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PREFACE

The two documents included in this publication: "General Principles on Quality Assurance for Structures" and "General Principles on Reliability for Structural Design" are the result of a wide consensus on the fundamentals of structural engineering.

In November 1976 the Joint Committee on Structural Safety, J.C.S.S., approved the "Common Unified Rules for Different Types of Construction and Material", which were published in 1978 as Volume I of the "International System of Unified Standard Codes of Practice for Structures" (Bulletins d'Information no. 124/125 of the Euro-International Committee for Concrete). The scope of this document was the establishment of common bases for setting up design and construction codes for buildings and civil engineering structures.

As a result of a recommendation of the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Joint-Committee on Structural Safety prepared the "General Principles on Reliability for Structural Design" which were presented to the tenth session of the ECE Working Party on the Building Industry in June 1978. These principles are being used by ISO TC 98 for the revision of IS 2394.

The "General Principles on Quality Assurance for Structures" cover a broader field than the two documents first mentioned. They can be viewed as a way to organize and rationalize the building process.

The preparation of the documents included in this publication was carried out by editorial groups chaired by Professor Lars Östlund. It is my privilege to thank Professor Östlund and all those who contributed to the drafting of these documents. They represent an important step in the progress of structural engineering and I welcome their wide diffusion by the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering.

It is asked that comments on the documents be sent to Professor Lars Östlund (Lund Institute of Technology) with a copy to me (LNEC, Lisbon). The comments may be sent direct or through the secretariates of the International Associations that sponsor the Joint-Committee, namely:

- CEB — Euro-International Committee for Concrete
- CIB — International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentation
- ECCS — European Convention for Constructional Steelwork
- FIP — Fédération Internationale de la Précontrainte
- IABSE — International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering
- IASS — International Association for Shell and Spatial Structures
- RILEM — International Union of Testing and Research Laboratories for Materials and Structures

Lisbon, April 1981

Júlio Ferry Borges
General Reporter of the J.C.S.S.