



Statement

by

Lebanon

At the sixth committee

Agenda Item 86:

“Protection of persons in the event of disasters”

New York, October 7, 2024

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***Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017***

Mr. Chair,

“The world cannot afford Lebanon to become another Gaza.”

These words from Secretary-General Guterres, echoed by many others, resonate as a plea to prevent yet another cycle of destruction, displacement, and endless human suffering.

As you see, as you know, Lebanon is now engulfed in a humanitarian catastrophe. Another relentless Israeli aggression has caused unimaginable devastation—lives lost, shattered, people displaced, whole places lying in ruins.

The death toll rises daily; the distress deepens by the hour.

A whole nation is under the bombs.

A whole nation is bleeding.

This human-made disaster is not just a tragedy of the present but a forewarning of long-term, devastating damage.

Out of the 1.2 million displaced, 400,000 are children, and the numbers keep growing.

The health sector is buckling under immense pressure, with facilities being damaged and health workers being killed.

Shelters have quickly reached maximum capacity.

These are just a few examples.

The demands today are enormous, and urgent mobilization is required to meet these growing demands.

In the midst of this aggression, multilateral cooperation is in motion with humanitarian actors, UN agencies, to deliver vital aid: shelters, food, medical supplies, and other essentials.

Multilateral cooperation is in action with a launch – on October 1st – by the UN and the Lebanese Government of a three-month, \$426 million flash appeal. My delegation is grateful to those who have already contributed, and I must take this opportunity to call for your support and solidarity in funding this appeal.

This is why, Mr. Chair, we turn to international law; we turn to multilateralism —concepts that seem abstract and dangerous to some, but that provide the framework, the guidance to alleviate massive human suffering and bring crucial relief on the ground.

In this regard, we recognize the contribution of the International Law Commission to help advance this objective.

We acknowledge the importance of the work completed by the ILC through its Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters, a topic of profound importance to all,

And as already expressed last year, we see merits here in strengthening the legal framework. My delegation has engaged in the working group discussions, discussions that have so far been meaningful and constructive.

We have emphasized core elements contained in the draft articles, such as adherence to humanitarian principles and the recognition of the inherent dignity of every person.

These principles should guide us and not be utterly disregarded.

Mr. Chair,

The neglect of human suffering is a stain—a stain that will remain.
The failure to act, within the rules of international law, is an indictment of our collective conscience