



**THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT

**by Mrs. Tran Thi Phuong Ha, Legal Adviser of Viet Nam Mission
at the Sixth Committee of the 79th Session of the General Assembly**

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

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Madam Chair,

As we are all aware, disasters, whether natural or man-made, have increasingly severe negative impacts, particularly in the context of climate change and rising sea level in recent years. Similar to many countries, Viet Nam has faced severe consequences from natural disasters due to its low-lying coastal geography. Most recently, Typhoon Yagi struck the nation, leading to nearly 400 people dead or missing and causing the destruction of over 200,000 homes, 1,500 schools, and essential infrastructure. The total estimated damage is around 3.3 billion USD.

Building on its experiences, Viet Nam has prioritized strengthening community resilience to disasters and enhancing the capacity and readiness of its population to face both natural and man-made disasters. Each State must be prepared to forecast disasters and manage their aftermath effectively. In this vein, we stress the importance of all nations allocating resources wisely and improving self-protection capabilities. For countries lacking the necessary capacity to respond to disasters and tackle subsequent challenges, international cooperation and assistance play a crucial role as support mechanisms.

Madam Chair,

While acknowledging the fundamental values of international solidarity and the need to strengthen international cooperation in disaster relief, we believe it is essential that such efforts are conducted in full compliance with the principles set out in the United Nations Charter, including respect for national sovereignty, right to self-determination, and non-interference in internal affairs of States. In this

regard, Viet Nam welcomes the advisory opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea regarding States' obligations in relation climate change. We also note that similar proceedings currently underway at the International Court of Justice at the request of the UN General Assembly.

Viet Nam greatly values the efforts of the International Law Commission in developing a legal framework to protect people during disasters. The draft Articles can serve as a practical guide for States and other relevant stakeholders involved in disaster relief, enabling them to respond effectively to emergencies. When disasters strike, it is crucial to mobilize global cooperative efforts to mitigate impacts and address humanitarian needs promptly. Therefore, in outlining responsibilities and procedure for protection of people in disaster, these draft Articles should not create un-necessary procedural burdens that could impede this process. We thus welcome further discussions on the draft articles and look forward to providing more detailed input during Working Group meetings.

I thank you./.