



PAPUA NEW GUINEA STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. FRED SARUFA,
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, distinguished members of the International Law Commission and fellow delegates;

This being the first occasion for my delegation to speak at this Committee's 79th session, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chair and the respective Bureau members for your mandates and also for the commendable leadership and manner you are steering our work and wish you all well. You can be assured of our constructive support.

We align our remarks with those made by the respective distinguished delegations of Tonga and Samoa, as Chairs of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). In our national capacity, we would like to make additional comments on Chapter Ten of Cluster One of Agenda Item 79.

Mr. Chair , at the outset, we welcome, once again, to this Committee's work this year, the distinguished members of the International Law Commission (ILC) and also thank them for their valued and insightful work as reflected in the 2024 Annual Report of the ILC that is before us.

In particular, our delegation greatly appreciates the important contributions made by the Study Group on sea-level rise in relation to international law and also applauds members of the ILC for their ongoing constructive and welcome dialogue at various relevant fora, where this topical issue is center-stage.

Let me underscore that Papua New Guinea considers the topic of sea-level rise in relation to international law as critically important for the sustainable future of our country, and our region, the Blue Pacific Continent, and also for the international community. As such, our delegation wishes to make brief remarks on this topic, in our national capacity.

Firstly, we wish to reaffirm our strong support for the following declarations:

- (1) The 2021 Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change-Related Sea-Level Rise;
- (2) The 2023 PIF Declaration on the Continuity of Statehood and the Protection of Persons in the face of Climate Change-Related Sea-Level Rise; and
- (3) The 2024 Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Declaration on Sea-Level Rise and Statehood.

Mr. Chair, i n the 2021 PIF Declaration, our Leaders proclaimed that our maritime zones, as established and notified to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance

We encourage further support from other States, consistent with the duty of cooperation and the principles of equity, fairness, and sovereign equality of States.

Secondly, Mr. Chair, our delegation has previously drawn attention to the fact that preservation of the maritime rights and entitlements of States is closely linked to the continuity of statehood as well as the maintenance of resources that will be important for the protection of persons affected by sea-level rise.

In this respect, we draw further attention to the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

Our delegation believes that the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources should be considered in the context of the possible legal implications of sea-level rise on maritime entitlements as well as on statehood and the protection of persons affected by sea-level rise.

Permanent sovereignty over natural resources is also consistent with the provisions of

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