



Statement on behalf of the European Union

By

**Lucio Gussetti
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at the Sixth Committee

**on
Agenda item 78
on**

**"Protection of persons in the event of disasters"
and
"Expulsion of Aliens"**

United Nations

New York

27 October 2014

Mr Chairman,

The European Union has the honour to address the Sixth Committee on the work of the International

Against the background of the definitions contained in Article 4, the European Union notes that Article 4(e) defines "relief personnel" as both civilian and military personnel and Article 4(d) defines "external assistance" as including "relief personnel", so that wherever one of these terms is used, the obligation might equally refer to civilian and military aid. However, the Oslo guidelines and the guidelines on the use of Military and Civil Defence Assets to Support UN Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies (MDCA) only specify that international military assets should be used as a last

Protection Mechanism³ do not contain references to the UN Charter. These are expressed in the Union's primary legislation as set out above.

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Mr Chairman,

Lastly, I would like to address a matter of a more general nature in relation to "assisting actors". The European Union welcomes that draft Articles 4 and 8 do not only relate to States in relation to the provision of external assistance, but encompass a broader notion of "assisting actors". It is also recognized in draft Article 8 that a key feature of activity in the field of disaster relief assistance is international cooperation not only among States, but also with competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

persons affected by man-made and natural disasters. With respect to the legal nature that the future instrument might take, the European Union prefers to defer its position to its written comments on the overall set of articles which can be submitted to the Secretary-General by January 2016.

