

Talking Points
Event on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters
September 11, 2020

Thank you, Arnold, for giving me the floor and for your kind acceptance of the role as today's moderator.

Likewise, I want to thank the other co-sponsors of this event, Italy, Japan, Jamaica and Nigeria for helping in its organization, as well as the three experts that accompany us today for providing relevant information in regards to the real necessity of creating a common and organized international legal framework on protection of persons in the event of disasters.

It is clear that international cooperation for disasters is still managed in a heterogeneous and fragmented fashion. This state of affairs is unsustainable, as evidenced by the current COVID-19 pandemic, where a common framework in cooperation activities would have been of much use.

The elaboration of a legally binding instrument such as the one proposed by the ILC would offer a flexible legal framework that includes the different forms of cooperation and would facilitate the development of new initiatives, allowing for

more efficient prevention, mitigation, and response by States and other relevant actors.

Colombia believes that the ILC's Draft Articles offer a solid basis for the elaboration of a legally binding instrument grounded on international solidarity. The Draft Articles seek to protect affected persons and unify the rules that guide the activities of the different actors involved in events of disaster.

My delegation acknowledges, nonetheless, that there still are possible areas of improvement. This is the reason we would support that the 6th Committee look into the possibility of supporting the negotiation of a treaty in this matter, based on the Draft Articles of the ILC.

We are, of course, open to look into the doubts that other delegations have in order to address their concerns.

Thank you.