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Cluster I

Chapter IV – General principles of law

Chapter VIII

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Introduction

chairmanship over our Committee and ensure you of our continued support.

I express, as well, our appreciation to the Chair of the International Law Commission and to all members of the ILC for their continued efforts in ensuring a good progress of work on topics on the agenda of the Commission, relevant for the progressive development and codification of international law.

In what concerns the topics within the first cluster, so diligently introduced by the ILC Chair, my delegation would like to state the following:

Chapter IV: General principles of law

1. Romania congratulates the International Law Commission for adopting on first reading the draft conclusions and the responding commentaries on general principles of law. My delegation equally expresses its appreciation for the outstanding work on the topic of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Marcelo Vazquez-Bermudez.
2. One of the thorniest issues relates to the existence of general principles of law that may be formed within the international legal system. We take note of the cautious language used in the draft conclusions and commentaries, which reflects the ample debates on this subject, as well of the explanations, arguments and examples.
3. However, as stated before by my delegation, we continue to have serious doubts as to the existence of a second category of general principles, *derived from the international law system*. We continue to argue that general principles of law as a source of international law could *only relate to those general principles derived within national legal systems*. We also maintain our position that the refere

