

STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

ON

"THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTERS"

AT THE 75TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is delighted to speak on this very important agenda item, and commends the report of the Secretary-General A/75/214. My delegation further wishes to welcome the report of the International Law Commission which outlines innovative provisions of the Commission's draft articles and wishes to note that the articles are detailed, precised and applicable.

2. Nigeria has been faced with natural and human disasters such as; floods, drought, oil spill, bush fire, landslide and recently the COVID-19 pandemic which is been handled by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). Floods are among the most devastating natural hazards in the world, claiming more lives and causing more property damage than any other natural phenomena. These disasters have further increased poverty and insecurity, thereby, hampering Nigeria's economic growth. To this end, Nigeria established the National

Emergency Management Agency of Nigeria (NEMA) via Act 12 as amended by Act 50 of 1999, to manage disasters in Nigeria.

3. From inception, NEMA has been tackling disaster related issues through the establishment of concrete structures and measures. Such measures are, the education of the public in order to raise their level of awareness and reduce the effects of disasters in the Country. NEMA's mission is to coordinate resources towards efficient and effective disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response in Nigeria. It acts in the following areas: Coordination, Disaster Risk Reduction, search and rescue; policy and strategy; Geographic Information System, Advocacy, education, administration, finance and logistics.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The draft articles on the “Protection of persons in the event of disasters” deal with an increasingly relevant and

topical area of public international law. They aim at further strengthening the international disaster relief and humanitarian assistance system. Furthermore, they constitute a comprehensive framework for the reduction of risks of disasters, including through risk assessments and protection of persons, and set out the duty of the affected State to ensure protection, as well as the role of external assistance in this respect.

5. My delegation has noted that the draft articles highlights human rights and the principles of human dignity, as well as underline the response to disasters should it take place in accordance with the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

Mr. Chairman,

6. In conclusion, my delegation supports the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles which will serve as a base framework for cooperation in the face of disaster.

I thank you.