



**Statement on behalf of
the Republic of South Africa**

by

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**Permanent Mission of the Republic of South
Africa to the United Nations**

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Agenda item 86

**“Protection of Persons in the Event of
Disasters”**

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Chair,

South Africa is aligned with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the African Group.

Once again, our appreciation is extended to the International Law Commission for their work in preparing the draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters. We also wish to thank the Chair of the Working Group for the oral report which captured the discussions held last year.

My delegation is encouraged by the positive exchange of views that was held during the Working Group last year, which serves as an example that through conversation States can certainly be brought closer together.

We have benefitted from hearing the views of others, which has brought clarity to matters, and brought to light complexities that may have been overlooked. South Africa supports many of the comments that were made, which would further enhance the Convention.

In light of the above, South Africa supports further discussions on the draft articles at the Working Group this year.

Having said that, my delegation does wish to caution that we should not get caught in the trap of perpetual discussions about discussions, and we wish to emphasise that it is crucial that discussions move forward. We would like to see discussions progressing to the point of negotiation on the text of the draft articles.

Chair,

South Africa once again offers its support for the establishment of a Convention on the protection of persons in disasters. Whilst we appreciate that there are concerns that State practice is not fully settled, States should not shy away from playing a more proactive role in establishing a framework for cooperation amongst States, but also with non-state actors, that will mitigate the devastating effects of disasters.

I thank you.