



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HAWANATU KEBE**

**Counsellor**

**To the  
Sixth Committee of the  
United Nations General Assembly**

**Working Group**

**New York,  
7th - 9th October 2024**

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**Thank you, Chair.**

My delegation wishes to make these comments on

**Cluster 4 – (draft articles 10, 11, 13 and 14)**

1. On article **10**, we have reservations about its practical application in those circumstances where disaster is human-made and caused by a third state, given that it imposes duties on the affected states without the reciprocal rights on those third states. Caution should be exercised in relation to how the rights of the affected states and the obligations of a third state can be applied so that the full sovereignty and territorial integrity of the affected state is protected.

2. On article **11**, the notion that it is a duty of the state to seek external assistance and not a discretion borne out of self-

interest may require further exchange of views. State sovereignty and territorial integrity should be a key component that underlines the application of the articles.

3. On article **13**, we welcome the draft article as written and we appreciate its purpose, which gives the autonomy and leadership to the affected State and makes calls to foster cooperation as opposed to an imposed obligation. We agree that the principle of state sovereignty and territorial integrity should underline all assistance efforts and disaster management. We support para. 2 as it creates the right balance between consent and independence of the affected state while due consideration is also given to ensure the requisite protection is provided as and when needed. We also support para. 3 and are open to further drafting formulation as has been proposed by some delegations.

4. On article **14**, we generally welcome the article and the authority it gives the affected state to coordinate the manner, form, and mode of assistance as and when needed, to ensure it is appropriate, effective, and fit for purpose for the affected states, with due consideration to the vulnerable communities. We also support the need for correlation between the applicable rules of international law and the national law of the affected state when implementing conditions and duties under this article. It reinforces the form of cooperation that is crucial for effective implementation.

**I thank you.**

