

## STATEMENT

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations  
**Working Group on Agenda Item - 86: Protection of persons in the event of disasters  
(Cluster II Articles 4, 5,6 and 9)**

79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
8 October 2024, Trusteeship Council  
UN Headquarters New York

**Thank you, Mr. Chair,**

We submit the following comments on Cluster II, further to our comments shared during the last session:

### Article 4 - Human Dignity

We support the placement of **human dignity as a core guiding principle** for the provision of relief assistance, as it holds the same foundational position for various international human rights instruments and IHL, particularly common article 3 para 1(c) of the Geneva Conventions, Art 75 and 85 of AP I and art 4 of APII.

We further agree that this obligation refers to both **negative and positive aspects** of the obligation, i.e. to refrain violation of human dignity and duty to take action to protect human dignity.

The principle of **neutrality**

reaffirms the principle that the humanitarian activities may not be used for purposes other than responding to the disaster and rendering assistance.

We also welcome the focus on non-discrimination, in conjunction with the reference to

**-nationals**, who may

otherwise not have ready access to resources and mechanisms for relief assistance.

We are of the view that the draft articles should be without prejudice to the right and duty of States to render timely and effective **consular assistance** to their nationals under the VCCR, customary international law and other relevant international law, including in times of disasters.

#### Article 9 - Reduction of the risk of disasters

We understand that the **obligation to reduce the risk of disasters is a corollary to sovereignty** and, under these draft articles, the primary role of States to ensure the protection of persons in the event of disasters.