



**Statement by**

**The Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia**

**at**

**the 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the Sixth Committee of the  
United Nations General Assembly**

**on**

**Agenda Item 86  
Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters**

**Wednesday, 4 October 2023**

## Thank you, Mr. Chair,

1. Our deliberation today is of **paramount importance**.
2. A subject that ...
  - reverberates deeply within the heart of Indonesia; and
  - resonates with the collective conscience of humanity in the global community.
3. Every year, natural and human-induced disasters disrupt millions of lives worldwide ...
  - from earthquakes to armed conflicts;
  - from floods to pandemics.
4. The magnitude and frequency of disasters ... exacerbated by factors like climate change and deepening socio-economic gaps ... make disaster risks loom larger.
5. It challenges our resilience, our institutions, and our moral compass.
6. Hence, addressing the protection of persons in the event of disasters is not just timely, but **urgent**.
7. During the past 20 years, disasters have ...
  - killed 1.3 million people and affected 4.4 billion more;
  - injured people, made them homeless, and required them to accept emergency assistance.
8. Positioned upon the volatile Pacific Ring of Fire, Indonesia has been disproportionately acquainted with these somber tribulations.

9. From the cataclysmic 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami that wreaked havoc in Aceh Province ... to the more recent seismic upheaval in Palu in 2018.
10. At this juncture, allow me to convey two points.
11. **FIRST**, in the event of disasters, **every single life ... matters**.
12. Therefore, we need to continue our discussions on the 2016 ILC Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (PPED).
13. The Draft Articles ...
  - represents the international legal community's efforts to systematically address the protection of persons affected by disasters ... and;
  - provides a clear normative framework to ensure that affected individuals receive the necessary assistance, consistent with their dignity and basic needs.
14. In today's interconnected world, the ramifications of disasters often spill over national borders.
15. Continuing discussions on these Draft Articles will not only refine legal norms ... but also ...
  - elevate the global approach to disaster management, ensuring it more humane and effective;
  - provide clear guidance for states and humanitarian actors to play their roles and responsibilities during disaster response; and

- promote the importance of strengthening international cooperation in disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response.
16. **SECOND**, we must **switch our paradigm** on disaster management ...
    - from reactive to preventive;
    - from response to preparedness.
  17. It is time **to break the cycle** of disaster > response > dependency > repeat.
  18. Indonesia has started this paradigm shift since 2017 and has now crystallized in our National Plan on Disaster Management.
  19. This National Plan gives focus to the resilience of the people.
  20. It requires tailored, local strategies.
  21. The resilience of Jakarta may look different from that of Bali or Lombok.
  22. Still, each region's preparedness is equally crucial for the nation's collective strength.
  23. We must also champion and empower our local communities.
  24. Their deep-rooted understanding of the local terrains, cultures, and needs makes them the true frontline warriors during crises.

25. By integrating their insights into our national strategies, we ensure our interventions are both **effective and culturally sensitive**.
26. As an archipelago, rising sea levels and changing weather patterns aren't distant threats ... they're immediate challenges.
27. Our policies and actions today will decide the future of our coastal communities and the sustainability of our islands.
28. Indonesia is convinced that aligning resilience approaches, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable disaster risks management, are the best ingredients for achieving sustainable development goals.

**Mr. Chair,**

29. Protecting persons in the event of disasters transcends mere survival; it encapsulates the ideals of humanity.
30. I urge this august Committee to envisage the protection of persons in the event of disasters ... **not in isolation** ... but as an integral facet of our overarching objectives for sustainable development, enduring peace, and stability.
31. Our deliberations today indelibly imprint the legacy we bequeath to posterity.
32. Indonesia reaffirms our unwavering commitment to this noble endeavor.

33. Our dedication to consensus-building in negotiating the Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters will showcase our resolve to humanity.
34. Together, we can.
35. Thank you.

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