



High-Level European Regional Webinar on

THE ILC DRAFT ARTICLES ON THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTERS

4TH MARCH 2024
3.00 – 4.30 PM CET

PROGRAMME

Welcome Addresses (3.00–3.10 PM)

Piet Heirbaut, Director General of Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium & Chair of COJUR, EU Council

Frédéric Wirtz, National President, Belgian Red Cross

Presentations (3.10–4.00 PM)

Moderator – *Tommaso Natoli, IFRC DL Focal Point EU*

The Draft Articles and the activities of the Working Group of States at the UNGA – *Enrico Milano, Legal Advisor at Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN*

International Organizations' Perspectives on the Draft Articles

Isabelle Granger – IFRC Global Lead, Disaster Law and Auxiliary Role

Joanna Serdyska – DG ECHO Team Leader UCPM Legislation

Academic Perspectives on the Draft Articles

Giulio Bartolini – Editor-in-Chief Yearbook of International Disaster Law, International Law Professor Roma Tre University

Patrícia Galvão Teles – Member of the UN International Law Commission, International Law Professor Autonomous University of Lisbon

4.00 – 4.30 PM OPEN DISCUSSION AND Q&A

(Chatham House Rule)

In 2016, the United Nations International Law Commission (ILC) adopted the [Draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters \(Draft Articles\)](#), a set of 18 articles that address the human rights and human dignity of people affected by disasters, the humanitarian principles, international cooperation in response to disasters, disaster risk reduction, the roles and duties of the affected State, and external assistance for the affected State. Consistent with its usual practice, the ILC published a version of the [Draft articles with commentaries](#), which explain in detail the rationale of each article.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the European Union and several Member States actively contributed to the ILC's consideration of the topic of the protection of persons in the event of disasters, including submitting comments and making statements on the Draft Articles on the invitation of the ILC, in light of their long-lasting expertise and role in the disaster management sector.

In 2016, the ILC presented the Draft Articles to the UNGA with a recommendation that a convention be elaborated based on their content. Since 2016, States have expressed a variety of views on whether such a convention should be developed. However, in October 2023, during the Working Group held at the 78th session of the Sixth Committee, a majority of States expressed a renewed interest in seriously considering and discussing the need for a global treaty on the protection of persons in the event of disaster. In his interim report, the Chair of the Working Group indeed signaled the support from many delegations for the elaboration of a convention based on the Draft Articles.

2024 is an important year since the Working Group will reconvene during the UNGA's 79th session with the mandate to report back to the Sixth Committee, with a view to the Sixth Committee making a recommendation to the UNGA as to further action to be taken in respect of the Draft Articles.

The High-Level Regional Webinar aims to involve governmental representatives (including from legal offices in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Legal Advisers at the EU and UN in New York) of European countries, EU Civil Protection Mechanism participating countries, as well as governance and legal experts of European National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The overall purpose is to share information and sensitize participants about the ongoing diplomatic process at the UNGA Sixth Committee and the high relevance of adopting a new global framework of reference in this sector, aiming at improving the protection of people affected by disasters.

To register please fill out the form [here](#) by 29 February 2024

(The access link will be shared in due time before the event)

For additional information write to international@redcross.eu