



!

**Statement by Mr Jörg Polakiewicz
Director of Legal Advice and Public International Law
Council of Europe**

!

**United Nations General Assembly
68th Session
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 81
Report of the International Law Commission
Part 2**

!

!

Mr Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Let me start by saying how honoured I am to speak to you today on behalf of the Council of Europe and to address such an eminent audience of representatives of member states and intergovernmental organisations.
- As a regional organisation created in 1949, the Council of Europe has always attached a great importance to its cooperation with the United Nations. The UN are indeed an “across the board” partner for the Council of Europe.
- The Council of Europe **welcomes the work of the ILC on reservations** which is of particular relevance for our Organisation. The Council of Europe Secretariat contributed to the reports by Prof Alain Pellet and I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate him personally for having accomplished a truly impressive task. His **guide to practice is a very useful tool** which goes beyond a mere restatement of existing practice and contains a number of practical recommendations.
- In my intervention, I would like to make a few comments taking into account recent developments regarding reservations in the Council of Europe, namely (1) the convention review and (2) the work of CAHDI.

!

The review of Council of Europe conventions

- The issue of reservations has been on the Council of Europe’s agenda in the context of the convention review exercise launched by Secretary General, Thorbjørn Jagland in 2011.
- There are the **more than 200 international treaties** that have been concluded within the Council of Europe, certainly our most important contribution to international law. The convention review aimed at critically assessing the relevance of this body of treaties with a view to enhancing their impact and effectiveness.
- In **April 2013**, the **Committee of Ministers** of the Council of Europe concluded this exercise ask.wf7(m) -0.2 (m) -0.2 (i) 0.2 () -.2 (rew) -0.mG

Mr Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The **United Nations and the Council of Europe are tied together by history and purpose.**
- Cooperation with other international entities, and in particular with the United Nations and the International Law Commission is high on CAHDI's agenda. Under its terms of reference, the CAHDI is mandated to “