

UNGA 73: Sixth Committee: Report of the  
International Law Commission on the work  
of its seventieth session (Agenda item 82),  
Cluster I

Delivered by Victoria Hallum, International Legal Adviser

24 October 2018

Check against delivery





can be expected to be a helpful reference point for practitioners and

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

New Zealand considers that this topic reflects the needs of States, and pressing concerns of the international community as a whole, particularly given the likely impact of rising sea levels on low-lying islands and coastal communities. This is an issue close to home for New Zealand and our Pacific Island neighbours, some of whom are experiencing sea-level rise that is nine times the global average.

The legal questions identified in Annex B of the Commission's report are well chosen and are at the forefront of our minds.

These issues are also regional priorities for the Pacific. Pacific Island Forum leaders have consistently highlighted that settling maritime boundaries in the Pacific is crucial to our security and prosperity. For the first time this year, our Foreign Ministers also identified the complex legal issues raised by rising seas impacting states' baselines.

While I have spoken a lot about the Pacific, as is well captured in the Commission's reports, the legal implications of sea-level rise raise