



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

7 October 2024, Trusteeship Council

We are encouraged by the strong expressions of support for a binding legal instrument dedicated to the protection of persons in the event of disasters.

The comments received regarding specific articles, along with requests for clarification, reflect an active engagement with the current text of the draft articles. This demonstrates not only a willingness to participate in consultations and exchanges but also a recognition of the importance of developing an instrument that addresses disaster situations holistically.

We also welcome the emphasis given to disaster risk reduction as an equally important component of disaster management and protection of persons in the event of disasters. We welcome this transformative approach to disaster management, giving focus not only on disaster response, but also on the prevention, mitigation and reduction of risks of disasters.

ARTICLE 2 - Purpose

We appreciate the thoughtful consideration given to the essential needs of individuals affected by disasters, ensuring that such needs are addressed with full respect for human rights .

The inclusion of the qualifier "essential" underscores the focus on the fundamental requirements for survival and basic well-being following a disaster. This term effectively conveys the urgency and context in which these needs arise, while also highlighting the necessity of considering the specific vulnerabilities of marginalized groups, as emphasized in draft article 6.

The phrase "with full respect for their rights" aims to ensure that the rights of affected individuals are not only acknowledged but actively protected, as articulated in draft article 5.

Mr. Chair, we welcome this opportunity to reflect on the interaction between these draft articles and existing rules of international law.

We wish to address the notion of the applicability of human rights as a framework for the protection of persons in times of disasters . We note references made to derogations allowed in the current human rights regime for cases of public emergency.

We recall that derogations under international human rights law entail strict limitations, VDIHJXDUGV QRWLILFDWLRQV DQG UHYLHZ SURFHGXUHV , Q WKH OLIH RI WKH QDWLRQ´ GHURJDWLRQV QDQDOLPHQW DOOR