



Statement by H.E. Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tōnē
Permanent Representative of Tonga to the United Nations
At the meeting of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 87:

Report of the International Law Commission at its 70th Session: Cluster 2

Trusteeship Council Chamber, Friday, 26th October, 2018

Mr. Chairman,

I thank you for giving me the floor to speak on Cluster 2, in particular Chapter VI of the Report of the International Law Commission on the Protection of the Atmosphere. We note with appreciation the work of the Special Rapporteur Professor Shinya Murase and applaud his

Drafting Committee and the Commission for the successful first reading of the preamble and 12 draft guidelines on the Protection of the Atmosphere.

Mr. Chairman,

The atmosphere is part of the cycle that sustains life on this planet. It is a

Mr. Chairman,

The newly proposed three draft guidelines speak to implementation, compliance and

dispute settlement, which are the most important aspects of the law of the atmosphere and Tonga agrees that they are the "intrinsic and logical consequences of the obligations and recommendations" that were provisionally adopted prior to the Commission's consideration of the fifth report. Tonga notes the meticulous work of the Special Rapporteur, which is reflected in the fifth report and the original draft guidelines proposed therein. We applaud the Commission and the Drafting Committee for their constructive consideration of the draft guidelines and the result thereof, which we fully support.

In addition to the specific challenge indicated in paragraph 4 of the commentary to Draft Guideline 11, we note that access to financial mechanisms or other means of financial support is also a challenge for developing and least developing States. We emphasize here that

of international cooperation, as indicated in Draft Guideline 9, to provide support both in terms of capacity building and providing adequate and sustained financial means to developing States, in particular, small island developing States to enable effective compliance with various applicable international agreements and frameworks which are intended to

to cause an increase to 1.5 degree Celsius in the Earth's temperature as a benchmark

nation, Tonga prefers a preventive approach to mitigate the cumulative impacts of global warming. These include increase in sea-level, desalination of our oceans, coral bleaching and ocean acidification amongst others.

first reading, and the accompanying commentary can provide useful guidance to States in addressing the impacts of climate change that are rapidly degrading our planet.