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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND

1. The UK is deeply committed to providing principled humanitarian assistance in crisis and driving more effective responses to crises. We welcome the opportunity to have a substantive discussion on this topic.
2. In the last two decades an average of 370 natural hazards and disasters have been recorded every year. Weather and climate-related disasters are the most frequent, though geological disasters, especially earthquakes, are common. Disasters can be almost unimaginable in scale.
3. Despite improvements in disaster preparedness and response across many States, and improvements in the international humanitarian system, populations continue to face severe consequences to their health, livelihoods, safety, well-being and education because of limited efforts to reduce disaster risk, poor disaster planning and lack of government capacity to respond. Poor and marginalised communities in lower-income countries are disproportionately affected by disasters.
4. As such, the UK is open to exploring the benefits in developing a convention in respect of the protection of persons in the event of disasters and the draft articles provide a helpful starting point for a discussion.

Mr/Madam Chair

5. Turning now to the preamble:

Preamble

6. The Preamble rightly highlights the frequency and severity of natural and human-made disasters and their long-term, as well as short-term, consequences. Further, we agree that solidarity and international cooperation are vital to disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery.
7. However, the draft Articles reflect the international humanitarian system as it was in 2016 and we note that there have been changes and reforms to that

system since.

