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**73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
22nd Meeting of the Sixth Committee**

**Agenda item 82:**

**Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventieth session**

**Statement by: H.E. Ambassador Jane J. Chigiya, Permanent Representative of the  
Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations**

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**New York, 24 October 2018**

**Check against delivery**

Mr. Chair,

session of the United Nations General Assembly, Micronesia delivered a statement in this Committee that reiterated the call of the Pacific Small Island Developing States for the Commission to place the topic on its long-term programme of work and briefly identified several issues that the Commission could examine as part of its study of the topic. In January of this year, Micronesia submitted a written proposal to the Commission that statement in the Sixth Committee, particularly with respect to the issues that the Commission could examine. Those issues included the implications of sea-level rise with respect to the law of the sea, Statehood, human rights, and human migration. Micronesia is pleased that the syllabus for the topic adopted by the Commission reflects all those issues. Micronesia reiterates the call of the Pacific Islands Forum for the Commission to move the topic to its current programme of work as soon as possible in order to commence its study of the topic with extreme urgency.

Mr. Chair,

Micronesia wishes to make five

the international community as a whole, including States that are transition and destination countries for such migrants. A mapping exercise of what international law currently says about these and other illustrative scenarios will be of great use for the international community as a whole. The fact that over 100 States have spoken positively about the topic so far in the Sixth Committee this session – from all the major geographical regions of the world, from coastal States and landlocked countries, from continental States and small island States, and from developed and developing countries – is testament to the relevance of the topic to the international community as a whole rather than to just a small group of particularly vulnerable States.

Fourth, Micronesia acknowledges that the syllabus limits the scope of the topic, so that the Study Group will not consider the protection of the environment, climate change *per se*, causation, responsibility, and liability; and that the Study Group will not propose modifications of existing international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In light of these limitations as well as the focus of the syllabus on several key issues only, it is