

**Statement by
Permanent Representative of Tonga to the United Nations,
at the meeting of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 82:
Report of the International Law Commission at its Seventieth Session: Cluster 1
Trusteeship Council Chamber, Tuesday 23rd, October 2018**

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Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving my delegation the floor and allow me to align my statement with that delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands

-level rise prompt a number of important questions relevant to international law in particular, national sovereignty, and security, as emphasized by our Sovereign and Head of State in his statement at the annual General Debate last month.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the scope of study proposed by the Commission on specific issues highlighted in Part IV of Annex B of the Report, which are (a) law of the sea; (b) statehood, and (c) protection of persons affected by sea-level rise and their examination as a whole due to the interconnection amongst the three issues. We recognize in Part V, paragraph 14 of Annex B, the parameters of the topic and the fact that the three areas will be examined within the context of sea-level rise.

Mr. Chairman,

We note the various issues set out in Annex B, paragraphs 15, 16, 17 and we look forward to an in-depth study by the ILC on these various issues, factoring in international instruments, judicial decisions, practice, and concerns of States.

Tonga also considers it important when undertaking this study, to factor in interrelated topics and issues such as (a) security in the context of human security, environmental security, and resource security; and (b) migration. It is also crucial that when undertaking the study, existing rights and entitlements of States are upheld, in particular maritime boundary delimitation pursuant to the stipulations of the UNCLOS.

We recognize that the study will help bridge diverging views in the understanding of sea-level rise as it relates to international law. To us, and countries like ours, the

