



United Kingdom Mission
to the United Nations

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Thank you Chair.

1. The UK provided detailed comments on the draft Articles at the 2023 Working Group and we are not therefore proposing to repeat all of the points that we made previously. However, we have reflected carefully on the helpful comments made by other States last year and will highlight some of the key points which we consider may merit further consideration.
2. Turning now to the preamble:

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6. The UK notes that, as observed by a number of States last year, the
 may encompass events
 falling within the scope of existing instruments, including climate
 related instruments such as the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC, as
 well as the Pandemic Accord which is currently being negotiated. A
 wide definition
 has implications elsewhere in the
 articles, in particular, draft Article 9, which places an obligation on
 States to reduce the risk of disasters. The UK considers that, in
 circumstances where states are already addressing issues through
 separate subject-specific frameworks, it would be unhelpful to
 develop parallel obligations.

7. The UK also notes that the commentaries state that economic and
 political crises are outside the scope of the draft Articles and that a
 situation of armed conflict is not a disaster
 for the purposes
 of the Articles. The UK is supportive of the position set out in the
 commentaries; however, this does not appear to be reflected in the
 wording of draft Article 3(a). The UK would therefore be inclined to
 amend the Articles to explicitly exclude political and economic crises
 and to make clear that an armed conflict cannot be qualified per se
 as a disaster for the purposes of the draft Articles.

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8. As noted last year, the definition
 in whose territory, or in territory under whose jurisdiction or control,
 y create uncertainty as to where the
 obligations set create uncertainty as y000008871 0 595.32 841.92 reW*nBF1

situations where territorial sovereignty is disputed. There also could

