

**Pacific Islands Forum
with United Nations Missions**

Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji,
Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau,
Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands,
Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.



801 Second Avenue, 20th

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM STATEMENT FOR 6th COMMITTEE

**Agenda Item 82 - Cluster II. Report of the International Law Commission
- Chp IX (Sea-level rise in relation to international law)**

Delivered by H.E Ambassador Agnes Harm,

Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa,
Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country, Fiji.

2. We would like to express our thanks to the distinguished Chair of the Sixth Committee.
3. We thank the International Law Commission for their report on sea-level rise in relation to international law which was adopted by the Commission in its long-term programme of work in 2018 during the 70th Session, and further included as the topic in its programme of work in the 71st Session in 2019.
4. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Member States, in providing constructively on the topic

5. address issues related to statehood and to the protection of persons affected by sea-level rise that will be addressed in the 73rd Session of the Commission.
6. As large oceanic States within a Blue Pacific Continent, Pacific countries have a profound connection to and reliance on the ocean, which is at the heart of our geography, cultures and economies. Our past, present and future development is based on rights and entitlements guaranteed under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
7. Our Leaders are in firm agreement that climate change is the single greatest threat facing Pacific Island Countries. Sea-level rise has been further and alarmingly confirmed as a real and pressing issue by the recent IPCC Working Group I report, Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis,
8. We note that the Study group has encouraged states to provide information of state practice and opinio juris. The Pacific Islands Forum this issue both preserves maritime zones in the face of climate change-related sea-level rise while also upholding the integrity of, and our long-standing commitment to, UNCLOS as the global legal framework within which all activities in the oceans

