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Agenda item 87: Protection of persons in the event of disasters**

Statement by: Delegation of Micronesia

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Chair,

As this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor in this Committee this session, I extend to you and the rest of the Bureau our congratulations on your election and assure you of my delegation's full support for the discharge of your work. Micronesia also aligns with the statement delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of AOSIS in this agenda item.

Chair,

Micronesia welcomes this Committee's engagement on the topic of protection of persons in the event of disasters. The International Law Commission's 2016 draft articles on this issue are a significant contribution in this regard. In response to the recommendation of the Commission, and in light of strong support expressed by delegations in the General Assembly last session, Micronesia supports the commencement of negotiations to elaborate a convention based on the Commission's draft articles. Such a convention must recognize that disasters include adverse impacts of climate change and other related phenomena, such as sea-level rise and ocean acidification, which threaten the livelihoods of our people and could force their displacement.

Vulnerable populations currently at the frontlines of severe climate change-induced disasters cannot afford any more delays in ambitious global responses to such disasters. The World Meteorological Organization and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction recently [announced](#) that climate and weather-related disasters surged five-fold in the last 50 years, causing over two million deaths and \$3.64 trillion in economic losses. More than 91% of these deaths occurred in developing countries. While the report predicted an increase in the severity of climate change-induced disasters, the report found a glimmer of hope. Early warning systems and proper disaster management from 1970 to 2019 decreased the mortality rate threefold. The UN Special Representative and head of the Office for Disaster Risk Reduction acknowledged that "more

lives are being saved thanks to early