



SIXTH COMMITTEE

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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Statement by

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Protection of persons in the event of disasters

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Mr. Chairperson,

The Government of Israel appreciates the important 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 disasters**" into consideration. Israel steadfastly supports the efforts of the General Assembly to enhance protection afforded to people affected by disasters.

Mr. Chairperson,

The State of Israel is committed to providing disaster relief and supporting internationally-coordinated humanitarian efforts. Israeli teams have been at the forefront of countless disaster relief missions around the world, as they were in Brazil in 2019, when Israel sent a delegation of 130 soldiers following the Brumadinho dam disaster. Israeli rescue missions assisted in locating and rescuing missing people in the disaster zones. Just recently, this past summer, the Government of Israel sent a firefighting task force to the United States of America to help combat the devastating wildfires, which have ravaged California and have caused several casualties. The task force included paramedics and expert firefighters, who actively assisted their U.S. colleagues in search and rescue missions and provided the injured and wounded with immediate treatment.

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 solely on a voluntary basis.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.