

Mr. Chair,

The delegation of Sierra Leone notes the particular significance of the topic: **Protection of persons in the event of disasters** , and the Sixth Committee continued consideration of this agenda item, including the recommendation of the International Law Commission (ILC) contained in paragraph 46 of its report (A/71/10) on the work of its 68th session to in particular, a convention on the basis of the draft articles . The General Assembly in resolution **A/73/209** *that the subject of the protection of persons in the event of disasters is of major importance in the relations of States* . We are therefore mindful that we continue our consideration of the recommendation of the Commission in the middle of a debilitating coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, a calamitous disaster in every sense imaginable.

In the previous consideration of this agenda item, the General Assembly has taken note of the draft articles, and inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to invite Governments that have not yet done so to submit comments related to the recommendation of the Commission.

Mr. Chair,

Regrettably, our world continues to face increasing number of disasters with concerning intensity and impact on affected populations. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed major gaps in our rules based international order, and in these moments of crisis the United Nations is expected to lead in its fulfilment of its purposes under its Charter, in *to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character*. However, the inertia in the Sixth Committee on codification may seem to expose the hesitance of the General Assembly to take action on recommendations from the ILC on hard law, including the recommendation to elaborate a convention on the basis of the draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters.

The question before the Sixth Committee is fundamentally the taking of a decision on the recommendation of the ILC. While we note the delicate balance struck in the content of the draft articles, the views being expressed demonstrate that States will have to take ownership in the elaboration of a convention. What is needed now is the *to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character*. With the COVID-19 pandemic being a truly global disaster, the General Assembly resolution **74/270**, unanimously adopted on 2 April 2020 and sponsored by **W*14.9. 0 G(a)-28(n)-24(d)-**