



*Permanent Mission of El Salvador
to the United Nations*

Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE EL SALVADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC)

73 SESSION

New York, 1 November 2018

Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the 33 member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

CELAC takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on "Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters", document A/73/229, which contains the comments sent by States about the topic.

CELAC welcomes the inclusion of the item "Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters" in the Agenda of the General Assembly's 73rd session and expresses its appreciation to the International Law Commission for developing the Draft Articles, especially Eduardo Valencia Ospina, special rapporteur on the subject. His work demonstrates the topic's relevance in a world where disasters have become more frequent and intense, creating social and economic havoc.

Managing this issue, therefore, becomes of great importance for societies to avoid and, in any case, be prepared in the event of disasters, especially considering that the legally relevant instruments are not uniform nor plenty. Apart from some multilateral agreements and a much larger number of bilateral treaties on mutual assistance, protection from disasters is comprised of soft-law, non-binding instruments elaborated at the intergovernmental level and also by private institutions and entities. In this regard, having an international legal framework becomes an attractive alternative that we consider should be discussed.

We hope that the Committee can have a productive dialogue to determine the best way to move forward with the draft articles.

Thank you, Mr. President