

**69TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,**

**SIXTH COMMITTEE,**

**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS ON AGENDA ITEM 78:**

**Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-sixth session**

31 October 2014

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Cyprus would like to take this opportunity to commend the International Law Commission for their work on the report.

Cyprus, in aligning itself with the statements delivered by the European Union, would like, in its national capacity, to further address the topics of *jus cogens*, and chapter V of the Report on protection of persons in the event of disaster.

**Chapter V: Protection of persons in the event of disaster**

With regard to Chapter V on Protection of persons in the event of disaster, Cyprus would like to commend the Commission, and the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, for their significant work leading up to the adoption on first reading of the draft articles and commentaries, in August 2014.

Cyprus is firmly committed to providing disaster relief and supporting regional and international collaboration in this regard, and has in recent years placed significant and continuous emphasis in raising its preparedness to respond, as well as to facilitate international cooperation as regards responding, to such crisis situations.

My Government is currently studying the draft articles and commentary, and looks forward to providing any written comments by the deadline set by the Commission.

**Jus cogens**

On the topic of *jus cogens*, the Republic of Cyprus welcomes the initial work undertaken by Rapporteur Mr. Dire Tladi.

Cyprus agrees with the prospect of undertaking further work in promoting greater clarity on *jus cogens*, as an item which was first introduced as a possible topic for the ILC in 1993 by former member of the Commission and former Ambassador of Cyprus to the United Nations, Andreas Jacovides. We believe that establishing standards for determining the legal content of *jus cogens* or the process by which legal norms may rise to this status to be an important undertaking for the Commission.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.