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-legally binding international agreements and succession of States in respect of State responsibility.

[Prevention and Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea]

Turning first to the topic of piracy and armed robbery at sea, the United States thanks Mr. Yacouba Cissé for his second report on this topic and congratulates Mr. Louis Savadogo on his appointment as Special Rapporteur.

We appreciate the ongoing work of the Commission to consider this topic and agree that it is critical to ensure consistency with existing international law concerning piracy, as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sean reports of the Spiect Rapporteur have been useful to shed light on the various ways states have addressed these issues in their domestic

The Special Rapporteur has expressed the view that the negotiating history of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties contemplated a category of agreements that were not legally binding. But state practice in the period following adoption of the Vienna Convention provides little support for the view that states have supported the characterization of the galbyn b i n d i n g i n s t r u ment s a n d e x c h a n g e s a s " a g r e e me

Particularly instructive in this regard is Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law in addressing these same **is**sues. Turning to the final topic for this cluster, that of succession of States in respect of State responsibility, we thank the Commission for its work on this topic, take note of the establishment of a Working Group and congratula **Re**ofessor Patel on his appointment as Chaine United States appreciates the Commission's decision Commission's work on this topic to an end.

Thank you.