



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
International de Sociedades de la Cruz

Delegation to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY ARWAN JILANI  
ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES  
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Agenda item 81: Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-fifth session,  
Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (Chapter VI of the Report)  
Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly  
New York 5 November 2013

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC),  
it is my pleasure to speak in relation to the Report of the International Law Commission (ILC), specifically on  
Chapter VI, which concerns the protection of persons in the event of disasters.

As in past years, we would like to extend our compliments to Special Rapporteur Eduardo Vitorino for over 150 years,

National Societies  
have been engaged in humanitarian assistance in both conflicts and disasters, working through  
millions of community-based volunteers. Over the last several decades, however, our members,  
along with the overwhelming majority of our partners and stakeholders, have come to the firm  
realization that a large majority of the humanitarian needs created by disasters could be prevented  
from arising in the first place and that we must therefore promote and prioritize disaster risk  
reduction (DRR). Together with the state parties to the Geneva Conventions, we made a formal  
commitment in this respect at the 2003 International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent  
in 2003 and we have actively supported the similar approach taken two years ago at the Hyogo  
Framework for Action.

instrumentsspecific to DRR, such as the Hyogo Declaration (which accompanied the Hyogo  
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