



8 November 2023

Check against delivery

Thank you, Chair.

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Canada, New Zealand and my own country, Australia.

CANZ welcomes the growing reflection within the Sixth Committee on its



Our mission to contribute to the codification and progressive development of international law, consistent with Article 13, paragraph (1) of the UN Charter,



Equally, CANZ would like to thank Conference Services and all our Sixth Committee interpreters. Quite simply, we could not do our jobs without you and we know we make it harder for you every time we get creative with the agenda. Your patience and skill are deeply appreciated.

[Mr/Madam] Chair,

Looking ahead, CANZ wishes to put forward five ideas for achievable, pragmatic measures that the Sixth Committee could take now to deliver better outcomes.

First, the Sixth Committee and its Bureau could continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our work, enabling a more productive use of time.

- We recommend that, for any agenda items involving informal briefings from the Secretariat or others, those briefings should be scheduled before the plenary debate. This would enable delegations to take account of the information and clarifications provided in them when preparing our statements.



- We further suggest that the Committee should determine time limits for statements during the annual three-part debate on the ILC report, building upon the successful implementation of time limits for other plenary statements.



- For existing requests, we recommend the Committee consider adopting a sunset approach whereby, instead of deferring requests year-in-year-out, they would come off the agenda after three sessions, unless the co-sponsors actively requested that it be added onto the next agenda once again, consistent with the Rules of Procedure.

Third, the Sixth Committee Bureau could strengthen efforts to ensure the agenda each year is appropriately balanced in terms of geographic representation (within regional groups, as well as across them), gender diversity and representation of the principal legal systems of the world. Diversity of Coordinators each year only serves to strengthen the

- We therefore encourage delegates not to take on more than one Sixth Committee mandate per session.
- We also emphasise the particular importance for Bureau-appointed Coordinators to facilitate consensus-based outcomes on an impartial, objective basis.

Fourth, there is opportunity to strengthen the important dialogue and the substantive exchange between them.



- We encourage ILC members, especially Special Rapporteurs, to take advantage of virtual working methods to increase informal, intersessional dialogue with the Committee and its members, both in New York and in capitals.
- We also support the suggestion made by others to hold regular ILC





Indeed, for that reason, we encourage all other UN Committees to consult with the Sixth Committee before establishing a new treaty-making process, consistent with the General Assembly Rules of Procedure and its Annexes, as amended, which provide that where legal aspects of any question are considered important, the matter should be referred to the Sixth Committee. Nonetheless, we share concerns that have been expressed by others regarding the misuse of the consensus tradition to obstruct decisions that otherwise have a clear and overwhelming consensus.

There is no veto power in the General Assembly or its Main Committees.

We will disagree at times. But CANZ remains steadfast in its commitment to, and belief in, constructive, good faith negotiation.

With this ~~CE [• o v u CE I, by consensus]~~ of a new Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, and the consensus adoption of a request by the General Assembly for an ICJ Advisory Opinion on climate change, we have seen what can be achieved through this approach to ensure the UN system delivers on the interests and priorities of all countries, large and small.

For our part, CANZ stands ready to continue working constructively and collaboratively with the Sixth Committee to this end.



