



TUVALU

Statement of Tuvalu

at

Statement on the ILC Topic on the Protection of the Atmosphere

Sixth Committee, 26-28 October 2016

Please check against delivery

Mr Chairman

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

May the Good Lord our Savior bless this meeting and the United Nations

1. As a small island country, Tuvalu is one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change. I would like to congratulate the Special Rapporteur for his Third Report, A/CN.4/692.
 2. This is an extremely important topic for the international community as a whole and the International Law Commission should be commended for their effort with regard the atmosphere protection. This issue is extremely important for the international community and particularly for small island countries such as Tuvalu as any degradation to the atmosphere presents itself to the global community challenges like sea-level rise and more frequent and intense extreme weather.
 3. We are very pleased that the ILC is moving forward with 5 draft guidelines and a preambular paragraph being adopted provisionally by the Commission this year.
 4. Tuvalu's dilemma is its small and low lying islands of the archipelago. Tuvalu has continued to advocate through bilateral and multilateral UN processes and dialogues of the existential threat of sea level rise, the erosion of its coastal land area and inundation of its food crops by sea water. The economic and social stresses to the economy and to the people are of an existential nature Tuvalu was amongst the first countries to ratify the Paris Agreement in April 2016. We are very encouraged by the status of the ratification commitments of the Paris Agreement which will expedite our implementation efforts to:
 - reduce greenhouse gas emissions and keep the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius to above pre-industrial levels;
 - ensure that mobilization of funds are honored co leveraged through Domestic resources, ODA, the GEF and GCF for climate change mitigation and adaptations;
 - ensure that climate displace people are legally afforded their rights like other migrants fleeing from war/conflicts and looking for work.
 5. As noted in the narratives of the learned reports, we must bear in mind that atmosphere is a limited natural resource shared by the whole international community and we all carry a sacred responsibility to sustainably utilize the atmosphere not only for this generation but for all generations.
 6. Today, atmosphere is utilized in a variety of ways, and States should bear in mind that atmosphere is a limited natural resource, with limited assimilation capacity. We fully endorse **draft guideline 5** on sustainable utilization of the atmosphere and **draft guideline 6** on equitable and reasonable utilization of the atmosphere
 7. Finally, we thank Mr Murase and his team for the report and look forward to the Fourth Report next year, to enlighten us all on the important issues of the interrelationships and interlinkages to other fields of international law, such as the law of the sea and human rights law. Although this topic is called "Protection of the atmosphere," we cannot separate it from the topic of "protection of we the people", and in that sense, this is a human-centric topic. I wish Mr. Murase and his team all the best in continuing this important project until its completion expected in 2020 at ILC!
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