

THINK RESILIENCE DIALOGUE VIII

Disaster Risk Reduction Elements in the Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters

Thursday, 12 September 2024 at 1:15-2:45pm

Office of Legal Affairs Conference Room (DC-2, 2 UN Plaza - 323 E 44th Street, 4th Floor)

Background

Conceived in the wake of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the International Law Commission's (ILC) [Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters](#) (PPED) are a response to the increasing frequency and severity of disasters and their damaging impacts. The Draft Articles aim to fill gaps in international law concerning disaster risk reduction (DRR) and response, establish clearer legal obligations and enhance international cooperation and assistance in responding to disasters in support of affected States, while recognizing the centrality of humanitarian principles, the sovereignty of States and the primary role of the affected State.

After meeting for the first time in 2023, the [Sixth Committee's Working Group on PPED](#) will meet again on 4-9 October 2024 to consider further the recommendation of the ILC for the elaboration of a convention based on the Draft Articles, or any other potential course of action. After the meeting, the Working Group will report to the Sixth Committee on the outcome of its deliberations. The Committee is then expected to make a recommendation to the General Assembly as to any further action to take in respect of the Draft Articles.

In line with the findings contained in the the Sixth Report of the ILC Special Rapporteur on PPED, Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina (A/CN.4/662), the proposal put forward by the International Law Commission includes language on DRR under two Draft Articles:

Article 2

Purpose

The purpose of the present draft articles is to facilitate the adequate and effective response to disasters, and reduction of the risk of disasters, so as to meet the essential needs of the persons concerned, with full respect for their rights.

Article 9

Reduction of the risk of disasters

1. Each State shall reduce the risk of disasters by taking appropriate measures, including through legislation and regulations, to prevent, mitigate, and prepare for disasters.
2. Disaster risk reduction measures include the conduct of risk assessments, the collection and dissemination of risk and past loss information, and the installation and operation of early warning systems.

Objective

The goal of this Think Resilience Dialogue is to provide delegates from both the Second Committee and the Sixth Committee an opportunity to explore the disaster risk reduction elements of the Draft Articles on PPED more thoroughly, including their potential role in enhancing resilience. Delegates will have the opportunity to hear from countries that have implemented comprehensive disaster risk reduction legislation and regulations, as well as to discuss how a

potential new Convention might align with and support the objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Guiding Questions

- What approaches have countries taken to implemented legislation and regulations to prevent, mitigate and prepare for disasters?
- What is the relation between the Sendai Framework and a possible future Convention on PPED, and what would be the differences between these two instruments?
- Why has the International Law Commission included disaster risk reduction into the Draft Articles on PPED, and what would be the expected effects?

Key Resources

- **A/RES/69/283**: Sendai Framework, paras. 5 and 6
- **A/77/640**: Main findings and recommendations of the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, paras. 29, 20, 84 and 114
- **A/RES/77/289**: Political Declaration of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, paras. 26c and 26d
- **A/CN.4/662**: Sixth report of the Special Rapporteur (Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina), focusing on DRR

The Think Resilience Dialogue Series

The Think Resilience Dialogues – co-hosted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Group of Friends for Disaster Risk Reduction – provide a space for Member States, as well as the United Nations system, invited experts and stakeholder groups, to informally discuss issues central to risk-informed decision-making with a view to mainstreaming a risk-informed approach across various intergovernmental fora.

Draft Programme

1:15pm	Introductory remarks
1:30pm	Presentations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ms. Jeanett Vea, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Tonga to the UN▪ [Germany] TBC▪ Ms. Liliana Lopez, Regional Head for Humanitarian Diplomacy, Americas Region, IFRC▪ Ms. Kirsten Bookmiller, Professor of Government, Policy, and Law, Millersville University
2:00pm	Open discussion, moderated by H.E. Mr. Andreas Løvold , Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations
2:45pm	Closing remarks

Contact

For further information, you may contact Ms. Martina Müller (mullerm@un.org) at the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.