Mr. President,

It is my great pleasure to introduce this year’s draft resolution “Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations” as contained in document A/69/L.40. The General Assembly reaffirms every year, by adopting this resolution, the distinctive and leading role of the United Nations to coordinate and to respond to the growing humanitarian needs globally. The fact that this resolution is adopted by consensus sends an important signal of shared ownership and responsibility of this agenda and it also gives legitimacy to the humanitarian assistance of the UN.

This year a number of new elements have been introduced or reinforced in the resolution, making it even more reflective of today’s reality. One is about protection. The Assembly recognizes the significance of addressing the various protection needs of affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable. Another issue is an acknowledgment of the ICRC-led project Health Care in Danger addressing the increasing and unacceptable violence against medical personnel and their facilities. Yet another element is the welcoming of the new Humanitarian Program Cycle as well as strengthened language on the importance of robust needs assessments and analyses to better tailor the response. Moreover, this year’s resolution contains new or stronger language on other issues such as public policies, durable solutions for internally displaced persons, safety and security, education, risk management and resilience, transition funding as well as the importance of geographical diversity and gender equality among humanitarian staff. For the first time ever there is a reference to sexual and reproductive health, a recognition of the importance - also in the humanitarian field - of redoubling our joint efforts to tackle this crucial challenge.

Mr. President,
A remarkably high number of delegations participated in this year’s negotiations which, again, is a sign of the broad interest in and ownership of UN humanitarian work. I would like to extend my gratitude to delegations for their active, collaborative and constructive engagement on this draft resolution that we will be formally adopting during this session.

Thank you.