



NEPAL

**Statement by Mr. Gayatri Bahadur Poudel, First Secretary,
Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations at 79th Session
of the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly under
Agenda Item No. 86: Protection of Persons in the Event of
Disasters**

(New York, 4 October 2024)

Madam Chair,

The world is plagued by intense and frequent disasters, both natural and human-induced disasters.

Devastating natural and climate-induced disasters and extreme weather events killed and displaced tens of thousands of people across the world.

Climate catastrophe has further exacerbated uncertainty and severity to natural disasters.

It has been reported that 83 percent of all disasters during the last decade were triggered by natural hazards, specifically climate related events such as heavy rainfall, floods, glacial lake outburst, heatwave etc.

Madam Chair,

Climate-induced disasters disproportionately affect the vulnerable countries, like Nepal exacerbating existing inequalities and making recovery more challenging.

Even after the end of this year's monsoon, a devastating flood and landslide ravaged in Nepal has claimed precious lives and significant loss of properties.

At least 226 people have been killed while 25 still missing and 159 injured.

A large number of roads, bridges and critical infrastructures have been severely damaged. Houses and other private properties have been swept away.

The government has started to assess the extent of damage and the cost of rebuilding.

During the monsoon as well, my country suffered from severe floods and landslides.

Tt least 62 people have lost their lives in flash floods and landslides.

This summer only, Nepal faced more than 5000 incidences of wildfires, compared to 32,645 over the last decade. This is mainly because of the lengthy drought and heat wave conditions, added by delayed and little rain due to the climate change.

The economic, social and environmental costs in the form of losses of human and domesticated animal lives, flora and fauna, disruption to the ecosystem and air pollution, among others, from wildfires, floods and landslides are colossal.

Our efforts and progress towards graduating from LDC category have been seriously impacted by these recurrent disasters.

Madam Chair,

We must place utmost priority to protect human lives in the events of disasters.

Efforts to mitigate climate change and improve disaster preparedness are crucial to reducing the impact of these events.

We must take action to reduce vulnerability and exposure to hazards in advance.

Adequate attention should be given to the humanitarian emergencies arising from natural and climate-induced disasters.

As we have expressed our commitment in the Pact for the Future, we strongly call for the accelerated implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative.

We would like to urge for enhanced financial assistance and technology transfer to support our preparedness and response.

We also call for significant support from climate funds to address the challenges emerging from the climate-induced disasters.

Even during difficult times, the overarching principle of sovereignty of affected state must be respected while providing assistance.

We also appreciate UNDRR for its continued support and contribution in accelerated implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through its Strategic Framework 2022-2025.

Madam Chair,

Nepal is committed to fulfilling its obligations to disaster risk reduction. We have intensified our efforts in achieving the targets of the Sendai Framework, through strengthening of the institutional and legislative mechanisms.

At the regional level we are equally committed to the implementation of SAARC Comprehensive Framework on Disaster Management.

To this end, we have introduced several domestic legal instruments and frameworks to ensure effective prevention, mitigation, and preparation for disasters.

We have constitutional provisions on concurrent responsibility of governments at all levels to manage the risk of disasters. Both federal and provincial governments are responsible for carrying out disaster preparedness, rescue, relief, and rehabilitation.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (2017) and its Regulations have been phenomenal in national disaster regime. It has incorporated a comprehensive approach to disaster cycle management – preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. The Act has provisions to promote proactive DRR towards resilience building.

Besides, we are also implementing the policy instruments such as the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy, National Disaster Response Framework, Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Action Plan, and Disaster Victim Rescue and Relief Criteria.

Nepal regularly issues early warnings of major hazards, especially floods and droughts.

We have created a dedicated data portal to provide real-time updates on disaster events and response measures.

We place high priority for the reconstruction of disaster-affected infrastructures.

Madam Chair,

Nepal acknowledges the instrumental contribution of the International Law Commission in producing draft articles on the 'Protection of persons in the event of disasters.

We believe it will provide a comprehensive legal framework for institutionalizing the existing practices and harmonizing the existing measures and protocols necessary to facilitate adequate and effective prevention, reduction and response to disaster risk and protection of persons.

We are of the view that the new convention should clearly define the rights and obligations of both affected and assisting states.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, Nepal urges Member States for their constructive contribution to the swift development of convention based on the ILC's draft articles.

Let us create a new milestone in international law that will govern the global response to disasters and ensure the protection of persons in the events of disasters.

I thank you.