

Mr. Chairman,

Israel wishes to express its appreciation of the International Law Commission for its work on the Draft Articles on the Expulsion of Aliens of 2014. Israel also welcomes the opportunity to further engage in a dialogue on this topic.

Like many other countries, Israel has experienced, in recent years, an influx of individuals illegally entering its territory by crossing its southern border. We share the view expressed by many countries during the process of drafting these Draft Articles, including the 2012 and 2014 sessions on this topic, that the issue of illegal migration, and especially the topic of Expulsion of Aliens, is a very sensitive one.

The topic of Expulsion of Aliens goes to the heart of the principle of sovereignty of every country. This issue demonstrates the need to balance between national security interests, the need to uphold the rule of law and the right of each country to establish and maintain its own migration policy and protect its borders on the one hand, and significant human rights issues, that pertain to fundamental rights and the interests of individuals, on the other hand.

In recent years the world has changed. Migrants are moving in extreme flows from specific countries to others. Each country is faced with the challenge of finding suitable solutions for their particular situation. The characteristics and challenges of each illegal migration flow are different in each country.

That is why, due to the diversity of challenges and practices in this field, the codification of State practice is extremely challenging. Furthermore, we would like to raise our concern regarding whether it is appropriate to include a set of norms on this sensitive topic in an international UN convention at the multilateral level. The issue at hand deals with core national, local and regional practices and interests, and is generally context-specific.

Also, a relevant question when discussing the way forward regarding these Draft Articles is whether another legal instrument is needed, given the several multilateral treaties that already exist in this field; in particular the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. Here, we seek to avoid overlap and redundancies.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.