

*Permanent Observer Mission  
of the State of Palestine  
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة  
لدولة فلسطين  
لدى الأمم المتحدة

5 October 2023

**Statement by Loureen Sayej, Third Secretary, before the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly Meeting of the Sixth Committee on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (Agenda Item 87)**

Mr. Chair,

For all the topics that we discuss in the Sixth Committee, the human suffering borne out of disasters, natural and human made, should define the contours of our deliberations.

While science tells us that our planet is changing in ways that will have profound impacts on humanity, our lived reality confirms that the costs of such impact is measured in the lost lives and livelihoods, destroyed homes and disappearing shores, recurrent earthquakes and widespread fires.

For disasters in armed conflicts, the risk is higher and is increasing, requiring innovative solutions and greater collaborations.

For the State of Palestine, the protection of persons in the event of disasters is particularly important. Millions of Palestinians, whether living under Israel's half a century occupation, which has no regards for human life or the sanctity thereof, or those in exile in refugee camps denied their right to return, are recipients of aid and assistance. Appreciative of this international support and guided by the vision of "solidarity through development for a more resilient world", the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency, promotes the rights and dignities of the affected peoples and addresses their need for assistance all while strengthening the South-South and Triangular Cooperation mechanism.

Mr. Chair,

Year after year, a tragedy after a tragedy, international response to disasters continues to encounter a set of common challenges and gaps requiring a strategic response.

No nation can meet the challenges alone; and no one should stand on the sidelines.

As such, the State of Palestine is grateful for the work of the ILC in advancing collective solidarity, human dignity, legal rights and duties of affected States, participating actors, and victims. The State of Palestine welcomes the draft articles and reiterates that the ILC is uniquely and authoritatively placed as the universal body tasked with analyzing international law; its direct institutional relations with the Sixth Committee must be protected and advanced.

The State of Palestine sees merit in consolidating the legal framework governing the protection of persons in the events of disasters without prejudice to existing laws, including IHL and the rights of relief towards humanitarian organizations during armed conflict.

Applied in parallel, we see a merit in pursuing the recommendation by the ILC to have a convention embedded in the principles of sovereign independence, neutrality, impartiality, humanity, and non-discrimination . We look forward to exchanging views with other States and contributing to reaching a fruitful outcome in the deliberations of the Working Group.