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SLOVENIA

STATEMENT

BY

**Ms Nataša Šebenik, Minister Plenipotentiary, Legal Adviser at the Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations on**

Agenda item 86: Protection of persons in the event of disasters

**79th session of the General Assembly
Sixth Committee**

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Mr Chair,

[Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and wishes to make a few additional remarks in its national capacity.]

Slovenia welcomes the decision to include the topic of Protection of persons in the event of disasters on the agenda of the Sixth Committee. This topic is both timely and crucial, as extreme weather events and natural disasters are increasingly threatening lives, infrastructure, and economies worldwide.

Slovenia has experienced first-hand the devastating effects of natural disasters. While it is fortunate to have abundant water resources, Slovenia is also faced with the potential destructive power of these resources, as demonstrated by last year's catastrophic floods that hit our communities hard. These vulnerabilities emphasize the critical importance of both prevention and preparedness, and highlight the need for international cooperation in disaster risk management.

Slovenia believes that the balance between state sovereignty and international cooperation, as reflected in the Draft Articles, is essential. While states retain the sovereign right to manage their territory, the increasing frequency and intensity of disasters require a collective response.

The Draft Articles rightly focus on the protection of persons, and Slovenia encourages extending this framework to include the protection of the environment, property and cultural heritage, which are also at risk in disasters.

We welcome the focus on the needs of particularly vulnerable groups. Disasters often worsen existing inequalities, and it is important to give special attention to children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

The Draft Articles address both disaster response and risk reduction; but a stronger emphasis on precautionary measures and prevention could further strengthen this framework. Increased international collaboration on disaster risk reduction could help prevent future crises or reduce their negative impact. Slovenia would also like to

underline the importance of new technologies in monitoring and predicting negative consequences of natural disasters. In Slovenia, we have developed several tools that will enable us to respond more efficiently to future natural disasters. We are ready to share our expertise with other states and would suggest that the new instrument also include provisions on the exchange of information and technology related to the response to natural disasters.

Slovenia recognizes that disasters are a global challenge requiring a coordinated and comprehensive response. In this context, it recognizes the work of the International Law Commission on the Draft Articles for the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters and fully supports possible negotiations on a multilateral convention. A convention has the potential to be a tangible and valuable tool for states to prevent or reduce the impact of disasters. It would enable meaningful cooperation between states and strengthen solidarity, as no state can deal with disasters entirely on its own.

Thank you.