

United Nations Headquarters New York

Trusteeship Council Chamber

Tuesday, 11 October 2016, 10:15 a.m.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your kind introduction.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

First of all, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the Bureau, on assuming the leadership of the Sixth Committee for the seventy-first session. I am aware that you have already made some advance in the debate on several agenda items since work began last week. You are currently addressing the important work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and I would like to thank its Chairperson, Mr. Gaston Kenfack Douajni of Cameroon, for guiding the Commission in its work at its forty-ninth session.

When I look around this room, I see distinguishable qualities such professionalism, dedication, mutual respect and unity of purpose. These qualities are the essential fabric that binds accomplishments of the Sixth Committee. I have no doubt that you will live up to the important responsibility of addressing the complex challenges that face the United Nations and the world at large.

We all form a community of international lawyers, working tirelessly to fulfill the promise of the Charter of the United Nations. After all, peace through law is the goal that drives our work and unites us all in striving to achieve it.

While anniversaries prompt us to ponder the past, they also offer an opportunity to take stock of the present and to look into the future. In light of the past success of the Millennium 8Yj Y`cda Ybh; cU`gž`h\]g`mYUfD; [YbYfUl debate in the General

At this session, the Committee also has before it a number of items that were previously considered by the Commission, which have now awaited further action for a number of years. I realize that overcoming the differences in opinion might be challenging. However, we should not allow a challenge to become a hindrance to our efforts of building a sustainable future. I trust that you will rise to the occasion and successfully

Similarly, the Committee has on its agenda

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and

, each of which is also supported by work completed by the International Law Commission. These are items where further action by the Committee during the present session, including recommendations on the final form of draft articles and draft principles, can make a substantial and enduring impact on the progressive development of international law and its codification.

Additional items, such as

and

Despite the differences that might exist, I am hopeful that this Committee will propel the prospect of achieving concrete progress on each of these important items.

The Sixth Committee is currently considering the report of the

It is my hope that this Committee can make a significant contribution to eliminating this grave peril to humanity by completing its work on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

In closing I note that you have a full agenda before you, which concerns many areas of fundamental importance to the friendly relations among States and the implementation of the purposes of the United Nations. Only through our collective efforts can we fulfill the high expectations placed on this Committee to accomplish its vital mandate. Each and every step we take should be seen as a contribution to the overall goal of realizing the sustainability of our planet and the well-being of our peoples.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

Let me assure you that the Office of Legal Affairs will provide you with the necessary support as you continue considering the items on your agenda.