



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

INTERVENTION BY
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ON
AGENDA ITEM 87:
PROTECTION OF PERSONS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTERS

IN THE SIXTH COMMITTEE SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 18, 2021
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation expresses its appreciation to the International Law Commission for its efforts in the codification and progressive development of international law in the area of disaster law through the Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (“Draft Articles”). We also wish to acknowledge the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina for his hard work in this process.

Noting the increase in frequency and intensity of disasters across the globe in recent years as well as the short and long-term impact of these events particularly on small island developing states, my delegation wishes to reiterate its support for the elaboration of a balanced and well-articulated universal convention in the area of disaster law. My delegation believes that such an instrument would form a central element of the applicable global legal framework, facilitate adequate and effective response to disasters and reduce the risk of disasters in a bid to meet the essential needs of the persons concerned, with full respect for their rights.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation takes the further view that this convention should, as best as possible, complement current instruments and arrangements in the area of disaster law. It is acknowledged that the Draft Articles seek to strike a balance, however the varying views adopted by States in discussions surrounding the Draft Articles indicate that there scope for further engagement by States in the elaboration of the text of a convention. Against this background, my delegation welcomes the recommendation to elaborate a universal convention on the basis of the draft Articles.

As previously noted, the Draft Articles attempt to strike a balance between the roles and responsibilities of affected and assisting states. Importantly, my delegation applauds the inclusion of the principle of sovereignty within the text of the Draft Articles. The Draft Articles underscore the primary responsibility of affected States in ensuring the provision of disaster relief assistance, and the Commission has indicated that this principle is the

backdrop against which the entire text is to be interpreted and applied. My delegation considers however that there is further scope for discussion on the Draft Articles, as there are several elements that require refinement.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, my delegation is committed to supporting the continued development and implementation of measures aimed at facilitating effective and adequate response to disasters as well as reducing risk of disasters 'so as to meet the essential needs of the persons concerned, with full respect for their rights'. We look forward to the continued discussions on this issue with the hopes of elaborating a convention on the basis of the Draft Articles.