



Statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) under Agenda Item 87 – Protection of Persons in Event of Disasters

18 October 2021

1. Chair, I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of the Small Island States. As it is our first time speaking on this agenda item, we recognize the long and thoughtful consideration of this agenda item by the Committee. As a group, we do not have a position on whether to develop a convention based on the draft articles. However, please allow us to make a few comments on the linkage between these articles and other provisions in international law.
2. As we come to the end of another hurricane season in the Atlantic, we must remind colleagues of the increasingly destructive disasters befalling small island developing states, and that all indications are that they will increase in the future. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has found that the disasters associated with the adverse effects of climate have been made worse because of human activities. As with many other states, these climate-change related disasters often overwhelm SIDS' ability to effectively respond to them either before they happen, through disaster risk reduction programme, or after they happen, through humanitarian activities.

3. In relation to the draft articles, we note that there is an existing and developing body of law concerning the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow-onset events. We are concerned about the draft articles' reliance on *ex gratia*/voluntary offers of external assistance to respond to disasters. We remind colleagues that developed countries' responsibility for assisting developing countries, particularly the small island developing states, in responding to disasters associated with the adverse effects of climate change is not voluntary.

4. If Member States decide to move forward and further articulate these draft articles, that body of law will need to be incorporated to facilitate an adequate and effective response to these disasters.

5. I thank you.