



Minister

United Nations
at the

New York, September 2007

Mr Chair,

We are particularly pleased with the ILC's important and welcomed decision to include sea-level rise in relation to international law in its long-term programme of work.

This may seem to be a new topic for the ILC in its work but for us, this has been a serious concern for some time, especially in the context of inter alia climate change, sea-level rise and maritime boundaries. That is why we continue to raise this issue in this Committee and other relevant fora.

Mindful of the increasing existential threats facing our low-lying islands and coastal communities from rising sea-levels and the existing gaps under UNCLOS and international law regarding sea-level rise, we therefore strongly call on the ILC to

address these issues without delay.

Indeed, we strongly support the moving of this topic to the ILC's current programme of

We also wanted to call the Committee's attention to the importance of the issues regarding maritime zones for archipelagic States such as Papua New Guinea.

As the Marshall Islands mentioned last Monday, in the context of the latest Pacific Forum leaders priority on securing maritime boundaries in the region, my delegation is currently in the final phase of submitting our new maritime boundaries delimitation charts and coordinates to the UN Secretary-General.

Notably, these proposals have been submitted to Part IV of UNCLOS in order to



In this context, we agree with the important contribution made by the E.U. and C.O.

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of Micronesia, which also rightly points to issues regarding human migration in this