



UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
6 November 2019

Statement by Ms Annabel Green , Adviser , Permanent Mission of
Australia to the United Nations

(Check against delivery)

Chair

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on General Principles of Law.

General principles of law have been a neglected source of international law.

Past considerations of this topic have often been discrete and limited to

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of customary international law, a comprehensive examination of the
development of general principles of law will assist States to more confidently
draw on all sources of international law, so that States may better understand
their obligations, and resolve disputes peacefully.

We thank the Special Rapporteur, Mr Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez, for his
First Report, which provides an insightful overview of preliminary matters to

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of law.

We support the Special 5DSSRUWHXU¶V SURSRVHG PHWKR
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consider that the efforts of the Commission should be focused on elucidating
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Article 38(1)(c) of the Statute of the International Court of Justice. We would
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legal system. In particular, we would welcome clarification by the Commission on how a general principle can be formed within the international legal system, how such principles would be identified, and how such principles would differ from customary international law.

Australia commends the progress made by the Special Rapporteur and the Commission in their preliminary reports and look forward to the
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Thank you Chair.