

**Extract from response received from the Council of Europe on 25 November 2014:**

The Council of Europe welcomes this interesting work, recalls that the EUR-OPA Agreement endorsed “Ethical Principles on Disaster Risk Reduction and People’s Resilience” ([http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/ressources/pub/Ethical-Principles-Publication\\_EN.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/ressources/pub/Ethical-Principles-Publication_EN.pdf) ) and has been also working in involving people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and respond (See this recent publication [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/ressources/pub/MajorHazards\\_Disability\\_2014\\_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/ressources/pub/MajorHazards_Disability_2014_en.pdf) ).

Much of the work of the work of the Council of the Council of Europe turns around protecting Human Rights, in particular those of vulnerable people. Thus we express our satisfaction with this work of International Law Commission which to us is just a first step in the direction of protecting the rights of people in emergency situations associated to disasters. We hope that in future work more attention will be devoted to vulnerable groups (children -including orphans-, people with disabilities, migrants, asylum seekers and other people who are at greater risk because of their limited means or other reasons). We also hope that appropriate attention will be given in the future to prevention, including education for risk and preparedness. Also the right of victims to receive aid for recovery of their lives after a disaster is, in our view, important. It would be useful that the draft articles consider the whole of the disaster cycle (preparation, emergency response and recovery.

In any case the Council of Europe is indeed highly interested in the subject and would like to be associated in one or other form to future work.