discriminated against in the distribution of humanitarian aid. The Sottosegretario stated:

“It is worth recalling that the distribution of aid managed by the Italian Cooperation complies with the general principles of independence, neutrality, and impartiality, as provided for by the legge [(Law) No.] 49 of 1987. Non-Governmental Organizations are the most suitable actors for socially complicated contexts, such as Pakistan. Respect for impartiality is one of the basic requirements that the NGOs need to fulfil to apply for [the funding of] a project”.

2. PROTECTION OF PERSONS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTERS

On 28 October 2010, during the debate in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly (LXV Session) on the Report of the International Law Commission on the Work of its Sixtieth Session (UN Doc. A/65/10), the Italian delegate, Mr. Giorgio Marrapodi, intervened on the topic of protection of persons in the event of disasters. He underlined the importance of this complex topic and made the following observations:

“So far the Commission appears to have adopted certain definitions and stated a few principles which are meant to guide the response to disasters by all the States and organizations concerned. This year the Commission stressed in particular the primary role of the State on the territory of which a disaster occurs. I refer to article 9 as provisionally adopted by the Drafting Committee and usefully reproduced at page 314 of the report. However, the term ‘primary role’ is not without ambiguity and needs to be clarified. How does that role relate to that of other States and of international organizations? How does the role of the affected State coexist with access to victims in need by other actors? A full assessment of the principle of the ‘primary role’ will only be possible when the draft articles will reach a more advanced stage”.

XIV. CO-OPERATION IN JUDICIAL, LEGAL, SECURITY, AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC MATTERS

1. JUDICIAL CO-OPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

On 17 June 2010, Mr. Roberto Maroni, Ministro degli interni (Minister for Home Affairs) intervened at the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on Transnational Organized Crime. He stated the following:
“We live in a global society characterized by systemic and interrelated threats that can not be addressed without an overall vision. One of the major threats is transnational organized crime. We need to know more about its dynamics and transformations in order to tackle it effectively. In this regard, we must commend the excellent work of data collection and analysis carried out by the United Nations, which has proven to be valuable in improving our capacity to respond.

Ten years ago, in Palermo, United Nations adopted the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, supplemented by Protocols against human trafficking, illegal immigration, and the manufacturing and trafficking of firearms. This legal tool of global governance has allowed us to take a huge step forward in combating transnational organized crime and represents a milestone in international co-operation against crime. In fact, it has eliminated national differences in the criminalization of offences and created a common legal framework that facilitates both the action of judicial authorities and law enforcement at the national level, as well as international co-operation. My country has worked hard to contribute to the universal adoption, full implementation and the updating of the Palermo Convention. Particular significance is to be attached to the initiatives aimed at creating a strong mechanism for reviewing the implementation of the Palermo Convention and its Protocols, which is essential to guarantee the best overall functionality of these instruments. This is why we support – together with other States Parties and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime – the pilot programme to test review mechanisms. We are also willing to provide technical assistance to the States in need, which belong to all UN regional groups for their participation in this exercise.

We should also be aware of the connections between terrorism and crime. It is not unrealistic to consider that terrorist and criminal groups will join forces to acquire weapons of mass destruction. No State can meet this challenge alone. A response limited to criminal law enforcement would not be enough. We need to supplement this approach with a new impetus on prevention. […] The Palermo Convention is intended not only to respond to transnational crime in terms of penal law and criminal sanctions, but also in terms of prevention strategies. The Convention provides States Parties with many specific measures, from judicial assistance to witness protection, from special investigative techniques to the seizure and confiscation of illegal assets. This last aspect is crucial. Transnational organized crime operates as a global business that aims at making big profits. An attack strategy on its financial power would affect its very raison d’être. Since the liberalization of markets and technology allow moving wealth from one part