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*The Decision to Act – A Human Rights Based
Approach to Disaster Management and Response*

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Introduction – Jus Ad Astra

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To analyze, debate, and advance the intersection between international human rights law and international space law.

Clarifying human rights values and principles applicable to human activities across outer space, for the benefit of humanity.



What are Human Rights?

Human Rights Principles:

1. Universality
2. Indivisibility
3. Interdependence
4. Equality and non-discrimination
5. Participation and inclusion
6. Accountability





International Human Rights Instruments

International Bill of Rights:

1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and optional protocol
3. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and optional protocol

Human Rights Based Approach

1. All programs concerning development cooperation and technical assistance should prioritize the realization of human rights;
2. That human rights instruments should guide all development cooperation and programming; and
3. That development cooperation should contribute to duty bearer's capacity to meet obligations of rights-holders.





Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)

- Balancing state sovereignty versus the need for humanitarian assistance
- Humanity, neutrality, and impartiality
- Civil-Military Coordination
- Human Right to Humanitarian Assistance (HRA)



Right to Life (RTL)

- Article 3 of the UDHR
- Duty to Protect Life and Prevent Harms
- Humanitarian context – Safety, access to essential elements for survival





Right to Water (RTW)

- Sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water
- UN Resolution 64/292
- Availability, quality, accessibility



Associated Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

- Right to Education (RHE)
- Right to Own Property (ROP)
- Right to Work (RTW)





Benefits of a Human Rights-Based Approach

- Advancing a baseline level of safety, wellbeing and dignity.
- Protects vulnerable groups from abuse and discrimination.
- Provides a universal standard that holds authorities accountable.



Recommendations

1. Ensure that human rights principles are integrated into disaster management and response.
2. Identify measures to ensure affected communities are fully consulted.
3. Establish mechanism for monitoring, analyzing, and reporting on human rights.
4. Complement existing guidelines on humanitarian standards in situations of natural disaster.
5. Promote access to justice.



The End



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