

PERMANENT MISSION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM TO THE UNITED NATIONS

771 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, NEW YORK, NY 10017

NATIONAL STATEMENT BY:

MS. FAUZIAH SULAIMAN REPRESENTATIVE OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW
YORK

AGENDA ITEM 89:

“PROTECTION OF PERSONS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTERS”

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the Protection of persons in the event of disasters on 21 July 2020 and my appreciation to the International Law Commission and the Special Rapporteur on their work in relation to the draft articles on protection of persons in the event of disasters as well as the Commission's recommendation to elaborate a convention on the basis of the articles.

We recognise that conventions and treaties are one of the autonomous sources of general international law. Their codification are written agreements setting out rights and obligations that are binding on the States who are party to them.

Mr. Chairman,

Brunei Darussalam due to its geographical position, has been extremely fortunate not to experience extreme impact of any sort of natural disasters. It does not mean that we should be complacent. Over the years, our country has faced calamities like monsoon, floods, forest fires, landslides and strong winds. As a small country, we recognize Brunei Darussalam like other countries in the region is very much vulnerable to any natural disasters and has placed importance on disaster mitigation so that Brunei Darussalam remains safe and resilient.

We have in place the *Disaster Management Order, 2006* to provide for effective disaster management for Brunei Darussalam and for matters incidental thereto. Through this Order, a council was set up called the *National Disaster Council* which is responsible for the implementation of the disaster management for Brunei Darussalam.

The Order also established the *National Disaster Management Centre* (NDMC) which is Brunei Darussalam's lead government agency in disaster response.

The *Disaster Management Order, 2006* covers various aspect of disaster management including mitigating, preventing, responding to and recovering from, a disaster or calamity and its adverse effects.

Our national disaster response and practices are to ensure welfare assistances like food rations, basic necessities, temporary shelters, financial assistance, counselling and free health and medical treatment are provided to the victims of the disaster.

Regionally, Brunei Darussalam as an ASEAN member state has signed the *ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)* on 24th December 2009. Brunei Darussalam continues to support and is committed to *ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response (OAOR)* and *ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region*.

I am pleased to share that Brunei Darussalam as a small nation, has been involved in a number of regional mobilisation operations, facilitating humanitarian assistance and relief bilaterally as well as through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA), responsible for enhancing ASEAN's capabilities and coordination in disaster management and emergency response.

Mr Chairman,

We share the sentiment that the articles represented are an increasingly important contribution in the field of international law governing and strengthening disaster responses to ensure adequate and effective relief in the event of disasters.

Brunei Darussalam welcomes and remains committed to continue further discussion in considering whether to elaborate a convention based on the articles in the Sixth Committee.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.