

Statement by

Mr. Sattar Ahmadi

the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

before the sixth committee

on the agenda item 90

**Protection of persons in the event of disasters”,**

New York, 1 November, 2018

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

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset let me begin with emphasizing that the protection of persons in the event of disasters, is nothing to do with the concept of responsibility to protect and any kind of linkage in this regards would not be appropriate. with this in mind, I would like to make some observations as following:

**First,** affected state has the exclusive right for recognition of the threshold of disaster. As such, it is the right of affected state to affirm that a disaster disrupted the functioning of the society. In other words, we consider that it is more appropriate to leave it to the affected State to determine its own capacities of reaction in the face of disasters and to decide whether it is in a position to implement the necessary means to confront them; and to announce termination of disaster as such;

**Second,** humanitarian assistance in principle should be provided merely based on an appeal by the affected state. Furthermore, principles governing humanitarian assistance must be observed in parallel with the principles of respect for sovereign

equality and territorial integrity of affected states as well as the principle of non-interference in internal affairs of states;

**Third**, on draft Article 13 (2) which states “consent to external assistance by the State victim to the disaster shall not be withheld arbitrarily”. we still believe that such a stipulation depends on an evidently subjective criterion, i.e. the free choice of humanitarian actors. Such a determination risks being influenced by political factors.

**Fourth**, international cooperation can play a crucial role in managing disasters. We believe that the core element in duty to cooperate must be limited to cooperation between states and not between states and international organizations.

**Fifth**, we believe that some of the provisions contain in the draft Articles, do not correspond with the state practice in this area and we still remain uncertain whether the time is ripe for convening a diplomatic conference and adopting the provisions in the form of a treaty.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.**