

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



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة  
لدولة فلسطين  
لدى الأمم المتحدة

6 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)- Cluster 2: WG on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters – Core Obligations (4,5,6, and 9)**

In regards to Article 4, we are supportive of the comprehensive legal approach to international disasters centering around the protection of inherent dignity, human rights, and general principles.

We support the inclusion of ‘human dignity’ as an autonomous provision as a recognition that it is the core and guiding principle informing and underpinning IHRL and applicable laws, including human rights treaties. Likewise, it is recognized in IHL, including common article 3 among others. We also support the “respect and protect” formulation, as it entails an extra layer of protection against activities threatening a violation of the principle, and hope it will be used in future work and conventions.

On Article 5, we recognize that the general reference to “human rights” encompasses human rights obligations expressed in relevant international agreements and those in customary international law. We take particular note of the commentary’s mention of the “right to life” and “right to receive humanitarian assistance.” Very pleased that the first reading formula of “respect for” has been expanded to “respect for and protection of” human rights. DEROGABLE/human rights treaty bodies and ICJ.

In regards to 6, we welcome the commentary’s affirmation that the principles of “of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, and on the basis of non-discrimination” do not apply to the exclusion of other relevant principles of international law. Also welcome the commentary’s recognition that the principle of humanity is rooted in IHL, particularly Geneva Conventions. The inclusion of principles of neutrality and non-discrimination and the commentary’s affirmation that assistance should be independent and not politicized is necessary. We also particularly welcome the Drafting Committee’s determination that non-discrimination should be referred to as an autonomous principle. While still studying the inclusion of the term vulnerable, we welcome the Committee’s explanation that the term is neutral as opposed to persons or groups. We highlight that entire vulnerable groups are affected by disasters and its only right that they are covered by the draft articles as such.