

UNGA 71: Sixth Committee ILC Cluster I

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Chairperson,

New Zealand thanks the International Law Commission and its commissioners for its report on the work of the sixty-ninth session. We also thank its Chairman, Mr Pedro Commisário Afonso, for his introductory speech. In our statement today we will comment on Chapters VI and XIII in Cluster One of this debate.

Chairperson,

New Zealand acknowledges the work of Mr Eduardo Valencia-Ospina as Special ciate

the quality of reports on this topic and how the Special Rapporteur has responded to the comments made by governments in this Committee over the years.

This is a challenging but important subject that is relevant to every Member State. In times of disaster, people are at their most vulnerable and, in many cases, the mechanisms of civil society struggle to function, especially in the early phases. Such situations require the delivery of practical help where it is most needed. That is why New Zealand has consistently emphasised the need for this topic to focus on practical mechanisms to ensure protection and facilitate immediate assistance in the event of a disaster.

For these reasons, we consider it necessary to lay down a clear framework of legal rules that facilitate practical international cooperation in disaster response. We also consider that a pragmatic, rather than a strict "rights-based", approach is the most appropriate here.

With all this in mind, New Zealand takes note of the draft articles on this topic, and looks forward to engaging further on the most effective means for taking this important work forward. We look forward to discussing, with other Members, whether the draft articles could provide a mechanism to develop guidance for St