



Chair,

Eritrea wishes to express great appreciation to the chair of the International Law Commission, Mr. Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez, and all the distinguished members of the Commission as well the Secretariat, for their hard work and efforts during the seventy-fifth session resulting in an extensive report on the work of the ILC. We would also like to thank the members of the ILC for encouraging constructive dialogue with Member States as well as the Commission's positive

Group concerning Cluster I of the ILC report. We echo the importance of regional perspectives such as African states in relation to the topics discussed by the ILC.

Allow me to share the following observations concerning Chapter VII on *Immunity of state officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction*, and Chapter X on *Sea-level rise in relation to international law* in my national capacity.

Chair,

On the approach taken by the Commission for the second reading of the draft articles on *Immunity of state officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction*, Eritrea congratulates the Special Rapporteur Claudio Grossman on his appointment and welcomes his effort to thoroughly consider States' views, in both written comments and in the Sixth Committee. My delegation recognizes the topic's legal complexity and contentious nature, as well as the adversarial dynamics within the Commission, which resulted in a highly unusual non-unanimous decision at its seventy-third session (2022) to adopt the entire set of draft articles on first reading.

At the outset, Eritrea would i

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Coastal States like my own country cannot ignore the impact of sea-level rise. With more than 350 islands and our territorial waters making about half the size of our total land mass, Eritrea is disproportionately vulnerable to climate change. It is unequivocal that the marine and terrestrial ecosystem, as well as the coastal biodiversity, will be negatively affected over a longer period of time.

With approximately 5% of the national population living in coastal areas, sea-level rise will pose a profound threat to coastal communities in Eritrea as their livelihoods depend on artisanal fishing and fishery products. Fishing is an inherited economic tradition that closely attaches these communities to the sea. The rising of the Red Sea level will disrupt these traditional livelihoods and could lead to economic hardship.

Additionally, we recognize the threat that sea-level rise could pose on our tourism aspirations. Eritrea's pristine coastal marine habitat, the safe and secure environment

challenges from the impacts of sea-level rise, we underline that proposals for legal responses to these challenges should not be limited to good-faith interpretation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

UNCLOS does not answer all the questions concerning legal stability, security, certainty, and predictability. There are other relevant sources within international law, such as customary law, general principles of law as well as other instruments. Therefore, we should be cautious with a close interpretation of the Convention.

Chair,

To conclude, Eritrea firmly stands in solidarity with the most vulnerable nations, ensuring their voices are heard and their futures secured. As we move forward, my delegation supports building a common understanding towards addressing the threats posed by sea-level rise and concrete actions that address both the immediate and long-term challenges of sea-level rise, safeguarding the rights, livelihoods, and cultures of all affected populations.

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In this regard, my tional

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