

Mr. Chair,

As stated previously during plenary debate, Portugal maintains that the *Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters* represent a solid framework, and one that reflects the human-rights-based approach taken by the ILC in the course of its work.

The Draft Articles strike a sensible and delicate balance between, on the one hand, the imperatives of protecting human rights and facilitating international cooperation, and, on the other hand, the fundamental principle of State sovereignty, as well as the primary role of the affected State in providing disaster relief assistance.

And this, of course, without prejudice of improvements in the context of a negotiation *proprio sensu*.

Mr. Chair,

We continue to think that this Committee should heed the recommendation, made by the Commission to the General Assembly.

My delegation is convinced this is the time to move ahead, and thus we support a decision to convene a diplomatic conference to elaborate a convention on this topic and welcome the openness expressed by the distinguished representative of the Philippines to host that conference.

I thank you.