



Statement

by

Lebanon

At the sixth committee

Agenda Item 86:

“Protection of persons in the event of disasters”

New York, October 4, 2023

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Mr. Chair,

This year has seen disasters of great magnitude, especially in our region. From the earthquakes at the beginning of the year in Syria and Türkiye, to the earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya just a few weeks ago.

Lebanon reiterates its solidarity with affected persons of those countries and with all those affected by disasters.

Disasters result in a huge amount of death, suffering, trauma and can cause massive destruction of infrastructure.

Adequate and effective response in the aftermath of such events is vital. We have indeed witnessed it recently in my country with the Beirut Port Blast of August 4, 2020.

Mr. Chair,

Facilitating relief assistance is therefore an area where solidarity and strengthened international cooperation are of the essence. Even more so for developing countries, as they face more challenges in disaster management.

This item under discussion today is therefore of considerable interest and the work completed by the International Law Commission on the topic is commendable.

This again shows the International Law Commission's continued contribution to the progressive development of international law and its codification.

My delegation expresses its appreciation to the International Law Commission (ILC), in particular to the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina for his outstanding work in preparing the draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters.

My delegation notes that the Commission recommended the elaboration by the General Assembly of a Convention on the basis of the draft articles.

Mr. Chair,

Lebanon appreciates the draft articles' primary focus on disaster response, while also containing significant components on disaster risk reduction.

There are also important elements reflected in the draft articles:

- the principle of sovereignty of States as highlighted in the preamble
- The humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality
- The reference to human dignity.

Overall, the draft articles seem to be a well-balanced product.

While we see value in having a Convention, we remain, at this stage, open on further action to take in respect of the draft articles.

We recognize, as can be the case for other ILC products, the importance for the General Assembly, for this sixth committee, to further examine the draft articles, to have substantive exchanges of views and to identify possible improvements to the text.

This is why my delegation looks forward to the upcoming discussions on the draft articles and on the recommendation, within the context of a Working Group, as provided by resolution 76/119.

We wish to welcome in this regard the holding of this working group in a “full consecutive days” format. This allows for more focused as well as more dynamic deliberations, and is conducive to more constructive work and meaningful progress.