

Mr Chairman

Allow me to join others who have spoken before me in commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of the International Law Commission.

It is a pleasure that the commemorative events have offered an occasion for

reflection on the achievements of the Commission in the progressive development of international law and its codification in the past 70 years. Most importantly it also gave an opportunity to look ahead to the Commission's future and the important contribution that it has to make in the development of a rule based international legal order. The only disappointment, Mr Chairman, is the fact that after 70 years in existence, the composition of the Commission sadly lacks gender representativity with only seven women out of a membership of 34.

Mr Chairman, I wish to thank the Chairman of the Commission, Professor

context and in light of its object and purpose remains paramount. We therefore see the Draft Conclusions not as new or competing rules, but as strictly as a useful tool in enhancing our understanding of Articles 31(3)(a) and (b) of the 1969 Vienna Convention. Subsequent agreements and subsequent practice should not be seen as a means of amending treaties through

should be done through the procedure prescribed by the treaty itself, or in accordance with the to customary law rules on treaty amendment.

Insofar as the Commentaries to the Draft Articles fail to make the distinction

the progressive development of customary international law. South African courts have, in particular, recently grappled with cases involving international

law dimensions. In previous statements in this forum, my delegation has highlighted the fact that the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) states in Section 232 thereof that "customary international law is law in the

My delegation remains concerned about the scarcity of resources from all

concur with the Secretariat that yearbooks of international law detailing State practice and national treaty collections are critical bibliographic resources. My Office prides itself on its consistent involvement and contribution to the South African Yearbook of International Law and on being home to the South African Treaty Section, which has grown from strength to strength in the past few years and proves an invaluable resource to the South African Government.

Mr Chairman,

Turning now to the decision by the International Law Commission to place the
trip: "On level six in relation to international law" on its long term