Word Count: 652

<u>Draft Statement by Pakistan on the Sixth Committee Debate</u> <u>RQ WKH \$JHQGD , WHP 33URWHFWLRQ RI</u> 3HUVRQ <u>GLVDV</u>WHUV´

4 October 2023

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan appreciates the ongoing discussion regarding the draft articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters. These articles, adopted by the International Law Commission during its sixty - eighth session, reflect a significant step towards global disaster

essential to acknowledge that without global cooperation, it will be challenging to adequately protect any nation or its persons from the potential disasters and calamities associated with climate change.

3. Given the escalating frequency of natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, and biological threats like the COVID-19 pandemic, the draft articles from the International Law Commission (ILC) offer valuable guidance for Member States. However, my delegation believes that these Draft Articles should draw inspiration from already existing international humanitarian law instruments, including the United Nations Guiding Principles on Humanitarian Assistance. By

integrating these principles, the Draft Articles can provide a comprehensive and robust framework for addressing disaster risk and ensuring effective humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

- 4. Pakistan continues to face the daunting task of executing a comprehensive
- devastating floods that impacted 30 Million people. Despite financial challenges; the Government of Pakistan has demonstrated outstanding resolve and showcased its commitment for the protection and need of its people during and in the aftermath of the floods.
- 5. Pakistan stands fully committed to replicate the successful framework and meet the Sendai framework thresholds. Well planned measures in Disaster Risk Reduction take a transformative approach by Pakistan in mitigating the risk and disaster management, building due resistance for the potential disaster management and addressing all disasters and climate related emergencies

Mr. Chairman,

6. With regards to the draft ILC Articles, my delegation would like to share the following observations,

First, In the preliminary part, both natural and human-made disasters are explicitly mentioned. However, any forthcoming Convention based on these Articles should maintain a distinct separation between natural and man-made disasters. This distinction is crucial as different type of disasters are regulated by different legal rules.

Second, Disasters tend to magnify the vulnerability of already disadvantaged groups and countries, such as the economically

Mr. Chairman,

7. In conclusion, given the differing perspectives on several Articles, my delegation believes that it is vital to further study the draft Articles to comprehend how the draft articles' provisions would intersect with existing legal frameworks. We deem it necessary to further refine the draft articles' text, considering the interests of the concerned countries, before contemplating the formulation of a Convention based on these draft articles. We, therefore, look forward to the continued discussions on these Articles in the framework of a working group.

I thank you