

**Working Group on the protection of persons in the event of disasters – debate on
ILC’s recommendation (9.10.2024)
Remarks of Greece
delivered by Alexandros Kolliopoulos**

Mr./Madam Chair,

As already stressed in Greece’s statement during the general debate on the issue of the protection of persons in the event of disasters, there is no universal instrument that would provide a general legal framework for cooperation in coping with disasters and their effects.

The conclusion of such an instrument would fill an important legal gap and, in our view, the International Law Commission’s draft articles provide an adequate basis for its elaboration. They constitute a solidly reasoned text and strike a fair balance between State sovereignty on the one hand and the imperatives of promoting international cooperation and protecting human rights of affected persons on the other hand. In this respect, allow us to recall that the draft articles confirm the primary role of the affected State in the provision of disaster relief while, at the same time, encouraging the provision of external assistance by third States, the United Nations or other assisting actors. It is also noteworthy that the draft articles have a broad scope of application *rationae temporis*, encompassing not only immediate response to disasters but also their prevention and mitigation, thus opting for a holistic approach of the topic.

In view of the above, Greece could consider the option of elaborating a multilateral agreement on the basis of the International Law Commission’s draft articles.

I thank you.