CONCEPT NOTE

High-Level Roundtable on Climate Change, Sea-Level Rise and International Law: Current Progress

Thursday 24 October 2024 | 1:00 – 3:00 pm | UN Headquarters, Conference Room 8

Organizer: Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS)

Co-Sponsors

- Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations
- Permanent Mission of Tuvalu to the United Nations

Co-Hosts

- Permanent Mission of the Bahamas to the UN
- Permanent Mission of Peru to the UN
- Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN
- Permanent Mission of Singapore to the UN
- Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN
- Permanent Mission of Vanuatu to the UN

Event description

This high-level roundtable is organized in conjunction with the 79th session of the United Nations Sixth Committee (Legal). The 79th session follows the first UN General Assembly high-level meeting on sea level rise held on September 25, 2024, the AOSIS Declaration on sea-level rise and statehood of 23 September 2024, the Declaration of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of Friends on sea level rise, maritime zones and the continuity of statehood, and the International Law Association (ILA) completion of its work on International law and sea level rise after twelve years. The roundtable will provide an opportunity to discuss sea-level rise issues facing small island developing states, with a presentation of the Group of Friends' Report on Sea-Level Rise Impacts and Adaptation models. The co-chairs of the International Law Commission Study Group (SG) on Sea-Level Rise in relation to international law will be able to provide a briefing on the progress made to date. In addition, the conclusions of the final report of the ILA Committee on International Law and Sea-Level Rise, which will be presented and discussed.

Since the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) issued its landmark advisory opinion in May 2024,