

**Statement by Sweden on behalf of the Nordic Countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland,
Norway and Sweden)**

at the

General Assembly

Seventy-ninth Session

Sixth Committee

Agenda item 86:

Protection of persons in the event of disasters

United Nations, New York

4 October 2024

Madame/Mr Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the five Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and my own country Sweden.

[As this is the first time I take the floor, allow me to congratulate you, and your newly elected Bureau for this 79th session of the UNGA. Rest assured of the Nordic countries' continued support as you seek to carry out your duties for this session.]

Madame/Mr Chair,

In recent years, we have witnessed an increase in the number and scale of natural disasters across the globe that have caused immense suffering and damage. This agenda remains a highly topical area of international law, and the draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters prepared by the International Law Commission constitute an important and timely contribution. We commend the ILC for its work.

The Nordic countries consider the draft articles to strike an adequate balance between the rights and obligations of the affected state and those of assisting actors. An important aspect is that the draft articles reflect the centrality of the principle of human dignity and recall the duty of States to respect, protect and fulfil human rights. They also underline that disaster response shall be undertaken in accordance with the humanitarian principles, including to assist persons most in need, especially those in the most vulnerable situations.

Madame/Mr Chair,

Since the ILC completed its work on the draft articles and the commentary, the Nordic countries have expressed openness to discuss the recommendation of the Commission to elaborate a convention based on the draft articles.

We listened carefully to the views expressed in the working group which was set up last year to examine the draft articles and to consider further the recommendation of the Commission for the elaboration of a convention, or any other potential course of action with respect to the draft articles. We have also taken into careful consideration the views expressed by humanitarian actors on the current situation and its effects on response in the event of disasters.

We are of the view that the draft articles provide a good starting point for a potential future convention, and we remain ready to further consider the recommendation of the ILC.

We look forward to the discussion over the next days and will continue to engage with a view to reach an agreement on the way forward.

Thank you Chair.