

**Statement by**  
**DELEGATION OF VIET NAM**  
**at the 74th Session of the Sixth Committee of UNGA**  
**on Agenda Item 79: “Report of the International Law Commission”**  
**Cluster II (Chapters VI, VIII and X)**  
*New York, 5 November 2019*

*Thank you Mr. Chairman/Madame Chair,*

1. With respect to Cluster II, my Delegation would like to first address the

**topic of Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts.**

2. Viet Nam has been well aware of and made immense efforts to overcome the consequences of armed conflicts, including damages to the environment. It is undeniable that armed conflicts, regardless of the intentions of the belligerents, have tremendous and lasting impacts on not only the civilian populations habituating in the area of its affection, but also for the nature itself, including the fauna, flora, soil, air and waters as well as the ecosystem. Though the war ended many decades ago, the effects of the war are still very visible and clearly felt in Viet Nam. The same is true for all other armed conflicts that have occurred around the world.

3. It is for these reasons that Viet Nam continues to underline the importance of this topic and is very supportive of the continuation of the work of the ILC on this topic in order to establish State responsibility in dealing with remnants of war, particularly those related to damages to the environment. Our delegation notes with appreciation that substantial work has already been done and that remaining issues needs to be worked out building on the work achieved so far. In this context, we commend the Special Raporteur for her outstanding contribution, which enabled the Commission to complete its first reading successfully of the topic. Of course

4. The research of the Commission should be in complementarity to existing

7. Immunity for state officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction originates from customary international law. Thus, the codification of the rules in this matter needs to be carefully undertaken with due regards to the principles of sovereign equality, non-intervention into the domestic affairs of States as well as the need for the maintenance of international peace and security, ensuring the balance between the benefits of granting immunity to State officials, the need to address impunity and the protection of State officials from politically motivated or abusive exercise of criminal jurisdiction. In this regard, our delegation notes with regret that no specific proposals regarding the exceptions of immunity or procedural aspects, including procedural guarantees, were submitted in the recent report, though we concur the view of several members of the Commission mentioned in paragraph 150 to 152 of the report.

8. As the Commission's report of its 71<sup>st</sup> session has rightly recalled

connection with international law, tuning its focus firstly to issues relating to the law of the sea.

10. Viet Nam is one of the world's most vulnerable countries to the adverse impact of climate change. Rising sea level, as a result of climate change, has become a growing global phenomenon and thus generating global problems, substantially impacting on the coastlines and low-lying areas of Viet Nam.

Nam, thus affecting the livelihoods, health, culture and wellbeing of our people, especially those habituating alongshore. It is for these reasons that my delegation seeks to promote international cooperation in this area for constructive discussions to the challenges sea-level rise brings to small-island developing states and coastal states.

11. Viet Nam is committed to full support and active participation in international efforts in order to tackle threats as well as the impacts of such phenomenon on human life. In this vein, Viet Nam will follow closely on the outcomes of this topic with interest as well as join open discussions on the topic within the Commission and at this Committee of the General Assembly.

*I thank you./.*