

October 2025

ADVANCING CIVIL DEFENCE IN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

The CTIF Executive Committee has considered the recent and ongoing incursions into sovereign nations, including Ukraine, Poland, Qatar and Estonia and recognizes some member countries are urgently strengthening their civil defence capabilities. Review of current and past events has exposed critical vulnerabilities in national emergency systems, particularly in the ability of fire and rescue services to operate effectively in complex civil defence scenarios involving armed conflict, infrastructure degradation, population displacement, and coordinated threats to civilian safety.

Civil defence readiness must encompass not only preparedness, response, and recovery, but also proactive mitigation strategies aimed at reducing risk, enhancing resilience, and safeguarding communities before crises emerge. Fire and rescue services play a pivotal role in this continuum and must be equipped with the tools, training, and frameworks necessary to fulfill that role under increasingly volatile conditions.

The CTIF Executive Committee has therefore produced the attached Position Statement and Transitioning to Civil Defence paper and proposes to lead this effort a new **Commission on Civil Defence be established.**

The Commission's objective will be to serve as the principal body for strategic coordination, policy development, and international collaboration through engagement with members to:

- Identify and disseminate best practices in civil defence operations;
- Assess current capabilities and gaps in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery;
- Develop a flexible, scalable framework that can be tailored to the unique structures and needs of each member nation; and
- Promote interoperability and resilience across borders.

The Executive Committee invites those members wishing to actively participate in this initiative and contribute to a collective effort to fortify fire and rescue services against the evolving threats of armed conflict to advise the **Secretariat before 31. December 2025 (email: contact@ctif.org).**

