

## **Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation**

**between**

**the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction, Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan (CESDRR)**

**and**

**the International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO)  
(hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Parties”)**

The Parties, considering that natural disasters, accidents, and catastrophes are becoming increasingly frequent and intense and significantly hinder progress toward sustainable development; that the region encompassing Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan is exposed to virtually 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; and the possibility of large-scale and transboundary emergencies, the consequences of which cannot always be eliminated by the forces and resources of a single state;

Recognizing the importance of coordination, interaction, and cooperation in the field of civil defence aimed at disaster risk reduction, strengthening emergency preparedness and response capacities, and minimizing human and economic losses;

Acknowledging the need to carry out effective humanitarian activities to alleviate human suffering in the event of natural disasters and emergencies, as well as to protect the rights of persons in need of assistance;

Guided by universally recognized norms and principles of international law, mutual respect, and equal partnership;

Expressing their intention to cooperate and interact in the field of civil defence with the aim of disaster risk reduction, strengthening preparedness, and ensuring effective emergency response in the following main areas:

- promoting strengthened cooperation among authorities responsible for emergency prevention and response, ensuring protection and assistance to the population, as well as safeguarding property and the environment in the face of natural and man-made disasters;
- promoting close cooperation between authorities responsible for emergency prevention and response and international organizations engaged in disaster risk

reduction and emergency response;

- contributing to the enhancement of disaster preparedness and emergency response capacities;
- providing technical and advisory assistance and developing training programs for civil protection services;
- facilitating the exchange of information on challenges in the field of civil protection;
- improving the qualifications of specialists and experts through special exercises, training sessions, educational courses, and other relevant activities;
- training senior officials of state authorities, institutions, and organizations responsible for emergency prevention and response to operate effectively under conditions of natural and man-made emergencies;
- participating in the dissemination of provisions of international humanitarian law related to the protection of the civilian population and the provision of assistance;
- studying and implementing best practices of international organizations and public authorities of foreign states, and enhancing the exchange of advanced experience;
- developing, improving, and harmonizing modern information and communication systems for data collection, processing, and analysis;
- improving and implementing methodological and methodological materials, unified terminology, and standardized formats;
- establishing and developing information databases, improving systems for the receipt, collection, processing, storage, protection, analysis, and mutual exchange of information;
- supporting the implementation of scientific and technical programs for the prevention and study of the causes and consequences of large-scale and transboundary emergencies, with the aim of identifying gaps and drawing useful lessons for future actions;

- providing methodological assistance to organizations and citizens in the field of civil protection;
- other areas of cooperation representing mutual interest and agreed upon by both Parties.

The Parties regard this Memorandum as a declaration of voluntary intent, which does not entail any legal or financial obligations for the implementation of joint activities, and proceed from the understanding that no actions undertaken within the framework of this Memorandum shall infringe upon the rights or competencies of either Party.

This Memorandum shall enter into force on the date of its signature by both Parties and shall remain in effect until its termination by mutual consent of the Parties or at the initiative of either Party upon written notification.

This Memorandum is executed in two copies in the Russian and English languages, one copy for each Party, and was signed by both Parties in Geneva, Switzerland.

Director of the Center for Emergency  
Situations and  
Disaster Risk Reduction, Almaty,  
Republic of Kazakhstan (CESDRR)  
V. Petrov

Secretary General  
of the International Civil Defence  
Organization (ICDO)  
V. Kuvshinov

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