A. PROTECTION OF LIFE, SECURITY OF THE PERSON, PHYSICAL INTEGRITY AND DIGNITY
A. Protection of Life, Security of the Person, Physical Integrity and Dignity

A.1 Evacuations, relocations and other life-saving measures

A.1.1 If an imminent natural disaster creates a serious risk for the life, physical integrity or health of affected individuals and communities, all appropriate measures necessary to protect those in danger, in particular vulnerable groups, should be taken to the maximum extent possible (e.g. emergency shelter arrangements).

A.1.2 If such measures would be insufficient, endangered persons should be allowed, and assisted to leave the danger zone. To the extent that they cannot do so on their own endangered persons should be evacuated from the danger zone by using all available means.

A.1.3 These evacuations should be carried out in a manner that fully respects the rights to life, dignity, liberty and security of those affected. Measures should be taken to safeguard homes and common assets left behind. Evacuated persons should be registered and their evacuation monitored.

A.1.4 When the natural disaster has occurred, persons affected by it should be allowed to move to other parts of the country and to settle there. This right may not be subject to any restrictions except those which are provided by law, and are necessary to protect national security, the safety and security of affected populations, public order (ordre public), public health or the rights and freedoms of others.

A.1.5 Persons—including evacuees—who have been ordered or forced to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of a natural disaster or its effects, or have left in order to avoid them, and have not crossed an internationally recognized State border should be treated as belonging to the category of internally displaced persons covered by the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

A.1.6 After the emergency phase, persons displaced by the natural disaster should be granted the opportunity to choose freely whether they want to return to their homes and places of origin, to remain in the area to which they have been displaced, or to resettle in another part of the country. Their right of choice may not be subjected to any restrictions except those which are provided by law, and are necessary to protect national security, the safety and security of affected populations, public order (ordre public), safety, public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others. In particular, the return of persons displaced by the disaster to their homes and places of origin should only be prohibited if these homes or places of origin are in zones where there are real dangers to the life or physical integrity and health of the affected persons. Restrictions should only last as long as such dangers exist and only be implemented if other, less intrusive, measures of protection are not available or possible.
A. Protection of Life, Security of the Person, Physical Integrity and Dignity

A.1.7 Persons affected by the natural disaster should not, under any circumstances, be forced to return to or resettle in any place where their life, safety, liberty and/or health would be at further risk.

A.1.8 Unless it is necessary for the protection of affected persons against very serious and imminent threats to their lives, their physical integrity or health, evacuations against their will, or prohibitions against their return, should not be supported by organizations providing protection and assistance to persons affected by natural disasters, even if they have been ordered by the competent authorities. Such organizations should not become involved in involuntary evacuations in any manner.

A.2 Protection against the negative impacts of natural hazards

A.2.1 Persons affected by natural disasters, displaced or not, should be protected against the dangers of potential secondary hazards and other disaster risks.

A.3 Protection against violence, including gender-based violence

A.3.1 During and after the emergency phase, law enforcement personnel and local authorities should be encouraged to take effective measures to ensure the security of populations affected by the natural disaster.

A.3.2 Mechanisms which are appropriate to address instances of violence and other violations of human rights, as well as of relevant guarantees under international humanitarian law, should be established without delay. In particular, the deployment of law enforcement personnel to areas at risk of or with a breakdown of law and order—including sexual and gender-based violence, robberies, or looting—should be requested.

A.3.3 Appropriate measures should be taken as early and as quickly as possible to protect affected populations, in particular women and boy and girl children, against trafficking, forced labour and contemporary forms of slavery such as sale into marriage, forced prostitution, and sexual exploitation.

A.3.4 Should the natural disaster have occurred in a country with an armed conflict, appropriate measures should be taken as soon as possible to ensure that children affected by the natural disaster are protected against being recruited or associated with armed forces or groups.

A.4 Camp security

A.4.1 Persons displaced by the disaster should, to the maximum extent possible, be provided with the means to recover as quickly as possible and become self-sustainable (even in places of temporary displacement) or with fast rehabilitation assistance for return. Camps are a last resort and should only be estab-
A. Protection of Life, Security of the Person, Physical Integrity and Dignity

lished where, and until, the possibility of self-sustainability or fast rehabilita-
tion assistance do not exist.

A.4.2 The location and lay-out of camps and settlements for persons displaced by the disaster should be situated in areas with a low natural hazard risk. They should be designed so as to maximize the security and protection of displaced persons, including women and others whose physical security is most at risk (e.g. children, older persons, persons with disabilities, single-headed households and members of religious and ethnic minority groups or indigenous peoples).

A.4.3 Security should be provided in camps, in particular by monitoring, through law enforcement personnel and camp committees drawn from among the displaced communities. Appropriate mechanisms to address instances of violence and other violations of the human rights of camp residents should be established.

A.4.4 Persons affected by the disaster should be allowed to move freely in and out of camps. Such movement should not be restricted or prohibited unless it is necessary for the protection of the security or health of camp residents, or that of the population in the vicinity. If there are restrictions, they should not remain in force any longer than absolutely necessary.

A.4.5 In order to maintain the civilian character of camps at all times, appropriate measures should be taken to avoid the presence of uncontrolled armed elements in camps and settlements. Where such elements are present, they should be separated from the civilian population in the camp. The presence of armed State police or security forces should be limited to the extent strictly necessary to provide security.

A.4.6 Once the immediate emergency phase is over, camps set up by armed forces or groups should be managed by civilian authorities or organizations. The role of police and security forces should be limited to providing security.

A.5 Protection against anti-personnel landmines and other explosive devices

A.5.1 Access for specialized organizations should be facilitated as soon as possible, so that they can take appropriate measures—including information and awareness campaigns and fencing off and marking relevant areas—to protect persons affected by natural disasters, displaced or not, against the dangers of anti-personnel landmines and other explosive ordnance that may have been dislodged, concealed or obscured in the course of the natural disaster.