



Statement

by

Lebanon

**at the
Sixth Committee**

**Item 78: Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its
sixty-eighth session**

Chapter X: "*Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts*"

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*Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017*

I wish to thank the Chairman of the International Law Commission (ILC) for introducing his report, as well as the other members of the Commission for their work.

Lebanon considers that the interaction between the ILC and the sixth committee needs to be continuously enhanced, and in this regard, my delegation notes with interest the proposals made to encourage such an exchange.

My remarks will be focused today on the *Protection of the Environment in relation to armed conflicts*. I would like to praise the Special Rapporteur, Dr. Marie Jacobsson, for the high quality of her three reports and the other members of the Commission for their valuable contribution to that topic.

Lebanon is actively committed to this issue, and sent its comments earlier this year to the Special Rapporteur, which were reflected in her third report. It completed a cycle of three reports where the three different phases of this topic were addressed: before, during and after the conflict. Here, I would like to reiterate that Lebanon subscribes with this three-phase approach.

My delegation is also encouraged to see that the Commission provisionally adopted the set of draft principles developed in the previous reports.

Lebanon is of the view that this item should continue to be discussed in the ILC, as it remains essential, in particular in the context of the adoption in 2015 of two landmark documents, namely the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement.

It is also important in light of the adoption by consensus, in May of this year, of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution entitled *Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict*, which Lebanon and several other countries co-sponsored. The resolution acknowledged, among other things, the work the ILC has undertaken on this matter; this is a positive and an encouraging step.

I wish to turn to the latest set of draft principles from the third report.

Although most of them concern the post-conflict phase, the inclusion of an additional draft principle on the enhancement of the protection of the environment through preventive measures strengthens the three phases of the conflict.

My delegation also values the inclusion of draft principles relating to the *remnants of war* and the *remnants of war at sea*.

I will now comment on the draft principles as revised by the Drafting Committee.

On Draft Principle 15 dealing with *Post-armed conflict environmental assessments and remedial measures*, my delegation is of the view that it could have been drafted in a more prescriptive manner.

Furthermore, the issue of remedial measures should have been treated as a stand-alone sub principle.

In other words, my delegation would have preferred to see this draft principle divided into two parts, one covering environmental assessments, and another one dealing with remedial

measures.

On Draft Principle 17 concerning the *Remnants of war at sea*, my delegation would have favored the original proposal from the Special Rapporteur that include *public health or the safety of seafarers*.

Indeed, since this draft principle covers a specific situation, namely the remnants of war at sea, it would have been more appropriate to keep those relevant references.

More generally, Lebanon would have seen merits in including the human dimension of the environmental impact of armed conflicts. I believe it falls within the scope of the topic since environmental degradations have a direct impact on the population.

Therefore, and that brings me to the end of my statement, the human consequences of environmental degradations resulting from armed conflicts, could be part of some of the future paths to be explored in the discussion of that topic by the ILC. It may also include the issue of liability and responsibility, and provide further clarification regarding the principles of proportionality as well as precaution applied to the environmental context.