

## Disasters Cluster III - Draft Articles 7, 8, and 12 International cooperation Sam Birnbaum Attorney Adviser October 6 2023

Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter, we do not agree that they impose a specific legal obligation to cooperate with the broad range of organizations listed in this Draft Article. While the ILC Commentary to Draft Article 7 properly recognizes that many states have assumed obligations under human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, those instruments do not establish a duty to cooperate with inter-governmental and non-governmental actors in disaster assistance, and only states parties to those treaties have binding obligations under them.

Insofar as Draft Article 7 seeks to establish a new obligation of states to cooperate in responding to disasters, we are concerned that its language does not provide sufficient clarity on who states would be obligated to cooperate with and the kind of actions that would be sufficient to satisfy a

available relief personnel, equipment and goods, and scientific, medical, and technical the text whether Draft Articles 7 and 8, collectively, would obligate states to provide such resources to other states affected by disasters, which would be a significant intrusion on state sovereignty and may not be practical for states in many circumstances. That would also be in tension with the text of Draft Article 12, which uses

so be in tension with the proposed rule in Draft Article 13 that states must consent to external assistance and the