Mr/ Mme. Chairperson,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on the first cluster of topics,

I would like to

begin by thanking the Chairperson of the International Law Commission, Mr. Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez, for his report to the Sxth Committee and to all of the members of the Commission for their valuable work accomplished

First of all, on behalf of the Republic of Bulgaria, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the International Law Commission and its 5th

anniversary. On the subject of the annual report of the Commission, today I would like to address three topics:

We believe that while the protection of state officials is necessary, it must not come at the expense of accountability and the fight against impunity, to which we would like to reiterate our commitment. In this vein, Bulgaria calls for a balanced approach that upholds both the principles of state sovereignty and equality between States and the imperative of accountability in international law. We look forward to further discussions on the draft articles and to contributing to their refinement to achieve a fair and just international legal framework.

Mr/ Mme. Chair, I would like to once again for the work of the Commission and the Special Rapporteur on the topic. We look forward to the opportunity to engage in constructive discussions on the topic at the next session.

I will now turn to the topic

I would like to begin by thanking the Co-Chairs of the Study Group, Ms. Galvão Teles and Mr. Ruda Santolaria, and the members of the Commission for their extensive and session.

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

As a preliminary remark, Bulgaria would like to reaffirm its position that the

Regarding the present topic, it should be emphasized that sea-level rise poses great risks to the international community as a whole and is particularly challenging for coastal communities and island nations. Bulgaria dosely follows the work of the International Law Commission on this topic since it was included in the programme of work of the ILC in 2019.

In this regard, Bulgaria would like once again to reiterate its position that UNCLOS 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 rules of the Convention. Conclusions that suggest that a periodic review should be carried out by states could potentially have a negative impact on the relations between costal states and may affect the stability in different regions of the world, especially in cases of already established maritime delimitations.

In summary

of sea-level rise in relation to continuity of statehood, maritime zones, baselines, and delimitation should take into due account the importance of preserving the boundaries and rights of costal states over their maritime spaces, established in line with the principles and relevant provisions of the Convention and the principle of legal stability.

On the <u>subtopic of protection of persons affected by sea-level rise</u>, it is of sea-level rise is of paramount importance. In this regard, it is crucial that the international community creates the necessary safeguards for the rights of displaced individuals and those impacted by sea-level rise and ensures that the dignity, identity, and rights of those persons are respected and protected.

As the concept of due diligence has evolved over a long period of time in different branches of international law, we believe in the importance of the codification work of the Commission regarding the topic and we share the view that it would provide a much-needed framework that would be of use to the States facing global challenges such as terrorism, dimate change and cyber security.

of the concept of due diligence and we believe that establishing a unified approach on whether due diligence should be viewed as a standard of conduct, an obligation or a legal principle, would provide both States and domestic and international courts and tribunals with the necessary