## Sixth Committee of the 75th UNGA

Debate on agenda item 87 "Protection of Persons in the Event of Disaster"

Statement of Italy
October 18th, 2021

Madam Chair,

My delegation is taking the floor today under the present agenda item to reiterate

At the same time, our delegation would like to refer to the statement we

on affected and that the subject of the protection of persons in the event of disasters is of major importance in the relations of States (preambular paragraphs 3 and 5 of resolution 73/209). On the eve of the COP 26, which will meet in Glasgow in two weeks time, those statements must be read in the context of the present grave dimate crisis and its dire consequences on societies. The latest report of the World Meteorological Organization on weather-related disasters published on 31 August this year has highlighted the vulnerability of populations and economies to dimate change-related increasing disastrous events, including floods related to the phenomenon of sealevel rise. According to

systems of early warning and low

## Madam Chair,

This leads us to our second point today. Elaborating a convention on the international cooperation on the protection of persons in the event of disasters would fill an important gap in international law. It would not be a mere exercise in progressive development detached from State practice and existing international law and without any added value in terms of certainty, predictability and preparedness as compared to soft law arrangements. On the contrary. The current state of the international law on disaster risk reduction and response show612 792 reW\*nB/ F5 20.275

some multilateral agreements dealing with certain specific issues, such as the 1998 Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations. What is missing is a universal legal framework, which should play a subsidiary and practical function when regional and bilateral treaties and specialized instruments are not in place with regard to a specific disaster and which should inspire future bilateral, regional and sectorial agreements, leading to a convergence of legal solutions and arrangements.

## In condusion Madam Chair,

Italy supports progress towards the elaboration of a universal convention on the protection of persons in the event of disaster. At the same time, we are cognizant of different views expressed in this Committee in this regard. Precisely because of the diversity of views, my delegation believes that a more focused and in-depth discussion is

needed in order to identify common grounds and make a collective decision on whether to proceed and how to proceed, avoiding the ritual of roll-over decisions. With regard to this resolution, my delegation, together with other delegations from different regional groups, will present to the coordinator a proposal in the interest of substantive engagement on the recommendation of the International Law Commission. We count on all delegations showing concrete commitment in strengthening the relationship between the International Law Commission and the Sixth Committee, including on