

The Permanent Missions of
Colombia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan and Nigeria

are pleased to invite you to the

WEBINAR

Building on the ILC Draft Articles
on the Protection of Persons in
the Event of Disasters towards a
universal legally-binding
instrument

Thursday, September 9th, 2021

1:15 – 2:45 pm (EST)

RSVP

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Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York



PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Background:

On December 26, 2004, a 9.1 magnitude earthquake struck off the northern tip of Sumatra, Indonesia. Within hours, a series of large tsunami waves radiating from the epicenter reached countries as far away as South Africa, killing an estimated 227,898 people in 14 countries and causing enormous damage to infrastructure from East Africa to Thailand. While international assistance was generous, totaling more than \$14 billion, the tragedy's aftermath prompted considerable reflection about early warning systems, international assistance and national disaster management frameworks.

Inspired in large part by the reports and questions of affected governments, donors and humanitarian agencies, the ILC decided in 2007 to include the topic "Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters" in its program of work. In 2016, after the submission of eight reports by Special Rapporteur Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, and two rounds of comments by Member States and international organizations, the ILC adopted the final text of the 18 draft articles and forwarded them to the General Assembly with the recommendation that a convention be elaborated on the basis of the draft articles. The recommendation continues to be timely as disasters in recent years have become more recurrent and impactful as a consequence of climate change and the increase in vulnerability and exposure to disaster risk faced by communities all over the world, thus further confirming the need for a stable legal framework intended to enhance international cooperation on disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response.

The Sixth Committee will continue its consideration of the ILC's recommendation during its 76th session, in October 2021.

Benefitting from the presence and contribution of the Special Rapporteur, Mr Valencia-Ospina, and other leading experts in the field, the virtual event will seek to stimulate discussion among Member States, including on the following crucial issues and questions:

- **the desirability and practical advantages of regulating international cooperation in the field on the basis of a legally binding instrument;**
- **whether the ILC's Articles provide a solid basis upon which to elaborate a convention, especially with regard to the delicate balance between the need for international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the event of disaster and State sovereignty;**
- **the extent to which risk management should be included in a future convention, including on the basis of what is provided under the Draft Articles;**
- **the relationship between a future convention on PPED and international humanitarian law.**

It is the hope and expectation of the Permanent Missions of Colombia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan and Nigeria that a focused discussion on the Draft Articles and on the ILC's recommendation before the start of the Sixth Committee will facilitate the adoption by the GA of incremental steps towards the negotiation of a new universal instrument in the field.

Moderated by:

·**Prof. Giulio Bartolini, University of Roma 3, Editor-in-chief of the 'Yearbook of International Disaster Law'**

Panellists:

- Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, Member of the ILC, Former Special Rapporteur on protection of persons in the event of disaster**
- Ms. Isabelle Granger, Legislative Advocacy Coordinator, International Federation of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies**
- Dr. Marie Aronsson-Storrier, University of Reading**
- Mr Arnold Pronto, Principal Legal Officer, Codification Division, UN Office of Legal Affairs**



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