



United Nations General Assembly | Sixth Committee

**Protection of persons in the event of disasters
CLUSTER V
(Agenda item 86)**

October 9th, 2023

(check against delivery)

Mr. Chair,

Cluster 5 consists of proposed language for a possible future convention on the protection of persons in the event of disasters. In the Brazilian perspective, it does not aim at codifying existing customary international law, and may apply only between States parties to a future legally-binding instrument.

If our purpose is to have a widely accepted framework convention, further discussions might be necessary on whether a binding or a best-efforts language would better suit article 15.

The implementation of this article in its present form may require amendments to national legislation regarding visa and entry requirements, work permits, customs duties and customs

clearance. The recognition of privileges and immunities to relief personnel could also depend on international agreements.

Brazil takes note that article 16 proposes an obligation of conduct to endeavour to ensure the protection of relief personnel once the affected States has requested assistance in the event of disasters.

The right to terminate external assistance at any time, as reflected in Article 17, is compatible with the right of the affected State to request foreign assistance and consequently its right to withdraw consent.

In light of the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, when assisting States, the United Nations and other assisting actors decide to terminate their assistance, they should take into consideration the rights and needs of persons affected by disasters.

Finally, Brazil expresses its appreciation for the constructive debates we held on the substance of the draft articles in this working group. Let me commend you, Mr. Chair, for your able stewardship in guiding us in this important debate in all five clusters of the draft articles.

I thank you.