

Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION

BETWEEN

**the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia and the
Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction**

The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia, represented by the Director of the Rescue Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia, Artak Djanibekovich Naapetyan, and the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (hereinafter referred to as the Center), represented by the Director of the Center, Valery Viktorovich Petrov (hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Parties”, and individually as a “Party”),

Considering that natural disasters, accidents, and catastrophes are becoming increasingly frequent and intense and significantly hinder progress toward sustainable development;

Considering that the territories of the regions are exposed to nearly all types of natural and man-made hazards, including earthquakes, floods, landslides, mudflows, avalanches, climate anomalies, droughts, epidemics, dam failures, and releases of hazardous substances, which may trigger large-scale, transboundary disasters;

Acknowledging the possibility of large-scale emergencies, the consequences of which cannot always be eliminated by the forces and resources of a single state;

Recognizing the importance of interaction and cooperation in planning and implementing disaster risk reduction measures, strengthening emergency preparedness and response capacities, and minimizing human and economic losses;

Guided by the need to carry out effective humanitarian activities to alleviate human suffering in cases of natural disasters and emergencies;

Acting in accordance with universally recognized norms and principles of international law, mutual respect, and equal partnership;

Expressing their intention to interact and cooperate,

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The purpose of this Memorandum is to establish interaction and cooperation between the Parties based on equality and mutual benefit, to enhance the effectiveness of the Parties' activities in the field of disaster risk reduction and emergency management, and to practically implement activities of mutual interest.

The main objectives of interaction and cooperation are the consolidation of efforts, planning, and implementation of effective measures to improve the safety of populations and territories of states and regions through the improvement of organizational and legal frameworks, institutional foundations, mechanisms, strategies, policies, and practices of disaster and emergency risk management at the local, regional, and national levels.

Article 2

Within the framework of this Memorandum, the Parties shall cooperate, subject to and depending on available funds and resources, in the following areas:

- strengthening regional and international cooperation in disaster risk reduction, prevention, and response to emergencies;
- identification, assessment, and monitoring of underlying disaster risk factors and improvement of early warning systems;
- improvement of institutional frameworks, mechanisms, strategies, policies, and practices for disaster and emergency risk management;
- joint scientific research in the field of emergency prevention and response;
- exchange of experience in the application of innovative technologies in emergency prevention;
- organization of exercises, consultations, seminars, training sessions, educational courses, and other relevant activities aimed at improving the qualifications of experts and specialists from international and non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and other interested entities.

Article 3

By mutual consent of the Parties, other organizations and individuals may be involved in joint activities carried out under this Memorandum.

Article 4

Any amendments and/or modifications to this Memorandum shall require the written consent of the Parties, be performed as a separate protocol, and attached to this document.

Article 5

Either Party reserves the right to terminate this Memorandum prematurely at any time, with or without cause, by providing written notice to the other Party ninety (90) days prior to the date of termination.

If, at the time of termination, activities under any program are ongoing, all such activities shall be completed regardless of the termination of this Memorandum.

Article 6

This Memorandum shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain valid for a period of five years. Upon expiration, it shall be automatically extended for a subsequent five-year period unless the Parties decide otherwise.

This Memorandum does not entail any legal or financial obligations regarding the implementation of joint activities. No actions undertaken within the framework of this Memorandum shall infringe upon the rights or competencies of either Party.

This Memorandum is executed in two copies in the Russian language, one for each Party.

The Memorandum was signed by both Parties in the city of Yerevan, Republic of Armenia, on 28 June 2018.

On behalf of
the Ministry of Emergency Situations
of the Republic of Armenia

A. Naapetyan

On behalf of
the Center for Emergency Situations and
Disaster Risk Reduction in the city of
Almaty

V. Petrov