



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT BY MR. LUKE TANG, COUNSELLOR (LEGAL), PERMANENT  
MISSION OF SINGAPORE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM  
90, ON THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTERS,  
SIXTH COMMITTEE, 1 NOVEMBER 2018**

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Mr Chair

1. Singapore thanks the Secretary-General for his report on this topic. We also wish to reiterate our appreciation for the Special Rapporteur and the Chair of the International Law Commission at its 70th session, Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, for his tireless and excellent work which has led to the present set of draft articles.

2. The protection of persons in the event of disasters is an important issue for our region. We stand in solidarity with our neighbours who have experienced such disasters, including in recent months, and will continue to endeavour to respond when called upon. As such, we have studied the draft articles and the accompanying commentaries carefully. We appreciate the effort by the Commission to include a diversity of State practice in this work, including the practice of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

3. For Singapore, some of the draft articles clearly reflect current State practice. We cite just two examples. Draft article 12, paragraph 2 provides that requested entities should expeditiously give due consideration and reply to the affected State. Draft article 13, paragraph 1 states that provision of external assistance requires the consent of the affected State. These reflect corresponding articles in the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response. Accordingly, they also informed Singa

contributions to support relief efforts in neighbouring and regional countries affected by disasters in recent months.

4. In our view, the draft articles represent an important contribution to the field of international law governing response to disasters. They serve as a useful guide for States and others engaged in disaster relief. We have taken note of the comments by other delegations on whether to elaborate a convention on the basis of these draft articles, including those reflected in the Secretary-