

Thank you, Chairperson.

Canada greatly appreciates this opportunity to participate in the Sixth Committee Law Week events, and very much welcomes this opportunity to contribute to the important dialogue that will be taking place throughout the week.

We are keen to join today's discussion on the work of the International Law Commission, and wish to express our gratitude to the ILC for its work throughout the year, and in particular for its Report from its 70th session. We wish to recognize the considerable efforts made by ILC members in this regard.

Turning now to the discussion before us, Canada readily recognizes the increasing importance of sea level rise, a climate change driven phenomenon, and the importance of considering its potential implications. We note and share the concerns expressed in this and other fora, by vulnerable low-lying coastal States and small island developing States that are threatened with significant impacts.

Canada is also directly impacted by sea-level rise as a consequence of its own geography. Canada has the longest coastline in the world, and is keenly aware that portions of that coastline, notably in the north, are vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Sea-level rise raises complex questions and can lead to legal implications under international law, for example: Law of the Sea issues, statehood issues, and issues related to the protection of persons affected by sea-level rise.

Within the realm of the Law of the Sea, there are questions raised related to baselines and outer limits of maritime zones, existing and future maritime

delimitations, and islands and their role in the construction of baselines and in maritime delimitations.

Canada notes