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Statement

by

**Mr. Fred Sarufa
Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative
of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations**

at the

**Seventy-fifth Session of the
Sixth Committee**

on

**Agenda Item 80: Report of the International Law Commission
on the work of its Seventy-second session (Oral Report)**

5 November 2020, New York

“Check against delivery”

Your Excellency Milenko Skoknic, Permanent Representative of Chile and Chair of Sixth Committee,

Presiding and distinguished delegates

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Committee's work for this session, I join other delegations in congratulating you, **Mr. Chair**, and the respective Bureau members, for your mandate and also for the manner in which you continue to steer our work in this rather unusual circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. We pledge our constructive support to your

We note the careful manner in which the Study Group formulated the First Issues Paper whilst taking into account the various contributions made so far, and further appreciates the elaboration provided at the informal briefing last week in this Committee.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation noted, with significant interest, the preliminary observations of the First Issues Paper, including the following important points, which my delegation agrees with:

- First, UNCLOS does not indicate that new baselines must be drawn, recognized or notified by the coastal State when coastal conditions change;
- Second, UNCLOS does not prohibit the preservation of baselines

baselines; and

- Thirdly, the ambulatory theory regarding baselines and the limits of maritime zones measured from such baselines does not respond to, inter alia, the need to preserve legal stability, security, certainty and predictability.

Mr. Chair,

We are also appreciative of the useful contributions from Prof. Dr. Aurescu and Dr. Oral at the Pacific Islands Forum virtual conference held in early September 2020 on the highly important topic of: "Securing the Limits of the Blue Pacific: Legal Options and

The key outcomes of the Conference focus primarily on building State

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and regional cooperation to secure the maritime zones of Pacific Island

[REDACTED]

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Forum Members against sea-level rise and climate change.

This is indeed a core and critical Pacific regional issue under our Blue

As such, Papua New Guinea, together with the other Pacific Small Island Developing States, have special reasons for concern in this area of international law.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation would like to frame these issues in a broader perspective in light of the Pacific Islands Forum leaders having called

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