

## **Working Group Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (Cluster 2)**

Thank you Mr Chair,

With regard to Cluster 2, the European Union and its Member States would like to make the following initial observations.

- The respect and protection of human rights is one of the founding principles of the European Union. We therefore consider it important that it be acknowledged that the human rights of persons affected by disasters must be respected and protected fully.
- The European Union and its Member States support strongly an acknowledgement of the application of the **humanitarian principles** that should be promoted and fully respected also in the context of disaster relief. The EU is firmly committed to upholding and promoting humanitarian principles, enshrined in international law and in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, as well as respecting these principles in EU action, including in responses to disasters outside the European Union.<sup>1</sup>

## the needs of the particularly

### vulnerable

ended nature. Next to the Sendai Framework 2015-2030 on disaster risk reduction as well as its Mid-term Review Political Declaration, the EU policy focuses on the needs of those in the most vulnerable situations and has a gender dimension.<sup>2</sup>

- Turning, lastly, to **Article 9**, as already mentioned in the context of Cluster 1, we are supportive of explicit references to risk reduction in the draft articles. The duty to reduce the risk of disasters introduced in paragraph 1 is not new in State practice. The commentary contains a very long list of State practice as well as that of the European Union showing their commitment to reducing the risk of disasters.

### legislation and regulations

either with

the Sendai Framework encouraging the adoption or amendment of legislation on risk reduction. Also, most recently the Mid-term Review Political Declaration of the Sendai Framework called on entities of the United Nations system to enhance technical support for among others legislation and regulations, when requested. What is more, Resolution 78/120 International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development ,

to implement effectively, necessary legislative and other appropriate measures to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and and integrate disaster risk reduction strategies into development planning, as well as to incorporate a gender perspective into policies, planning and funding . Lastly, it would be an omission on our side, not to mention that risk reduction actions are in line with and assist in delivering on the climate adaptation commitments taken under the Paris Agreement.

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<sup>2</sup> See among others European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, OJ C 25/1, 30.1.2008, paras 23, 24 and 76.

That concludes our observations on cluster 2.

Thank you.