

**STATEMENT BY KENYA
AT THE
76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
under
Agenda Item 87:
“PROTECTION OF PERSONS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTERS”.**

**Delivered by James Kihwaga
Representative of Kenya in the Sixth Committee**

Madam Chairperson,

Thank you for the floor.

My delegation aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. We wish to make the following additional remarks in a national capacity.

The elaboration of a framework of principles and norms on this topic represents an important step in guiding international responses to disasters. The present draft articles and their evolution will constitute a good attempt. The anticipated contribution of the project will help not only to lay a practical framework of guidelines governing the protection of persons in the event of disasters, but also to clarify the scope of responsibility for the various actors. We therefore intend to pay close attention to the topic, given the growing frequency and magnitude of devastating events around the globe.

We would be interested to see a seamless interaction and affirmation of the rules already recognized and agreed under other branches of international law__such as human rights law and international humanitarian law. Such harmony and seamless inclusion of these norms may help to avoid potential overlaps and conflict in the overall normative framework. We look forward to see that this is the case in the remaining stages of this process. In this vein, we hope that the final outcome of the

Commission's work would serve to strengthen and clarify __rather than to contradict and weaken__ these already existing normative frameworks.

An important aspect of this work will also serve to establish the delicate balance between the rights and obligations of the competing stakeholders __such as those of the affected State as well as the roles of the States and international organizations providing humanitarian assistance.

Lastly, we anticipate to see the Commission bring on board relevant good practices and norms already developed by State under regional arrangements. We recognize that in this regard, some regional instruments and practices that have been developed by Asian and African States in their respective regions may be relevant.

I thank you.