

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished representatives of the Member States,

Dear colleagues,

I am deeply honoured to be able to take the floor today, before you, even if by videoconference, in my capacity of co-chair of the Study Group of the International Law Commission on the topic "Sea-level rise in relation to international law". I am accompanied by my colleague and co-chair Ms Nilufer Oral, who will continue after the presentation of my intervention.

As you well know, this topic was included in the long-term programme of the Commission in 2018, and in the current programme of work last year, in 2019. An open-ended Study Group on this topic was created by the Commission during the last session, in 2019.

The commission also decided that the Group would be co-chaired on a rotational basis by myself, Mr Yacouba Cisse, Ms Patricia Galvao Teles, Ms Nilufer Oral and Mr Juan Jose Ruda Santolaria.

The Study Group, at its first meeting, decided that, under the co-chairpersonship of Ms. Oral and myself, the first issues paper to be elaborated by the co-chairs in 2020 would be dedicated to sea-level rise issues related to the law of the sea – , and that the second issues paper of the co-chairs (Ms. Galvão Teles and Mr. Ruda Santolaria) would cover the sea-level rise issues related to statehood and to the protection of persons affected by sea-level rise.

As you know, the first issues paper was elaborated and published this year as an official document on the website of the Commission.

As agreed by the Study Group last year, the issues paper, which is the product of the co-chairs, is intended to serve as the



