Statement by
Mr. Ali Garshasbi

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran before

The Sixth Committee of the
71 st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

on

Report of the International

As regards the topic of "Protection of persons in the event of disasters", I would like to congratulate and thank the Special Rapporteur Mr. Eduardo Valencia Ospina for his valuable efforts in the elaboration of the draft articles. We further take note of consideration, by the Commission, of the eighth report of the Special Rapporteur and the comments and observations of Governments, international organizations and other entities and the consequent adoption of the draft articles by the Commission on the second reading. While some of our comments have been reflected in the final draft, we remain uncertain whether the time is ripe for convening a diplomatic conference and adopting the provisions in the form of a treaty; however, we continue to observe carefully comments made by other Member States in this regard. Now, I would like to reiterate some of our previous remarks with regard to the draft articles.

International cooperation plays a crucial role in managing disasters. We are of the
view that the affected State has the exclusive right for the recognition of the threshold of disaster and thus may affirm that a disaster has disrupted the functioning of the society.

Whereas draft Article 13 (2) states that "consent to external assistance (by the
State victim to the disaster) shall not be withheld arbitrarily", we still believe that such a stipulation depends on an

on cri)

result of political convenience; what is especially witnessed when it comes to adoption of resolutions

Finally, I would like to comment briefly on other decisions and conclusions of
the Commission. My delegation takes note of Commission's recommendation regarding inclusion of two topics (namely the settlement of international disputes to which international organizations are parties and succession of States in · respect of State responsibility) in its long-term programme of work. The lucid presentation of the two topics by Sir Michael Wood and Mr. Pavel Sturma is indicative of the need for the topics to be included in the ILC's age_nda.

Furthermore, we note with interest the Commission's recommendation to hold the seventieth anniversary sessi~n during the first part of its seventieth session in New York and look forward to it. On the question of holding other future sessions in New York, we are of the view that due to the necessity of preserving co!lsistency in the work of the Commission, it seems desirable to hold the regular sessions in Geneva, except on a case by case basis and upon recommendation by Members of the Commission.

'f