



United Kingdom
Mission to the
United Nations

One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
(885 Second Avenue)
New York, NY 10017

x.com/UKUN_NewYork

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,
UNGA 80, AGENDA ITEM 86

PROTECTION OF PERSONS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTERS - DEBATE

14 October 2025

Delivered by Greg Reisman

Check against delivery

Thank you Chair,

We welcome last year's resolution adopted by the General Assembly deciding to elaborate and conclude a legally binding instrument on the protection of persons in the event of disasters. We are grateful for the continued opportunity to contribute to discussions on this important matter.

Throughout 2025 we have continued to see the impact of disasters. The UK remains steadfast in our long-standing commitment to providing assistance directly, or through partners, in humanitarian emergencies.

For example, in March of this year, a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck the central region of Myanmar. The UK provided immediate and life-saving support to assist the people of Myanmar, supporting local partners already mobilising in the hardest hit areas of the earthquake.

More broadly, humanitarian needs remain near an all-time high and risks from disasters are rising. The UN estimates over 300m people will need humanitarian assistance in 2025. Disasters like flooding, earthquakes, landslides, and record-breaking cyclonic storms to wildfires only add to

spikes in humanitarian needs. Poor and marginalised communities and groups, including women and girls, in countries with lower income or affected by fragility are the worst-affected when disasters destroy homes, communities and economies.

It is in this context that the UK emphasises the importance of States ensuring that they prioritise early and anticipatory action in relation to disasters, so that when disasters occur, they are ready to respond effectively. This can help reduce humanitarian need and build resilience in communities to bounce back.

We recognise the significant and enduring role played by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement in the protection of persons in the event of disasters. We also recognise the continued role played by international civil society organisations in striving to reduce disaster risk and assist populations affected by disasters. We must ensure that they are able to participate and contribute their expertise as the convention is developed.

But we must not overlook the important role played by local actors and persons affected by disasters themselves. Local actors are often first

responders to crisis, know what the community needs and are crucial for delivering effective disaster response.

The UK is currently considering how we can best contribute to this important process going forward and is carefully considering submitting proposals for amendments to the draft articles by the end of the year. We welcome the opportunity to have further discussions on the draft articles and the modalities for the convention negotiations.

Thank you, Chair.