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The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.

As the constitution of the ocean, UNCLOS is the legal framework applicable to the prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea. It recognises that international cooperation is necessary for the repression of piracy.

In our region, Australia is a member of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia, underscoring our commitment to the eradication of piracy and the maintenance of secure and safe trade by sea.

Australia reiterates the importance of the   discussions on this issue to date and appreciates its work, and that of its Special Rapporteur and Drafting Committee, on the draft articles and commentaries provisionally adopted by the Commission at its 74th session.

We welcome the efforts of the Commission to centre its efforts around the definitions and concepts set out in UNCLOS, in particular the decision to ensure the integrity of the definition of piracy under UNCLOS.

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areas of uncertainty, such as the difference between piracy and armed robbery, supports ongoing international cooperation in this regard.

Australia encourages the Commission to continue to ensure its work remains consistent with, and complementary to, existing frameworks and obligations under UNCLOS.

on clarifying and providing guidance on the law in this important area.

Settlement of disputes to which international organisations are parties

[Mr/Madam] Chair,

Australia expresses its sincere appreciation to the Special Rapporteur and Drafting Committee for the preparation of the text of the draft guidelines and commentaries relating to settlement of disputes to which international organisations are parties.

Noting the considerable and crucial work of international organisations, explicit consideration of the pacific settlement of disputes to which international organisations are parties is timely.

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