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STATEMENT BY

**H.E. DR. CHOLA MILAMBO
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

AGENDA ITEM : 86

PROTECTION OF PERSONS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTERS

AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

DURING THE

**EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York
14th October, 2025

Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Republic of Zambia. Zambia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Cameroon on behalf of the Africa Group. We now deliver these remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. President,

The Zambian delegation commends the International Law Commission (ILC) for the development of an elaborate framework addressing the protection of persons in the event of disasters. The year 2024 witnessed a significant milestone in the global multilateral response to reducing disaster risk through the adoption by the General Assembly of **resolution 79/128** in December 2024 which is based on the Draft Articles. The effect of this resolution is to usher in greater impetus towards an international convention on the protection of persons in the event of disasters by the end of 2027.

Mr. President,

The draft articles are comprehensive and cover a wide spectrum of aspects of relating to disaster risk reduction. The draft articles can therefore serve as a strong foundation for the conclusion of a Convention. The Draft Articles make it mandatory for states to prioritize the implementation of legislation, risk assessments, and early warning systems to prevent and mitigate disasters.

Mr. President,

Climate change is one of the most intense and urgent challenges confronting the world today. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reports that the year 2024 had the highest temperature on record in 175 years. This unprecedented heat

triggered extreme weather events across the globe, including heat waves, severe storms and wildfires.

Mr. President,

No country is immune to the impacts of climate change, but the world's poorest countries tend to bear the greatest brunt due to lack of resources for preparation, response and recovery. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in its Global Assessment Report (GAR) of 2023 outlines the socio-economic impact of disasters, particularly on poorer countries. The GAR cautions that disasters threaten to reverse hard-won economic and development gains. Disasters like drought heighten water stress and threaten food security with cascading impacts on labor, livelihoods and the displacement of people, thereby exacerbating extreme poverty among the world's most vulnerable populations.

Mr. President,

At the domestic level, Zambia's Disaster Management Act of 2010 provides the legislative framework for Disaster Management in Zambia. It is complemented by the **National Disaster Risk Management Policy 2024** whose main target is to heed the call of the United Nations Secretary-General to ensure that multi-hazard early warning systems are universal to mitigate losses and damage resulting from disaster and climatic risks. Zambia fully supports multilateral efforts that will further enhance international cooperation as disasters may, and often do, transcend national boundaries.

Mr. President,

The PPED Resolution of December 2024 brings the international community closer to a harmonized global legal framework aimed to protecting people during disasters and to reduce risks. It is envisioned to consolidate disaster risk reduction alongside

voluntary soft law initiatives such as the landmark Sendai Framework which runs from 2015-2030. The Zambian Government takes the view that General Assembly resolution 79/128 is in lock step with the global response required to address the climate emergency. Zambia therefore looks forward to engaging constructively in the 2027 discussions to elaborate and conclude a legally binding instrument on the protection of persons in the event of disasters.

Mr. President, I thank you.