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PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

SIXTH COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM 87
PROTECTION OF PERSONS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTERS

76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 18 OCTOBER 2021

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation is greatly concerned by many calamities that the world has faced in recent years. While the world is still suffering from the Covid-19 pandemic, the occurrence of natural disasters in relation to climate changes such as floods, storms, wildfires, heat wave, among others, further poses challenges for us. This has impacted the global economy and caused great loss of lives and properties. In this context, Cambodia considers disaster management and protection of persons in the event of disasters to be of high importance.

As a country vulnerable to natural disasters, Cambodia has been working considerably to prevent, reduce, and respond to the risk of disasters, giving great attention to the protection of people during and post-disaster period. We established a National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) in 1995 to lead the country's capacity building for prevention, preparedness and response, passed the Law on Disaster Management in 2015, and have in place the Strategic National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction which has been updated.

Cambodia is also fully committed to regional and international cooperation in disaster response. We are a party to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), which is a fundamental regional cooperation mechanism in disaster risk management, and endorsed the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 to which the Sendai Framework is the successor instrument.

We firmly believe that strengthening regional and international cooperation and partnership will add a value to the efforts of the affected States to timely and effectively address disaster risk through the provision of disaster relief assistance and enhancement of capacity building through the conduct of training for professional staff, exchanges of more in-depth information, experiences, best practices and technical skills as well as establishing knowledge-sharing programs among States.

In closing, my delegation shares the view that the draft articles would contribute to progressive development of international law governing disaster response. In this connection, we appreciate the work done by the International Law Commission, and look forward to further discussion on the recommendation to elaborate a convention on the basis of the draft articles.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.