



United Nations General Assembly | Sixth Committee

**Protection of persons in the event of disasters
CLUSTER II
(Agenda item 86)**

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(check against delivery)

Mister Chair,

As this is the first time I take the floor I would like to congratulate you on being elected President of the Sixth Committee.

Brazil considers that articles 4, 5, 6, and 9, are in general well-balanced, particularly in relation to the principles of international law applicable to the protection of persons in the event of disasters.

We appreciate the International Law Commission's initiative to propose draft article 4, as a self-standing provision on the inherent dignity of the human person. In situations of disasters, we should always be guided by the humanitarian imperative. This means addressing the basic needs of the affected persons.

In this context, Brazil also welcomes draft article 5, which reaffirms the importance of respecting and protecting the human rights of persons affected by disasters. In our discussions in the Working Group, we should never lose sight of the human rights perspective.

Mister Chair,

We acknowledge with satisfaction the reference to the principles of humanity, neutrality, and impartiality in draft article 6.

Humanity leads us to address any manifestation of human suffering, especially with regard to the most vulnerable. Neutrality builds the trust that humanitarian providers need to operate in situations of disaster. Impartiality is key to guaranteeing the provision of humanitarian assistance focused solely on the needs of civilians affected by disasters, without discrimination.

Still, it is important to add a reference to the principle of independence in article 6. The independence of humanitarian actors, meaning the autonomy of their humanitarian objectives from political, economic, military or other considerations, is also an important guiding principle of humanitarian assistance, as set

out in the preamble of resolution 58/114. Without independence, humanitarian assistance cannot fully achieve its goals.

Furthermore, it should be recalled that humanitarian providers do not operate in isolation from economic actors and from the communities they assist. Public-private humanitarian partnerships are already a reality on the ground and exist out of sheer necessity.

There must be no doubt that all stakeholders involved in humanitarian aid, including the private sector, must abide by international humanitarian law and the guiding principles of humanitarian assistance.

Mister Chair,

In stressing the importance of reducing the risk of disasters and minimizing their damage, Brazil would like to highlight that the duty to take measures to reduce the risk of disaster, as referred to in Article 9 paragraph 1, is an obligation of conduct, not of result. The purpose of the provision is not to completely prevent or mitigate a disaster, but to reduce the risk of harm by the adoption of appropriate measures.

The core obligations set out in cluster II are the cornerstones of the legitimacy of any future convention on the topic of the protection of persons in the event of disasters.

I thank you.