

Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations

Comments of the Republic of Colombia to the recommendation of the International Law Commission to elaborate a convention based on the Draft Articles on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters.

In response to paragraph 3 of Resolution 73/209 of December 20, 2018, whereby the General Assembly invited governments to comment on the recommendation of the International Law Commission (ILC) to elaborate a convention based on the Draft Articles on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters, the Republic of Colombia would like to present the following observations.

1. The need to create a common and organized international legal framework

There is a pressing need to create a framework for the response and cooperation in the event of disasters. Confronted with a potential or actual disaster, the States have resorted to a greater or lesser degree to international cooperation in order to implement, as the case may be, measures to reduce the risk of a possible disaster, or to respond to its consequences once it occurs. However, due to the increasing number of bilateral, regional and multilateral instruments on these matters, a disorganized and fragmented body of legal instruments has been created, with obligations that contain different and sometimes contradictory terminologies, definitions, principles and objectives. Therefore, the value of the project prepared by the ILC is to create a common legal framework that facilitates the coordination of humanitarian action of the institutions dedicated to this work. Decisions in the context of disasters must be taken quickly enough to allow adequate management of the situation while protecting the affected people and guiding the actions of the affected States, the States that aid and the other actors involved. Such decisions need a set of unified rules, such as those presented in the ILC Draft. Furthermore, this Draft respects state sovereignty and the rights of people affected by disasters without differentiating whether the disaster is caused by human action or by a natural cause. This gives a more comprehensive and universal character to the project.

Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations

2. Benefits of using the ILC text as a basis for a future negotiation

Founded on recognizing the value of solidarity in international relations and on the promotion of international cooperation, the ILC project kee

Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)", which finds inspiration in the basic tenets of the ILC's Draft - Solidarity, Co-operation and Human Rights -, is the most telling manifestation of a collective political will which ought to be harnessed in support of the ILC's