

Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly
Agenda Item 86: Protection of Persons in the Event of D 2 TmITQ.00000912 0 612 iN

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and its 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, I congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee.

We are here today - and meeting in the Working Group on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (PPED) next week - because of the rising frequency and intensity of disasters and, therefore, rising humanitarian needs. Last year alone, 399 disasters impacted over 93 million people. From breaking wildfires in South America to unprecedented heat waves in sub-Saharan Africa to a devastating hurricane and subsequent flooding in the southern United States, disasters are taking lives, destroying communities, disrupting food systems, impacting economies, and uprooting livelihoods.

As the IFRC and its 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, we have been working with States at the domestic and regional level on disaster risk governance, including the development and revision of disaster laws, for over 20 years. On this topic, hard and soft law exist, including the IFRC's International Disaster Response Law Guidelines. Unfortunately, however, the legal landscape for international disaster law remains piecemealed. Dozens of bilateral, regional, and sectoral agreements are in place, but they are insufficient to fill common international gaps and legal challenges.

Given these critical gaps

