



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**ON BEHALF OF  
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**

**DURING THE  
SIXTH COMMITTEE (LEGAL) ON  
AGENDA ITEM 86: THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS IN THE EVENT OF  
DISASTERS**

**TUESDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

As this is the first time I have taken the floor in the Sixth Committee during this session, allow me to express our congratulations to you and the members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of our support.

CARICOM aligns itself with the statement delivered by Colombia on behalf of CELAC and offers the following remarks in its own capacity.

Mr. Chair,

CARICOM has continuously engaged on this agenda item, recognizing that the absence of a comprehensive legal framework to regulate and support State responses to disasters belies a critical gap in international law. We were therefore pleased that the Committee made a decision to elaborate a legally binding convention on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters by 2027, at the latest.

As the second most disaster-prone region in the world, we recognize this milestone not only as a reaffirmation of the commitment to support progressive development of international law, but also as a meaningful step forward for multilateralism. It is evidence of our collective willingness to uphold the inherent dignity and rights of persons affected by disasters and a reflection of our promise to leave no one behind.

We will therefore continue to follow and support the progression of this agenda item as a matter of priority.

Mr. Chair,

Even as we welcome a process to elaborate a convention on PPED, CARICOM Member States have consistently taken steps to enhance national resilience, response and recovery mechanisms through, among other things, strengthening

our respective disaster risk management frameworks, climate resilience strategies, integrating disaster risk reduction into policy planning and more.

Over the years, we have collectively bolstered our regional capacity through institutions such as the Caribbean Disaster, Emergency, Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). CDEMA's Comprehensive Disaster Management strategy involves "risk reduction and management and the integration of vulnerability assessment into the development planning process". The CDB, in turn, supports resilience through access to concessional climate financing, climate proofing infrastructure and developing sustainable energy solutions.

The operationalization of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), which is a risk pooling facility that was designed to limit the financial impact of hurricanes and earthquakes by providing short term liquidity following a disaster, is also an important and progressive development. It is the world's first regional fund that utilizes parametric insurance, allowing Caribbean governments to purchase earthquake and hurricane catastrophe coverage with the lowest-possible pricing. In the 2024/2025 period alone, CCRIF disbursed approximately 72 million dollars to Grenada, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines in post disaster relief assistance.

Combined, these institutions help to strengthen our region's efforts to withstand increasingly hazardous experiences. Yet even with these efforts and additional support, recovery remains long and costly. In some cases, losses have exceeded a hundred percent of GDP, as seen with, Hurricane Ivan in Grenada in 2004, the earthquake in Haiti in 2010 and Hurricane Maria in Dominica in 2017.

Over the years, we have lost billions of dollars, but more importantly our people have lost their homes, livelihoods, loved ones and more.

So, disasters and the difficult task of recovering from them are a familiar reality. In the words of ASG Shoko Noda, "the Caribbean region is on the frontlines of

climate change and disaster risk, facing threats that undermine development and livelihoods”.

In this regard, CARICOM reaffirms its support for resolution 79/128. Without a comprehensive legal framework, the protection of present and future generations will rest with existing provisions being scattered across many different instruments of varying status. Consolidating States' obligations with respect to the management of disasters and disaster risk will not only save lives and livelihoods but also strengthen our collective resilience and lay the groundwork for a more prepared future.

Mr. Chair,

Looking ahead to the negotiations on the convention, CARICOM believes that the treaty should, among other things, be:

- a) Anticipatory and future proof;
- b) Grounded in solidarity and foster international cooperation; and
- c) balance the provision of humanitarian assistance with respect for state sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In closing, as the hurricanes become stronger, earthquakes become more powerful, the waters become higher and the threat to life grows, we must continue to move forward decisively, together. We must not hesitate to build a strong legal architecture that will protect **all** people in the event of disasters. CARICOM therefore looks forward to the outcome of the deliberations on this item and urges all Member States to continue to engage constructively.

Thank you.