



---

Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York

**United Nations General Assembly  
Sixth Committee  
(79th Session)**

**Working Group on the Protection of Persons in Disasters  
Statement on Cluster Two  
Articles 4, 5, 6, and 9**

**Delivered by Dr. Mohamed Helal  
*Counsellor & Legal Advisor***

**7 October 2024**

**Check against delivery**

\_\_\_\_\_:

Egypt supports a reference to the concept of human dignity in this treaty, but not as an operative paragraph, and not as it is phrased in draft article 4.

Moreover, under the relevant human rights law treaties, states are permitted to derogate from certain rights to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of an emergency, and only through measures that are proportionate and necessary to address the emergency. Again, this principle is already established under existing human rights treaties.

I am therefore struggling to identify the added value of this draft article. And the commentaries of the ILC on this article provided little, if any, guidance on this matter. As it is currently drafted, this provision might have a place in a preamble of a future treaty. But as an operative paragraph it would need to be developed further. And perhaps one way to do this is to consider adding some of the human rights mentioned by the Representative of El Salvador to this provision.

---

Egypt supports the references to the principles of humanity, neutrality, and non-discrimination in this provision.

The reference to "the particularly vulnerable" at end of this draft article, however, is another example of the use of uncertain and undefined terms in these draft articles. I note that the ILC chose not to include an illustrative list of vulnerable persons and groups in this provision, but the result is that we are left with a vague phrase.

It is not clear who counts as "particularly vulnerable" and their "needs" are unclear, and there is uncertainty as to what states are specifically required to do in order to "take account" of the needs of those persons.

Egypt is fully supportive of protecting the rights and needs of vulnerable persons and groups – including women, children, disabled persons, refugees, displaced persons, and others – but in our view, this provision is just phrased imprecisely.

\_\_\_\_\_:

We have two general comments on this provision.

First, Egypt agrees with the principles expressed in article 9(1), and I agree with the Representative of the Philippines that this provision carries a duty of