



t

23 October 2024

New Zealand thanks the International Law Commission for its report on the work of the seventy-fifth session. We would like to register our deep appreciation

Commission's Report, that states have a right to provide for their preservation, and that international cooperation was essential including between affected States and other members of the international community based on the sovereign equality of States, as well as considerations of equity and fairness.

Thirdly, New Zealand welcomes the continued insights of the Study Group on protection of persons affected by sea-level rise, and highlights that continuity of statehood is inherently linked to protection of persons. In this regard, the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders 2023 Declaration on the Continuity of Statehood and the Protection of Persons in the Face of Climate Change-Related Sea-Level Rise acknowledged that *State continuity is a concept that is fundamental to the protection of persons affected by sea-level rise. It is a concept that is fundamental to the protection of persons affected by sea-level rise.*

Finally, New Zealand welcomes that the Study Group will in 2025 consider a joint final report on the topic as a whole consolidating the work undertaken so far on the three subtopics associated with sea-level rise.

The final report of the Study Group will be available at <https://www.unhcr.org/refugees-and-protection/2024/5/14/unhcr-study-group-report-on-continuity-of-statehood-and-protection-of-persons-in-the-face-of-climate-change-related-sea-level-rise>