



of

Massari

October 4th, 2024

Mr Chair,

Since this is the first time the delegation of Italy takes the floor during this year's session of the Sixth Committee, let me congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau for their election and let me assure you of Italy's full support in the performance of your important functions.

Italy aligns itself with the statement earlier delivered by the representative of the European Union and would like to add some additional remarks in a national capacity. We also align

with the statement delivered by Nigeria on behalf of a group of States.

Mr. Chair,

With regard to the agenda item under discussion, my delegation is taking the floor today to reiterate Italy's position on the recommendation of the International Law Commission to elaborate a convention on the basis of the Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disaster adopted in 2016.

We welcome the progress made last year in the context of the Working Group established under GA Resolution 76/119 and we note that the interim oral report of the Chair of the Working Group signals the support for the elaboration of a convention in this field expressed by many delegations.

My delegation would like to take the opportunity of today's debate to stress two points.

Mr. Chair,

fires and floods. According to the report, hazard events are becoming more intense and frequent in all regions of the world. When vulnerability and exposure levels are high, then these hazard events are much more likely to become disasters. In terms of deaths, disasters related to extreme weather events disproportionately affect countries with less developed systems of early warning and low coastlines.

However, the 2021 WMO report on weather-related disasters shows that the brunt is also felt in countries and regions with more developed systems. For example, the 2003 and 2010 heatwaves in Europe were responsible for around 80% of the deaths due to weather-related disasters in Europe over the period 1970 to 2019, amounting to over 127,000 deaths.

During this year parts of Europe have been hit by disastrous floods causing severe damage, displacement of people and loss of lives. The recent devastation produced by hurricane Helene in the US is a stark reminder that no country is immune from extreme weather events with disastrous consequences.

These numbers refer to weather-related disasters only and yet they show that international cooperation with regard to disasters' preparedness and disaster response, including through the development of appropriate legal instruments, is something that requires urgent attention by States.

Mr Chair,

This leads us to our second point today, which is on the role of the law – and international law in particular – in the context of disasters.

The Political declaration for the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction approved last year at the

an important legal gap. It would not be a mere exercise in progressive development of international law detached from State practice and existing international law and without any added value in terms of certainty, predictability and preparedness as compared to soft law arrangements. On the contrary. The current state of the international law on disaster risk reduction and response shows that international cooperation

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has been enacted by many countries. What is missing is a universal legal framework, which should play a complementary and practical function – when regional and bilateral treaties and specialized instruments are not in place with regard to a specific

