

EGYPT



**The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York**

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Madam Chair,

Egypt would like to thank the Secretary General for his report included in document number A/75/214.

Undoubtedly, present times have manifested how important it is to enhance international cooperation in preventing and managing all phases of natural and human-made disasters alike, in a manner that prevents their occurrence, mitigates their short and long-term impacts, and protects persons affected by them.

For years, Member States have been cooperating voluntarily in responding the natural disasters worldwide through the provision of humanitarian relief, which has alleviated the suffering of impacted populations and assisted affected states in carrying out their essential duties.

Pandemics, such as the current Covid-19 pandemic, could also qualify as disasters as per Article 3(a) of the draft articles of the International Law Commission under discussion. This article defines disasters as “a calamitous event or series of events resulting in widespread loss of life, great human suffering and distress, mass displacement, or large-scale material or environmental damage, thereby seriously disrupting the functioning of society”. Pandemics also have the effect of exacerbating the impacts of other disasters.

Madam

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respond to disasters rests with the affected state, and that any external assistance in this regard shall be presented upon request or acquiesce, while fully upholding the principle of sovereignty of states.

Madam Chair,

On substance, my delegation is of the view that more emphasis ought to be given to man-made disasters, referred to in the preambular paragraphs of the draft articles, particularly in the context of risk reduction, as reflected in Article 9 of the draft articles. As has been manifested most recently, and throughout history, man-made disasters can have more dire and severe impacts than natural disasters. It is incumbent upon all Member States to ensure that they take all appropriate measures to anticipate, prevent, and mitigate man-made disasters, including transboundary impacts arising from megaprojects. This inevitably includes close collaboration and joint, rather than unilateral, actions to govern megaprojects starting from the planning phase, through operation, and all the way to devising preventive measures to avoid and mitigate the consequences of any shortcomings.