

Oral statement by the Secretariat in connection with draft resolution A/C.6/80/L.14 entitled "United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Protection of persons in the event of disasters"

1. The present oral statement is made in the context of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The present statement will also be distributed to Member States.
2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1,2,11 and 13 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would:
 - a) *Decide to convene the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters to meet for three weeks from 25 January to 12 February 2027 in Manila, and, if necessary, for a further two weeks in August 2027, to elaborate and conclude a legally binding instrument on the protection of persons in the event of disasters, without prejudice to the legal effects of any particular provisions contained therein; (paragraph 1);*
 - b) *Also decide to convene a preparatory committee for the Conference, to meet from 31 August to 4 September 2026, to refer the consolidated text including the draft articles and the proposals submitted by Governments, prepared at the resumed session of the Sixth Committee held in accordance with resolution 79/128 to the Conference, to decide on the participation of stakeholders other than those referred to in paragraph 9, including on the modalities for such decision and participation, based on a list of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector to be prepared by the Secretariat, and to discuss the organization and methods of work of the Conference, including the rules of procedure, with a view to making recommendations thereon to the Conference, taking into account the importance of promoting consensus in the Preparatory Committee and on the final results of the work of the Conference, requests the Secretary-General to prepare proposals for the consideration of the Preparatory Committee, and decides that, upon completion of its mandate, the Preparatory Committee shall report directly to the Conference; (paragraph 2)*
 - c) *Request the Secretary-General to arrange for the attendance at the Conference, as an expert, of the Special Rapporteur of the International Law Commission on the protection of persons in the event of disasters; (paragraph 11)*
 - d) *Further request the Secretary-General to provide the Conference and the Preparatory Committee with the*

necessary assistance for the performance of its work, including secretariat services and the provision of essential background information and relevant documents, including summary records and United Nations media coverage, and to arrange for support to be provided by the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat (paragraph 13)

3. The requests contained in operative paragraphs 1,2,11 and 13 of the draft resolution would constitute additional workload to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (section 2), Office of Legal Affairs (Section 8), and the Office of Information and Communications Technology (section 29C) follows:
 - a. For the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (section 2), additional resource requirements estimated at \$150,400 in 2026, excluding staff assessment, would be required. Interpretation in all six languages would be provided for the one-week preparatory committee meeting in New York, comprising 10 meetings, in New York in 2026. Documentation services, comprising five pre-session documents with a total estimated word count of 16,250 words, four in-session documents with a total estimated word count of 6,000 words, and one post-session document with an estimated word count of 2,000 words, in all six languages, would also be provided for the preparatory meeting in 2026.
 - b. For the Office of Legal Affairs (Section 8), additional resource requirements estimated at \$91,700 in 2026 and \$106,500 in 2027 would be required to cover general temporary assistance support consisting of two Legal Officers (P-3) and one Legal Assistant (GS-OL) for a total duration of four months to undertake the necessary preparations in 2026 and to provide secretariat services, as well as to provide essential background information during the conference in 2027. The resource requirements would also cover the travel costs of the Special Rapporteur for his attendance as expert for the duration of the conference in 2027.
 - c. For the Office of Information and Communications Technology (section 29C), additional resources estimated at \$14,500 for 2026 would be required for IT conferencing services for the five-day preparatory committee meeting in 2026.
4. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.6/80/L.14, the Secretariat will, to the extent possible, seek to absorb these requirements within the overall approved regular budget resources for 2026. Any portion that cannot be absorbed may be presented in a revised estimates report that would be submitted for consideration by the General Assembly, through the

Fifth Committee during the resumed part of its 80th session. The Secretariat also wishes to inform the General Assembly that its ability to implement the mandate will depend on the availability of adequate liquidity resources. Requirements for 2027 and thereafter would be presented in the proposed programme budgets for consideration by the General Assembly in the applicable years.

5. The Secretariat also wishes to note that pursuant to the understanding that all costs associated with the Conference and its preparation shall be financed by the Government of the Philippines as the host country in accordance with a Host State Agreement to be finalized in due course, no additional resources for 2027 would be required for the Conference and its preparation, and conferencing services would be provided by the Secretariat, if requested, on a fully reimbursable basis.