



**THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM  
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement**

**by the Delegation of Viet Nam at the Sixth Committee  
of the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

***Agenda item 89: “Protection of persons in the event of disasters”***

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*Madam Chair,*

Viet Nam shares the deep concern of other Member States over the increasing frequency and immense impacts of natural and human-made disasters.

We believe that international cooperation and assistance play a crucial role in helping communities that lack the capacity to respond effectively to disasters – and - address their long-term impacts.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown a clear case for the protection of persons in the event of public health emergencies as well as natural disasters.

It has further challenged all countries to ensure resources and capacity for the protection of persons.

In that context, this topic takes on even greater importance and relevance.

*Madam Chair,*

My Delegation reiterates our appreciation for the International Law Commission for its efforts and the priority given to the elaboration of a legal framework on the protection of persons in the event of disasters.

The draft articles constitute an important contribution in the field of international law governing disaster relief.

They should serve as a guide for States and other actors engaged in disaster relief in promptly responding to the fast-evolving circumstances of emergencies.

They should not in any ways create more procedures and protocols that might complicate the process.

Neither should they be abused or politicized - and thus delay much needed relief efforts.

*Madam Chair,*

We acknowledge the fundamental values of international solidarity and the need to strengthen international cooperation in disaster relief.

At the same time, the primary responsibility of States to provide disaster relief and protect their people should be fully upheld.

The purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including national sovereignty, self-determination and non-interference in domestic affairs, must be respected.

With that in mind, we welcome deeper assessment of the compatibility of the draft articles with domestic laws.

We also support to further discussion in order to achieve consensus on the way forward.

*I thank you./*