



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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STATEMENT

Madam/Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Republic of Serbia, I have the honour to address the 6th Committee of the General Assembly on the very important topic of the sea-level rise in relation to international law. My country aligns itself with the Statement of the European Union, so I will try to avoid unnecessary repetitions.

Several papers and studies, particularly the report of the Study Group considered by the International Law Commission and the Report of the International Law Commission, contain valuable contributions to the discussion of one of the most important issues on the agenda of the International Law Commission and the 6th Committee. These studies and reports concerning factual and legal issues that need further discussions, are of great value for the determination of the state of international law regarding many aspects of the sea-level rise and could also serve as a good pretext for discussions in political fora to identify interests that need legal protection. Such developments seem necessary in order to achieve security and certainty for all, particularly for the States affected by the sea-level rise the most.

A landlocked country, Serbia is deeply concerned about the consequences of the sea-level rise. We recognize this issue as one of the most significant challenges that must be addressed in the context of climate change, environmental protection and solidarity among States. While Serbia is not directly affected, we acknowledge the far-reaching implications that this phenomenon poses to the international community.

As we consider this topic, it seems that the prevalent position is that there is a strong need to preserve the integrity of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). However, UNCLOS does not provide, at least not explicitly, answers to all the concerns we face regarding the sea-level rise. At the time of its

adoption, after the long-lasting Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, UNCLOS represented a combination of codification and progressive

seem to reflect the

With regard to statehood, international legal practice provides no solution to the problem of a sea-level rise. However, it is believed that it is necessary to address the right to existence of States facing a loss of statehood due to the sea-level rise. Frequently, the law does not provide solutions to all challenges that must be addressed in the political process. There is no doubt that this political process needs to be conducted in accordance with the principles and rules of international law, particularly those concerning cooperation under the United Nations Charter. In resolving this very important issue, it must also be emphasized that, in accordance with Article 1 of the United Nations Charter, one of the purposes of our Organization is to serve as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in an effort to attain the interests of the international community.

The need to preserve existing maritime boundaries is promoted by certain States, particularly those gathered in the Pacific Islands Forum. Their legitimate interests need to be recognized.