

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

**Statement by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**Before the Sixth Committee of Seventy-ninth Session of General Assembly**  
**Working Group on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters**  
**Cluster II: draft articles 4,5,6 and 9**  
**October 2024-New York**

**Mr. Chair.**

The draft articles has envisioned in its purview “the protection of persons in the event of disasters” and has derived inferences from and made references to various instruments whose main subject is related to technical areas of cooperation among states in preventing or responding to calamitous situations. Also, as the commission has expressed “the main emphasis of the draft articles is on the response to disasters”. In fact,

effectively addressed.

That is the reason that the draft articles has explicated rights and prerogatives of affected states and delineated the ways that assisting states could aid in responding to the needs of persons in the event of disaster. Draft articles, hence, is or at least should be a framework on practical cooperation at the international level. It is not however considered a human right instrument *stricto sensu*. That being said, on draft articles 4 and 5, we are not convinced if it is in line with the purpose and substance of the draft articles to address human rights.

The commission as reflected in the commentary “was aware of the debate in the humanitarian assistance community on whether a “rights-based” approach as opposed to  
This fact eventually pinpoints differences of views which in the absence of sufficient and uniform practices puts the inclusion thereof in question. In addition, human rights have been

and could more importantly lead to fragmentation of international law if the present draft articles entangle the distinctive area of human rights with the discussion on responding to disasters. Imposing parallel obligations is not a prudent approach in this area.

Having said so, while we concur with the commission that the right to life and certain rights related to health and wellbeing of people

this area is no exception to these cardinal principles. It is vital that in addition to the preamble, the draft articles include a standalone paragraph in protection of sovereignty of states. The following paragraph could be considered for this purpose:

Preamble: “Reaffirming the obligation to respect the fundamental principles of sovereign equality, non-intervention and respect for territorial integrity of states and that nothing in the present draft articles could in any manner prejudice these fundamental principles.”

Draft article 3bis: “All measures taken under the present draft articles shall be in compliance with the fundamental principles of sovereign equality, non-intervention and respect for territorial integrity of states”

**Mr. Chair.**

Draft article 9 could be more understood and addressed in conjunction with cluster 3. However, we seize this opportunity to reflect on this topic presently. Draft article 9 concerns the reduction of risk of disaster. It requires states to take appropriate \*nBTfm-12(94)1(47)er. It r

