary of the Swiss  
Confederation.

## Founder and former Secretary Generals



Surgeon-General

**Georges SAINT-PAUL**

President - Founder of "Lieux de Genève"

Paris, France, 1931-1937

**Henri GEORGE**

Initiator and Founder of the International Association of "Lieux de Genève", Switzerland

1st Secretary General of the International Committee of Lieux de Genève, 1937-1951



**Milan BODI**

Secretary General of the International Association of "Lieux de Genève", Switzerland, 1951 - 1958

Secretary General of the International Civil Defence Organisation (non-governmental), 1958-1972

Secretary General of the International Civil Defence Organisation (intergovernmental), 1972 - 1986





**Sadok ZNAÏDI**  
Secretary General of the International Civil  
Defence Organisation, 1987 - 2002



Brigadier-General  
**Nawaf B. S. AL SLEIBI**  
Secretary General of the International Civil  
Defence Organisation, 2003 – 2013

**Vladimir KUVSHINOV**  
Secretary General of the International Civil  
Defence Organisation, 2013 - 2018  
Removed from office due to loss of support from  
the country of representation



**Belkacem ELKETROUSSI**  
Interim Secretary General of the International Civil  
Defence Organisation, 2018 - 2020  
Removed from office with immediate effect during the  
53rd session of the Executive Council (October 2020)

## Development programmes



Country	Humanitarian aid
Lesotho	Delivery of medical equipment
Tajikistan	Delivery of pre-fab houses & wheat flour
Palestine	Emergency relief aid & supply of medicines and equipment
South Korea	Delivery of wheat flour
Guinea	Delivery of rescue vehicles & medical equipment to fight against Ebola virus
Liberia	Delivery of medical equipment to fight Ebola virus
Cameroon	Delivery of wheat flour
Afghanistan	Delivery of foodstuffs and wheat flour
Côte d'Ivoire	Delivery of medical equipment & medicines
Mali	Delivery of medical equipment to the central hospital
Haiti	Temporary camp for 1000 people
Nicaragua	M8 helicopter for the fire service





Country	Strengthening capacities
Serbia	Humanitarian demining; Delivery of fire trucks, lifeboats and pumps; Development of the Russian-Serbian Humanitarian Operational Centre
Cameroon	Capacity building for civil protection in Cameroon
Tunisia	Capacity building at the Centre for civil defence; Delivery of fire trucks and fire brigade equipment
Switzerland	Creation of the International Monitoring and Coordination Centre (IMCC) at ICDO headquarters
Nicaragua	Delivery of seismological equipment; training of civil defence personnel; Development of a national System for the prevention and elimination of emergency situations; Creation and equipment of a National Centre for Disaster Management
Sri Lanka	Delivery of demining equipment for civil defence in Sri Lanka
Jordan	Further development of the Civil Defence Academy
Armenia	Creation and outfitting of a Humanitarian Centre and training
Lebanon	Delivery of demining equipment to Lebanese civil defence
Kyrgyzstan	Delivery of construction materials and rescue vehicles
Afghanistan	Delivery of food, wheat flour and two helicopter ambulances
Cuba	Delivery of 31 different types of civil protection equipment and training
Azerbaijan	Delivery of equipment for the civil defence academy











## ICDO Permanent Secretariat personnel



Saltanat TASHMATOVA



Herve-Philippe BATOUM



Mihail MS. STRUNILIN



Valerie LOH



Aïcha GAMBO HAMAN



Jean-Charles DEDO