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outcome of its work to the General Assembly, a political body.
This afternoon, we will discuss the relationship between the Commission and



work.

The Codification Division also served as the secretariat of numerous diplomatic conferences, transforming the texts so carefully crafted by the Commission into international conventions. As the Codification Division has serviced quite a number of United Nations bodies, most notably the Sixth Committee, its expertise and long-standing experience have made a significant contribution to the progressive development and codification of international law in its different stages. This leads me back to the first reason I gave for the Commission's success: the Commission's intergovernmental mandate. The Codification Division, as the Secretariat of the Commission, is part of the Office of Legal Affairs and the United Nations. As such, it has benefitted from the immense institutional support of the Organization.

After reflecting on the past successes of the Commission, allow me to briefly strike a balance for the future. After all, this is also what anniversaries are for. Times have changed since the International Law Commission was first established in 1947.

As evidenced by the changing outcomes of the Commission's work, the needs of the international community are different today. While the Commission still produces draft articles, it also adopts draft guidelines and draft conclusions.

The Commission has remained true to general international law topics such as the law of treaties and the law of international responsibility. But it has also taken up the challenge of addressing more specialized, technical topics such as the protection of the atmosphere or the protection of persons in the event of disasters.

The Commission also faces important challenges with regard to its composition. As I have observed on previous occasions, the Commission suffers from a lack of equitable gender representation. Over the past 70 years, the Commission has only had seven women among its members.

I am pleased that the number of women on the Commission was doubled to four in last year's election.

And I remain hopeful that Member States, the General Assembly and the Commission will work together in achieving gender parity in the foreseeable future.

In light of its achievements over the past 70 years, I am confident that the Commission will live up to these current and upcoming challenges.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that the progressive development and codification of international law are fundamental to maintaining peaceful



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