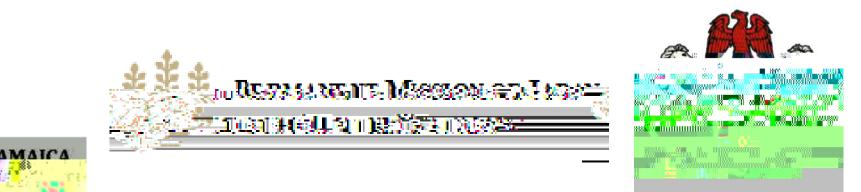
The Permanent Missions of Colombia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan and Nigeria

are pleased to invite you to the

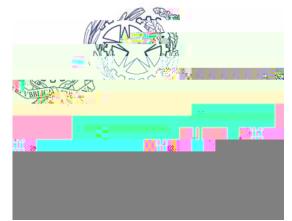




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On December 26, 2004, a 9.1 magnitude earthquake struck off the northern tip of Sumatra, Indonesia. Within hours, a series of large tsunami waves radiating from the epicenter reached countries as far away as South Africa, killing an estimated 227,898 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 recommendation continues to be timely as disasters in recent years have become more recurrent and impactful as a consequence of climate change and the increase in vulnerability and exposure to disaster risk faced by communities all over the world, thus further confirming the need for a stable legal framework intended to enhance international cooperation on disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response.

The Sixth Committee will continue its consideration of the ILC's recommendation during its 76th session, in October 2021.

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It is the hope and expectation of the Permanent Missions of Colombia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan and Nigeria that a focused discussion on the Draft Articles and on the ILC's recommendation before the start of the Sixth Committee will facilitate the adoption by the GA of incremental steps towards the negotiation of a new universal instrument in the field.

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