

<p>RESOLUTION No. AGN/65/RES/13</p> <p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>Disaster victim identification</p>	<p>TO BE CLASSIFIED AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>1 copy in the CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES: Year 1996</p> <p>1 copy in the SUBJECT SERIES: Heading: Identification of persons and dead bodies</p> <p>Sub-heading: Identification of disaster victims</p>
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### TEXT OF RESOLUTION

BEARING IN MIND, in the first place, that a working party was established by the General Assembly at its 49th session (Manila, 1980) to draft a Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Form, and secondly that, in view of the increasing importance of the subject, a Sub-Committee composed of police officers, forensic pathologists and forensic odontologists was established in 1986 and the Working Party became the Interpol Standing Committee on Disaster Victim Identification,

HAVING BEEN INFORMED that the said Sub-Committee has now produced a modified and computerized version of the DVI Form and a modified version of its associated Disaster Victim Identification Guide (to replace the DVI Manual), both of which should prove satisfactory and have been adopted by the Standing Committee,

RECOGNIZING that for legal, religious, cultural and other reasons, human beings have the right not to lose their identities after death, and that the identification of disaster victims is often of vital importance for police investigations,

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Antalya from 23rd to 29th October 1996, at its 65th session:

RECOMMENDS that all the Organization's member countries use the Disaster Victim Identification Form whenever appropriate, and even in cases in which there is only one victim to be identified;

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DECIDES that the Interpol Standing Committee on Disaster Victim Identification, shall:

- (a) Be composed of police officers, forensic pathologists and forensic odontologists and may, when the need arises, co-opt specialists from other institutions such as the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, airline operators or forensic science institutions;
- (b) Study disasters that have occurred and take note of technical developments and experiences with a view to suggesting improvements in disaster victim identification procedures and standards relating, inter alia, to reference material, technology, computerization, education and training;
- (c) Ensure that the Disaster Victim Identification Form and Guide are periodically reviewed so as to provide the best possible practical assistance and advice to member countries;
- (d) Make recommendations on co-operation, liaison, the sharing of information and practical assistance, both between member countries and between countries and other appropriate and international agencies and organizations, when planning for or responding to disasters;
- (e) Meet regularly to achieve these aims, and disseminate advice and recommendations on good practice promptly to member countries;

CALLS UPON the member countries:

- (a) To establish disaster victim identification teams comprising police officers, forensic pathologists and forensic odontologists or, at the very least, to appoint liaison officers responsible for disaster victim identification, and to ensure that such teams or officers are recognized as their countries' central contact points when their own citizens are involved in a disaster, or when another member country asks for assistance;
- (b) To inform the General Secretariat and one another promptly of their disaster victim identification experiences and of the lessons they have learnt from such incidents;
- (c) When appropriate, to seek the assistance, as participants or observers, of disaster victim identification liaison officers or teams from countries whose citizens are victims of a disaster;

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- (d) To provide assistance in identifying disaster victims to other member countries, on request;
- (e) To provide the General Secretariat with details of their national disaster victim identification teams;
- (f) To co-operate closely so that decisions about the admission of foreign disaster victim identification teams or liaison officers can be taken rapidly;

AUTHORIZES the Secretary General to update and amend the Disaster Victim Identification Form and Guide whenever appropriate, pursuant to technical developments and other professional requirements,

REQUESTS the Secretary General to:

- (a) Publish the Disaster Victim Identification Form and Guide in the established Interpol languages, and circulate them to member countries;
- (b) Maintain and circulate a list of disaster victim identification teams and liaison officers in member countries;
- (c) Publish information on disasters that occur with particular emphasis on the identification of victims;
- (d) Bring to the attention of the Standing Committee on Disaster Victim Identification any information supplied by member countries;
- (e) Maintain a list of disaster victim identification training courses in different countries, with information about whether foreign trainees are accepted;

ABROGATES the following resolutions:

- AGN/37/RES/4 - (1968) - Disaster Victim Identification Form
- AGN/49/RES/2 - (1980) - Identification of Disaster Victims
- AGN/50/RES/3 - (1981) - Victim Identification Form
- AGN/51/RES/7 - (1982) - International Assistance in the Identification of Disaster Victims
- AGN/55/RES/14 - (1986) - Identification of Disaster Victims
- AGN/58/RES/10 - (1989) - Disaster Victim Identification Form.