

*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 3: WG on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters – International Cooperation (7, 8, 12)**

Article 7, we are of the view that cooperation is a duty and is a central pillar of the Draft Articles, to ensure an effective and timely response to disasters. This duty is also rooted in IHRL which is only fitting to the human rights approach of the ILC.

This duty applies not only among States but also toward other humanitarian actors (INGOS and NGOS). We welcome the singling out of UN and Red Cross which basically recognizes their important role in facilitating protection of persons in situation of disasters. We would suggest adding “United nations and its relevant agencies”. As the commentary explains, the United Nations is rightly singled out for special mention given the central role it plays in receiving requests for assistance.

We also are in the view of adding “solidarity” in this draft article.

As for Article 8, we agree with the ILC that the listing of “humanitarian assistance, coordination of international relief actions and communications, and making available relief personnel, relief equipment and goods, and scientific, medical and technical resources” is a useful starting point and appreciate the ILC’s confirmation that this list is not exhaustive but is illustrative.

As for Article 12, we note the commentary affirmation that the draft article it is an expression of the principles of solidarity and cooperation, highlighted in the preamble, and again stress its inclusion throughout the text. We closely take note of the commentary’s explanation of the important role of humanitarian NGOs in providing assistance in response to disasters, particularly in armed conflict, as enshrined in Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols.