



Mr. Chairman,

As we commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations, it is imperative to recall the success of the organisation as the cornerstone of a multilateral order based on the respect for and development of International Law.

It is only fair that the international community at large and the Sixth Committee in particular acknowledges and praises the role played by the International Law Commission in contributing to the codification and progressive development of International Law that allowed the United Nations to reach that success.

The Commission has critically supported the General Assembly, particularly its Sixth Committee, in carrying out its mandate under Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

It is unfortunate that, in a year of celebration, the work of the International Law Commission itself would also be severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Portugal regrets that the projected work and outputs of the Commission at its seventy-second session have been impacted by these unprecedented circumstances.





We hope that this extension of the deadline encourages Governments, international organisations and others, as applicable, to submit relevant comments on those topics.

Mr. Chairman,

In the wake of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN, we must proceed with confidence and use all available means – technological, human and others deemed necessary – to mitigate the delays in the work of the Commission in 2020.

Portugal is confident that the International Law Commission will be up to this task.

We are certain that the Seventy-Second and Seventy-Third sessions of the International Law Commission will be a testimony of the resilience and resourcefulness of all its Members, in carrying out the important mandate that the Commission shares with this very Committee.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.