



**STATEMENT BY MS DAPHNE HONG,
SOLICITOR-GENERAL OF SINGAPORE, ON AGENDA ITEM 79, ON
THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION ON THE
WORK OF ITS SEVENTY-THIRD AND SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSIONS
(CLUSTER I: CHAPTERS I-IV, VIII, AND X OF A/78/10),
SIXTH C(5)E8698 TO G.V IRD AND SEVENTY**

Committee discussions on this topic last year, particularly on the meaning of
‡LQWULQVLF· DQG RQ WKH DSSOLFDFWLRQ RI W

4 However, we note two difficulties with draft conclusion 7 and its
commentary in their current formulation. First, RQ WKH WHUP ‡LQWULO
the commentary, LW LV VWLOO QRW FOHDU WR XV ZKD
DQG ‡UHJXODWH· WKH ‡EDVLF IHDWXUHV· RI V
H[DPSOHV FLWHG LQ WKH FRPPHQWU\ VXFK
provide some insigh

7 My delegation commends the extensive efforts of the Co-Chairs in identifying and elaborating on the relevant legal issues in the additional paper. In relation to the legal stability of baselines and maritime zones, Singapore agrees with the preliminary observation of the Co-Chairs that there is no obligation under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to keep baselines and outer limits of maritime zones under review nor to update charts or lists of geographical coordinates once deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. That said, Singapore wishes to emphasise that it is a necessary precondition that such baselines and outer limits of maritime zones are, in the first place, strictly in accordance with UNCLOS. The result is that for small and vulnerable low-lying States facing existential threats due to climate change-induced sea-level rise, such maritime zones, and the rights and entitlements that flow from them, can continue to apply without reduction.

8 With respect to agreed and adjudicated maritime boundaries, Singapore agrees with the preliminary observation of the Co-Chairs that maritime boundary delimitation treaties and the decisions of international courts or tribunals should not be easily re-opened in the interest of promoting the stability of, and respect for, existing boundaries.

9 Singapore also agrees with the Co- & K D L U V ¶ H P S K D V L V R Q of equity to the interpretation and application of UNCLOS, especially in considering the impact of climate change-induced sea level rise on small island developing States. For vulnerable small, low-lying States facing existential threats due to climate change-induced sea level rise, the balance of equities under UNCLOS clearly and indisputably weighs in favour of the preservation of existing maritime zones and entitlements. As for other contexts, we encourage further study on how the principle of equity should apply vis-à-vis the implications of climate change-induced sea level rise, so as to ensure the appropriate balance of rights and obligations under UNCLOS, including the extent to which the interests of third States and the freedom of navigation are engaged.

10 Finally, with respect to historic waters, title and rights, Singapore appreciates the efforts of the Co-Chairs in examining the doctrinal basis for the application of such principles by way of analogy to climate change-induced sea-level rise. However, we note that State practice in relation to historic waters, title and U L J K W V L V O L P L W H G D Q G O R R N I R U Z D U G W R W ahead of the final substantive report on this topic, ‡ 6-level rise in relation to L Q W H U Q D i n 2 0 2 5 R Q D O O D Z .

