

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Statement by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Before the Sixth Committee of 80th Session of General Assembly

Agenda item 86: Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters

October 2025-New York

Madam. Chair.

Last year, my delegation actively engaged in the discussions within the Sixth Committee on protection of persons in the event of disasters; presently we would like to touch upon a few preliminary comments regarding any future framework on this topic.

The exclusive role of affected states and national ownership should be the central and integral part of discussions surrounding protection of persons in the event of disasters. As has also been affirmed in the commentary of the ILC Draft Articles on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters, an affected State is in the best position to determine the magnitude and severity of a disaster situation and the limits of its national response capacity. Nothing in the draft article should prejudice this central status as well as the requirement of the consent of affected states for any form of assistance.

Protection of sovereignty remains the key element in this context. Adherence to and compliance with the fundamental principles of international law, in particular, sovereign equality, non-intervention and territorial integrity is essential to promote rule of law, promote trust and cooperation and cooperation at the international level. While the commission has expressed in the commentary that it bases itself on the fundamental principles of state sovereignty and non-intervention, these

cardinal principles of international law have not been addressed sufficiently in the draft articles. In our view, given the very nature and circumstances in the event of disasters which might be abused to violate these principles, it is essential that a standalone provision on the protection of sovereignty be included in the draft articles.

Unilateral coercive measures, which are flagrant violation of international law including international humanitarian law, impede capacities and the ability of targeted states for mobilization of resources in preparation for and in disaster reduction efforts while also impair responses to disasters. Such unlawful measures hinder international cooperation including in responding to disasters and also impair access of developing countries to humanitarian assistance, technology, medicine, equipment and other goods, commodities and services needed in the event of disasters. The draft articles should indeed address unilateral coercive measures with a view to ensuring that such impediments on responses of states to disasters are effectively responded to.

Countries are differentiated in terms of their capacities. This is a reality which has also been acknowledged in many relevant documents including in the guiding principles annexed to resolution 46/182 which has been a source of reference for the commission. We believe that the draft articles should contemplate the differences among states in terms of capacities and resources and provision of support to developing countries. To that end, the inclusion of provisions in the draft articles that focuses on avenues for international cooperation, particularly, to the benefit of developing countries when the latter is affected by a disaster, should be considered. Limitations in capacity of developing countries when assisting other states should also be noted. This is *sine qua non* if we are to ensure to meet the essential needs of the persons concerned, as envisaged in the scope of the draft articles.

Finally, as to the way forward, we highlight that sufficient time and clear modalities should be envisaged at an appropriate time for the process ahead. Views of Member States should be included in the consolidated text to provide appropriate opportunity for dialogue and exchange of views and confer on the best ways and means to assist requesting States in the event of

disasters. We also underline the intergovernmental nature Organization and stress the need to support and facilitate the participation of developing Member States in the process.

I thank you.