



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

STATEMENT

BY

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First Secretary

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

Working Group

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ILC Recommendation. –

Madam Chair,

On the recommendation of the ILC to inter alia – elaborate a convention on the draft articles, my delegation sees merit in this recommendation and has stated so in the plenary debates held at the sixth committee.

In this working group discussion, we convey the following points to substantiate our position.

The current draft articles form part of several draft articles to be adopted by the ILC following the General Assembly's recommendation in resolution 174 (II) for the codification and progressive development of international law on emerging topics in the international community.

For this reason the ILC decided “to recommend to the General Assembly the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters,” one of the grounds being that the Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons reflect international law as it stands on disaster management.

We agree with this reflection and consider that the articles seek to establish a rights-duties relationship between States and the duty to protect persons under its territories in the event of disasters.

We do however, take note of the numerous comments from other states and their reservation of the rights-duties approach, and deems it fit that a cautious balance be struck between state sovereignty and the right to protect in the event of disasters.

We do believe that the recommendation of the ILC on the draft articles is the appropriate policy option for the ILC to adopt to protect human life and dignity in the event of disasters as a reflection of a pro-human rights policy.

The articles represent a significant step towards establishing a comprehensive legal framework for disaster response and recovery. At its core principles and objectives, they strike a good balance among the protection of human rights and dignity, international cooperation and solidarity, state sovereignty and Disaster Risk Reduction, emergency response, recovery, and rehabilitation.

The 18 articles can be further refined by States to achieve broad consensus, effective implementation, and universality.

I thank you.