



PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
ONU - New York



Permanent Mission of Jamaica to
the United Nations



The Permanent Missions of Colombia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan and Nigeria to the United Nations are pleased to invite you to participate in a virtual discussion, under Chatam House Rules, on

Disaster Law and the Draft Articles for the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters

Friday, September 11, 2020; 9:00 – 11:00am

Meeting link will be sent to participants on a later date

Subject to Chatham House Rules

Participation by invitation only – **RSVP**

For inquiries, please contact Enrico Milano: enrico.milano@esteri.it or Juan Cuéllar Torres: jcuellar@colombiaun.org

Background:

On December 26, 2004, a 9.1 magnitude earthquake struck off the northern tip of Sumatra, Indonesia. Within hours, a series of large tsunami waves radiating from the epicenter reached countries as far away as South Africa, killing an estimated 227,898 people in 14 countries and causing enormous damage to infrastructure from East Africa to Thailand. While international assistance was generous, totaling more than \$14 billion, the tragedy's aftermath prompted considerable reflection about early warning systems, international assistance and national disaster management frameworks.

Inspired in large part by the reports and questions of affected governments, donors and humanitarian agencies, the ILC decided in 2007 to include the topic "Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters" in its program of work. In 2016, after the submission of eight reports by Special Rapporteur Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, and two rounds of comments by Member States and international organizations, the ILC adopted the final text of the 18 draft articles and forwarded them to the General Assembly with the recommendation that a convention be elaborated on the basis of the draft articles.

The Sixth Committee will continue its consideration of the ILC's recommendation during its 75th session.

Benefitting from the presence and contribution of three leading experts in the field, the virtual discussion will seek to stimulate discussion among Member States on the following crucial questions:

- 1) Why do we need a convention on the protection of persons in the event of disasters? Is it appropriate to regulate international cooperation through a convention establishing rights and obligations? What would be the practical advantage of having such an instrument?**
- 2) Do the ILC's Articles provide a solid basis upon which to elaborate a convention? Are the principles of State sovereignty and primary responsibility of the affected State adequately safeguarded in the Articles? Are the rights and needs of affected persons adequately addressed by the proposed convention?**
- 3) Where are the possible areas of improvement should States decide to enter into treaty negotiations? Is the definition of disaster contained in the Articles in conformity with existing regional and bilateral instruments and one that should be retained in future negotiations? Is disaster risk management properly addressed and regulated from a practical perspective? Is the relationship with IHL adequately addressed?**

Moderated by:

- Mr. Arnold Pronto, Principal Legal Officer, Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations

Discussants:

- Professor Dr. Giulio Bartolini, Editor-in-chief of the 'Yearbook of International Disaster Law' and responsible of the Jean Monnet Project 'Disseminating Disaster Law for Europe'
- Dr. Isabelle Granger, Legislative Advocacy Coordinator, International Federation of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies
- Dr. Marco Toscano-Rivalta, Chief, New York Liaison Office, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction