



Building Convergence in the Path towards a Convention on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters: An Experts' Assessment

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The Permanent Missions of The Bahamas, Colombia, Croatia, Italy, Jamaica and Thailand and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), in cooperation with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and the Yearbook of International Disaster Law, are pleased to invite you to the on-line webinar 'Building Convergence in the Path towards a Convention on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters: An Experts' Assessment'.

Pursuant to United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) [Resolution 76/119](#), a working group of the Sixth Committee was convened for four full consecutive days at the 78th session of the UNGA and is going to meet again at the 79th session UNGA in order to make a recommendation to the UNGA as to further action to be taken in respect of the Draft Articles. The webinar is thus tailored to involve legal experts and representatives of Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York in order to pave the way for discussions to be held at next session of the working group.

The Expert Meeting will convene legal experts from academia and humanitarian organizations for a timely discussion on the Draft Articles and on the prospects of a future convention. In particular, the panel of experts will discuss and systematize comments made by States and other actors on the substance of the Draft Articles, with a particular emphasis on comments presented at the first session of the working group of the Sixth Committee in 2023.

A Question and Answer session will follow, providing an opportunity for delegates to interact with legal experts. The webinar will also include a statement by Dr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, Special Rapporteur on the 'Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters'. Brief opening and closing remarks will also be delivered by representatives of the organizers.

Key Event Information

Date: 9 September 2024
Time: 15:00-17:15 CET / 9:00 – 11:15 EDT
Venue: [JOIN WEBEX WEBINAR HERE](#)

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Agenda

15.00-15.15

Welcome Remarks

Ms. Isabelle Granger, IFRC Global Lead, Disaster Law and Auxiliary Role

Dr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, Special Rapporteur on the 'Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters', Former ILC Member

Mr. Felix Kirchmeier, Executive Director of the Geneva Human Rights Platform, Geneva Academy

15.15-16.45

Expert Panel on the Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters

Chair: Prof. Giulio Bartolini, Professor of International Law, Roma Tre University, Lecturer Geneva Academy, Editor-in-Chief Yearbook of International Disaster Law

Preamble, draft articles 1-3 and 9: opening provisions and the *ratione temporis* scope of the Draft Articles

Dr. Marie Aronsson-Storrier, Lecturer in Law, University College Cork of Ireland

Draft article 18: Relationship to other rules of international law

Prof. Gloria Gaggioli, University of Geneva

Draft articles 4-6: The human dimension of the Draft Articles

Prof. Walter Kälin, Professor Emeritus for International and (Swiss) Constitutional Law, Berne University

Draft articles 7-8, 10-13: The role of the affected State and assisting actors

Dr. Dug Cubie, Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice & Human Rights, University College Cork of Ireland

Draft articles 14-17: Operational provisions

Ms. Stella Ngugi, Disaster Law Coordinator for Africa, IFRC

16.45-17.05

Question and Answer Session

17.05-17.15

Closing Remarks

H.E. Amb. Stan Smith, Permanent Representative of The Bahamas to the United Nations