Sixth Committee on Agenda Item 77: Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-fourth session (Cluster One) Richard C. Visek Acting Legal Adviser of the Department of State New York, New York October 24, 2023

Thank you, Chair. We extend our gratitude to Professors Nilüfer Oral and Patrícia Galvão

in ways that states don't agree with or did not intend. Therefore, as some Members have recognized, the Commission should be careful not to engage in an exercise of progressive development on a topic concerning one of the sources of international law.

In this regard, and by way of example, I will highlight two areas of concern.

The first relates to Draft Conclusion 7, which provides that a particular principle "formed within the international legal system" may be considered a general principle of law.

We are not yet convinced that there is sufficient practice by States to assess whether or how general principles can be formed solely on the international plane. We note that some Members of the Commission expressed a similar concern. Given the differing views on the question of whether e-8JEQnd by way of example, I will hDd by whetm With respect to the topic of "sea-level rise in relation to international law," the United States appreciates the Commission's continuing efforts with respect to issues related to the law of the sea. The issues under consideration are complex, and we recognize the Study Group's efforts to find reliable solutions.