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connection with the recommendations of the Bureau designate. We organised by virtual means and participated in the meeting of the enlarged Bureau on 19 August 2020. We organised and participated in the informal virtual meeting of members of Commission on 3 September 2020. We have also been instrumental, as you know, in organising the events taking place this week for International Law Day, yesterday, and the opportunity to interact with Special Rapporteurs and two of the Co-Chairs of the Study Group on Sea-level rise in relation to international law that will take place tomorrow, 28 October.

Turning now to the specifics of the matters that the Secretariat was requested to do in paragraph c) of GA decision 74/566, I confirm that we have been exploring all of the options open regarding the working methods of the International Law Commission in the event that an in-person session is not possible in 2021. Assisting the Bureau designate to meet since March this year by virtual means, and preparations for this Sixth Committee session have, of course, involved many of the same considerations and taken us forward in our knowledge and experience of the challenges.

There are three main means available to us in the lead up to the 72nd session of the  session might still be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These are virtual means of meeting, hybrid means of meeting and flexibility in the dates of the session.

Dealing first with the latter, we are of course in regular contact with the UN administration in Geneva regarding the possibilities for moving the dates of the Commission's session later in 2021, if this should become necessary, and we will remain in close contact with them. In the event that an in-person session is possible, which we all very much hope will be the case, the meetings would likely be subject to the same COVID-19 health and safety mitigation measures as the meetings that you are experiencing now. The wearing of face coverings and social distancing would be required. A sufficiently large room would be needed so that the 34 members of the Commission can be seated at 2 meters or more distance from each other. There may need to be a restriction on the attendance of research assistants who many of the members normally bring with them to the session. Meetings may, however, take
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Regarding virtual means of meeting, there are various forms of meeting platforms available to the Secretariat, as you have all experienced over the last several weeks and months. For smaller meetings without interpretation, including of the Bureau of the Sixth Committee and of the Bureau designate of the International Law Commission, we have been able to use the Microsoft Teams application, which is the software provided to us within the Secretariat by the United Nations. This is easy to use in terms of organising the meetings, but we have had a number of connectivity issues when meeting with participants, even within New York, with less than reliable high-speed internet access.

and partly by virtual means. If so, the issues surrounding virtual meetings of the Commission, as I have just described, together with the limitations on in-person meetings that I mentioned earlier, would apply in combination.

This brings me to the end of this report, Mr. Chair. Needless to say the Secretariat