

Mr. Chairperson,

The Government of Israel appreciates the remarkable work of the International Law Commission and is thankful to the Secretary General for taking the important topic of **"Protection of Persons in the Event of Disaster" into consideration**. Israel steadfastly supports the efforts of the General Assembly to enhance protection afforded to people affected by disasters. The State of Israel is committed to providing disaster relief and supporting humanitarian efforts in international cooperation and collaboration efforts. Israeli teams have been at the forefront of countless disaster relief missions around the world, as they were in Mexico in 2017, when Israel sent a delegation of 70 soldiers following the powerful earthquake that struck there. Israeli rescue missions helped in assessing damages and providing rescue in the zones of destruction. In 2018, the State of Israel sent a delegation of eight medical specialists to the area of the Fuego volcano that erupted in Guatemala and caused several casualties, providing immediate treatment to injured persons in the hospitals and in the affected sites.

As previously noted, Israel is firmly committed to improving protection for persons affected by all phases of disasters. However, Israel would like to reiterate its view that the undertaking to engage in a protection mission should not be considered in terms of legal rights and duties. Instead, the articles should remain as guidelines or guiding principles for international cooperation efforts undertaken on a voluntary basis.