

PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chairman,

Let me thank

development of national legal services with trained human resources in order to enhance a broader participation on the process of codification and progressive development of International Law. After all, if this is the core mandate of the ILC, it is also a responsibility of all of us, States, that are members of the international community and should be encouraged.

Mr. Chairman,

As to the future work of the Commission and possible new topics, we note with satisfaction that the ILC again reconstituted its Working Group on Long-Term Programme of Work and has included two new topics relating to “settlement of disputes to which international organizations are parties” and “succession of States in respect of State responsibility”. We also take good note of the six potential topics mentioned in paragraph 313 of the Report proposed by the Secretariat as well as of the recommendation of the Commission that they should be further considered by the Working Group on the Long-Term Programme of Work at the next session, which will mark the beginning of a new quinquennium.

Portugal continues to study carefully all topics that are proposed and reiterate our view that when including new topics in the programme of work the ILC should continue to be attentive to the needs of States and respect their concerns. At the same time, we maintain our belief that the UN wider membership should also be more vocal and active in guiding the Commission, including regarding the identification of possible new topics that could address the current legal and institutional challenges of today’s world.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me now to turn to Chapter IV of the Commission’s Report on the topic “**Protection of persons in the event of disasters**” and start by expressing our appreciation to the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, not only for the thorough report presented this year, but again for his comprehensive work during these past years, which enabled the Commission to progress steadily in its study and adopt the set of draft articles we have now before us.

The Commission submitted a set of 18 draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters, together with the recommendation to the General Assembly that it elaborates a convention on the basis of these draft articles.

