



Speech on behalf of the Acting Secretary General of the International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO) for International Civil Defence Day 2025, with the theme "**Civil Defence, Guarantee of Security for the Population**":

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

Today, on International Civil Defence Day, we gather to emphasize the vital importance of our shared mission: ensuring the safety of populations across the world. This year's theme, "Civil Defence, Guarantee of Security for the Population," highlights the crucial role our work plays in protecting lives and well-being in the face of increasing global threats and challenges.

In recent years, the world has been confronted with a series of global threats, including natural disasters, technological accidents, epidemics, and security risks, all of which require constant preparedness and effective cooperation at all levels. Civil defence has become the cornerstone of our ability to address these challenges, protecting lives and ensuring the safety of communities.

Today, civil defence is not only a system for alerting and responding to emergencies. It is a comprehensive approach that includes building resilient and safe communities, preparing populations for potential threats, and developing infrastructure for rapid response and effective rescue operations. However, all of these efforts are only possible through our collective work and international cooperation.

Guaranteeing the safety of populations is not only about providing protection during a disaster but also about actively working on prevention and risk reduction. This involves establishing early warning systems that minimize the impact of natural disasters and other threats. It also means educating and informing citizens so that everyone knows how to react in an emergency and how to protect themselves and their loved ones.

The International Civil Defence Organization continues to play a key role in coordinating the efforts of countries to protect populations from threats, sharing knowledge and best practices, and establishing international standards that help make the world a safer place. We will continue to strengthen these mechanisms,

enhance cooperation between nations, and promote technological advancements to better respond to disasters and rebuild more quickly afterward.

However, the central focus of our work is respect for human life. Civil defence, as a system, is primarily a commitment to saving and protecting every individual. Our efforts and resources must be dedicated to ensuring security and protection at all levels—from the personal to the global.

On this day, we express our gratitude to all those working on the frontlines of civil defence: the first responders, doctors, volunteers, researchers, and all those who make the world safer for us all. Your selfless work is an example of courage and responsibility.

Let us all remember that our primary goal is to protect human lives, create resilient and secure societies. Civil defence is our collective responsibility, and it guarantees the security of every individual, regardless of their location or circumstances.

I wish us all success in our important work. May each of us become a part of this great cause, and may our efforts lead to enhanced safety and a better quality of life for all people around the world.

Thank you.

Roman Lapin

Acting Secretary General