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11 East 84th Street, New York, NY 10028, Tel: (212) 737 4790, Fax: (212) 472 9865, e-mail:
bulgaria@un.int

78th Session of the General Assembly
Report of the International Law Commission on the
Work of its 74rd Session

Sea-Level Rise in Relation to International Law

delivered by Dr. Dimana Dramova, Head of
International Law Department

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Check against delivery!

Mr. Chairperson,

On the subject of the Annual Report of the International Law Commission, today I would like to address the topic of "Sea-Level Rise in Relation to International Law".

Mr. Chairperson,

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. I will now make some remarks in our national capacity.

Bulgaria closely follows the work of the International Law Commission on this topic since it was included in its programme of work in 2019. As last year Bulgaria made a statement on the topic of "Sea-Level Rise in Relation to International Law" this year we would like to make some additional comments based on the current work of the Commission.

Sea level rise is particularly challenging for coastal communities 1 0 0 1 211.85 466.15 T

It is Bulgaria's understanding that the Convention enshrines a very delicate balance between states' rights and obligations. Consequently, when the Commission is reviewing state and regional practice or *opinion juris* on the topic in order to formulate conclusions, it should take into account only the practice, which is in line with the relevant principles and provisions of the Convention.

In addition, it should be noted that the Convention does not contain a legal obligation for state parties to regularly review and update their baselines and the borders of their maritime zones, established in accordance with the applicable

